

## BIO-DATA OF S. K. MISRA

S.K. Misra retired from the Government of India as Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, after a distinguished career in which he served as Secretary to the Ministries of Tourism, Civil Aviation, and Agriculture. One of his major and path breaking assignments was his appointment as Director General, Festivals of India, in France, USA, the then Soviet Union and Japan. These festivals of India ranged from 1 year to 18 months in France and USA and for a shorter periods in Soviet Union and Japan and showcased very comprehensively India's rich cultural traditions in the fields of visual and performing arts, theatre, exhibitions relating to design, textiles and achievements in the scientific field, film retrospectives and academic exchanges. His lifelong interests, therefore, in education, culture and institution-building converged in his leadership of INTACH, where he strengthened the administrative and funding base and greatly expanded the scope of activities, as well as the organization's influence both within India and globally. A particular achievement was the organization, in 2007, of the first ever conference of international heritage trusts, which was held in Delhi, and attended by representatives from 55 countries. At this meeting, INTO (the International National Trusts Organization) was launched at his initiative. He is now Emeritus Vice Chairman of this Organisation and also a Trustee.

In 2009, the President of India conferred on him the prestigious Padma Bhushan award, for distinguished service in the fields of Civil Service and Tourism.

After leaving INTACH where he had served for 10 years first as Vice Chairman and then as Chairman for six years he has now launched a new organization called 'The Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development.' The basic objective of this organization is to bring about synergy between heritage and development and use heritage for developmental purposes. The new organization has also become a Member of the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO). Although the organization is just about four months old, having been

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registered in June 2011 it has initiated projects in several States notably in U.P., Haryana and Jharkhand.

Before coming over to the Government of India in 1980, he served in Punjab and Haryana. In Punjab, he was involved in the setting up of the Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana and its counterpart in Hisar in Haryana. He also founded the Motilal Nehru School of Sports at Rai in Sonapat, which is one of the premier co-ed. schools in the country. He also served as Principal Secretary to 3 Chief Ministers of Haryana and built up the infrastructure of tourism in the state.

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