

**Inaugural Address: Ar. Apurva Bose Dutta**  
**WICCI KARNATAKA ARCHITECTURE LAUNCH**  
**26th Sep 2025, RV University**

Good afternoon, everyone! Thank you for being here.

To our chief guest, **Ms. Odette Katrak**, thank you for honouring us with your presence. I have admired the incredible work of Beautiful Bharat for many years. Odette, you demonstrate that some of the most meaningful achievements in life can be realised through simplicity and good intent. Your energy, passion, and perseverance in driving change within society, mindsets, and the broader purpose of life are qualities we aspire to embody in our journey with WICCI Karnataka Architecture.

I feel grateful for the role of the President of the WICCI Karnataka Architecture Council. It is not only a meaningful way to give back to the profession that has shaped me in numerous ways, but also a chance to celebrate something I cherish most in my life: and that is being born a girl. I was raised in a family with two sisters, and the exceptional way my parents brought us up made me wish that in every life, I should be born a girl! To then become the President of a Council dedicated to empowering women is my way of honouring, recognising, and celebrating the wonder of being a woman.

The journey to establish this Council began a few months ago, when **architects Sabeena Khanna** and **Dipika Tuteja**, our national heads of the **WICCI Architecture Council**, reached out to me. I am honoured that they considered me for this role. Over the past few months, their consistent support and encouragement have been invaluable.

Our council's mentor, **Dr Anuradha Chatterjee**, is someone I have admired for her leadership in driving innovations, initiatives and creating a lasting impact. Over the past few months, her constant support and encouragement as our Council's mentor has been priceless. Additionally, the way she granted me the freedom to make decisions and assured me that she is just a call or message away was reassuring. Thank you, Anuradha. And also, for hosting us today — gratitude to the **School of Design and Innovation, RV University**, and to your fantastic team here — **Parvathi** has been coordinating from day one. Thank you for working diligently to make this launch possible.

My first task was to establish a Council that reflects diversity in skill sets and experience. My twenty years in architectural writing, journalism, criticism, and curation have taught me that, amongst many other qualities, uniqueness and diversity are essential for creating meaningful impact. Diversity offers different perspectives, enriches learning and increases the impact of our efforts. Embracing our uniqueness encourages us to innovate, think creatively, and take decisive actions. With this approach, the Council was formed, comprising some remarkable voices from Karnataka who have made unique and significant contributions to the progress of our industry. The Council has great diversity in terms of geographical locations, expertise, and age. I checked that our seniormost Council member graduated in 1972, and our youngest Council member graduated in 2017.

I am deeply grateful to each of the **Council members** for pledging your commitment, time, and patience, knowing that a Council without precedence would take time to establish. I recall my initial calls to all of you, nearly six to seven weeks ago, when most of you agreed to come on board almost immediately.

There were many of you I spoke to for the first time. Knowing that you believed in this platform and the vision we are building has given this initiative great confidence to move forward. So thank you for joining us as Council members and for being here today. Some of you have travelled from Mysuru, Hubli, and Belgavi to be with us today, and that means a lot.

To my Vice President, **Ar. Vijaya Bhargav**, thank you for accepting the role of Vice President. Vijaya, I have great respect for how you skilfully and successfully manage the diverse responsibilities in your career and life. I feel fortunate to have you by my side, leading the Council.

I would also like to mention two of our Council Members, **Ar. Sowmya Muralidhar** and **Ar. Mehar Deep Kaur**. The effort and dedication involved in initiating and maintaining our social media over the past month are a testament to their commitment. We involved them in the process nearly a month ago. Sowmya has been creating the beautiful graphics, and Mehar has been handling the text.

In today's world, social media, when used appropriately and in moderation, can act as a catalyst for change. We have worked tirelessly over the past month, around the clock—including Sundays—because we needed to build momentum through our social media before this official launch. Sowmya and Mehar, a huge thank you for your responsiveness, commitment and positive attitude.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the posts of President and Vice Presidents are mainly intended to make critical decisions and streamline the Council's work. The strength of our Council comes from the visionaries we see in every Council member, who, with their broad knowledge and experience, can ensure that WICCI Karnataka Architecture becomes a catalyst for change and progress. I hope that together, we can create a safe and inspiring space where everyone feels motivated to learn, grow, and reach their full potential.

I began my talk by saying that I see this platform as a way to celebrate womanhood and sisterhood. However, I must also mention that since the announcement of this Council, many architects, including a significant number of male architects, have come forward and expressed their full support for it. I hope this Council will also **recognise men** who give women the acknowledgement, support, and encouragement they need and truly deserve.

Together, we can achieve a great deal, so let's work together to make it happen. Thankyou!