

MINUTES OF THE 246th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE, HELD ON FRIDAY, 23RD DECEMBER, 2022 FROM 05.00 P.M. ONWARDS ONLINE ON ZOOM APPLICATION.

PRESENT:

1. Ar. Habeeb Khan : Chairman – In Chair
2. Ar. Sapna : Vice-Chairman (joined online)
3. Ar. R. Ramesh Kumar : Member
4. Ar. Lalichan Zacharias : Member
5. Ar. Punit Sethi : Member
6. Ar. Nand Lal Chandel : Member (joined online)
7. Ar. P. Vaitianadin : Member

IN ATTENDANCE:

- 1) Shri R.K.Oberoi, Registrar - Secretary
- 2) Shri Deepak Kumar Singh, AAO

The Chairman welcomed the Vice-Chairman, Members of EC and officials of the Council and thanked them for sparing their valuable time for the meeting. Thereafter the regular agenda of the meeting was taken up.

ITEM NO.01	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 244th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 05.11.2022.
	<p>The Minutes of 244th Meeting of Executive Committee were circulated to the Hon'ble Members on 25th November, 2022. No comments have been received from Hon'ble members.</p> <p>The Committee, after deliberations, confirmed the minutes as annexed with the Agenda.</p>
ITEM NO.2	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE MINUTES OF 244th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 05.11.2022.
	<p>The Executive committee perused the Action taken report on the Minutes of 244th meeting of Executive Committee and noted the same.</p>
ITEM NO.03	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 245th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16.11.2022.
	<p>The Minutes of 245th Meeting of Executive Committee were circulated to the Hon'ble Members on 25th November, 2022. No comments have been received from Hon'ble members.</p> <p>The Committee, after deliberations, confirmed the minutes as annexed with the Agenda.</p>

ITEM NO.04	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE MINUTES OF 245th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16.11.2022.
	The Executive committee perused the Action taken report on the Minutes of 245 th meeting of Executive Committee and noted the same.
ITEM NO.05	TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED FROM AR. SHALEEN SHARMA REGARDING PREPARATION OF A DOCUMENTARY FILM ON AR. PADMA SHREE B.V. DOSHI WITH THE TITLE “PRAYER IN ARCHITECTURE”.
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the Council has received a proposal from Ar. Shaleen Sharma to prepare a documentary film on legendary Padma Shree Ar. B.V. Doshi, who is father of Modern Architecture in India and made the country proud at the international level.</p> <p>The Committee deliberated in the matter and decided that the proposal be further re-worked and negotiated with Ar. Shaleen Sharma.</p> <p>The Committee also decided that an Advisory Board on production of Film by Council be constituted to recommend the Council on preparation of films on concerned architects, choose topics of films and moderate and design the theme and content of such films.</p>
ITEM NO.06	PAYMENT OF HONORARIUM TO THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNCIL FOR NATA 2022 EXAMINATION.
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has been conducting National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) every year for admission to B. Arch Course. The NATA 2022 was conducted online 6 times in CBT modes all over India on three days in two shifts. All the officers and employees of the Council had carried out assigned work for conducting NATA 2022 examination online over all India.</p> <p>Registrar-Secretary informed the members that all the officers and employees of the Council carried out this additional activity by working beyond office hours, attending office on Saturday & Sunday and on Gazetted holidays and even working from their home. It is pertinent to mention herewith that the Council is functioning with a very skeleton staff and payment of honorarium for the laborious activity spread out to almost 6-7 months of the year, would motivate and keep their moral high and compensate them for the contribution made by them by leaving aside their social and family life and working tirelessly day and night for successful conduct of the examination and announcement of result.</p> <p>The activities increased manifolds due to conduct of third test and also because lockdown restrictions and change of centres, revision of NATA brochure, monitoring of conduct of exam at various stages, monitoring and dealing with the complaints received from candidates, appointment of several centre observers, city observers, state observers to monitor and supervise the conduct of examination and compilation and collation of data of students by the Council, appointment of evaluators for review the responses of candidates to certain questions manually for declaring the results.</p>

	<p>Like NATA 2020, NATA 2021, the NATA 2022 first test conducted in April 2022 was held in pandemic situation in some parts of the country and even lockdown restrictions were continuing. The Council also followed with different State Government and their police and disaster management authorities for allowing conduct of NATA and entry of students, COA observers, etc. to examination centres during lockdown period.</p> <p>It is, therefore, proposed that all the officers and employees of the Council (i.e. Regular as well as Contractual) be paid suitable Honorarium to compensate them for carrying out the additional duties and responsibilities for the successful conduct of NATA 2022 examination.</p> <p>He stated that as per Regulation 26 of the Council of Architecture Recruitment & Promotion Regulations 1999, the rules governing Central Government employees shall be applicable to the employees of the Council, except the items where a specific decision/ convention has been taken/ exists. He further stated that payment of honorarium to COA staff for undertaking any additional work has become a convention in Council.</p> <p>The Committee after deliberations decided that a legal opinion be taken in the matter before taking a final decision.</p>
ITEM NO.07	<p>TO CONSIDER THE LETTER DT.29.11.2022 RECEIVED FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, REGARDING EXTENSION OF APPROVAL OF B.ARCH. COURSE AT HP01-FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, HAMIRPUR, HIMACHAL PRADESH, FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2022-2023.</p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council is in receipt of a letter dated 29.11.2022 from Mr.Pawan Kumar, Under Secretary (TS-VI), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi, and a letter dated 17.11.2022 received from HP01-NIT, Hamirpur, regarding extension of approval for imparting 5-year B.Arch. degree course At HP01-Faculty of Architecture, National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, for the Academic Session 2022-2023.</p> <p>The Council had raised the issue of acute shortage of minimum required faculty and admission of excess students (58 against sanctioned intake 30) admitted from 2019-2020 batches onwards. The institution in its reply states that the efforts are being made for recruitment of faculty and the excess admissions were made by the institution as per the directions of the Ministry of Education. The institution failed to submit undertaking to the Council for session 2020-2021 as the recruitment on regular basis could not be done by the institution. As a result, the approval of the institution has been pending since 2020-2021.</p> <p>The members perused the communications received in the matter and decided that details of faculty and infrastructure facilities of all CFTIs be compiled and placed before EC in its next meeting.</p>
ITEM NO.08	<p>TO CONSIDER THE LIST OF ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER CLOSURE WHICH HAVE REQUESTED COUNCIL NOT TO PROCESS CLOSURE OF INSTITUTIONS FOR B.ARCH. COURSE FROM THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2022-2023.</p>

	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that Council is in receipt of request from certain architectural institutions which were issued notices for closure and have requested the Council not to process closure of Institutions for B.Arch. course from the academic session 2022-2023. The Council has appointed Administrators in many of these institutions to oversee the process of closure.</p> <p>The Committee perused the list Architectural Institutions which have appealed to the Council against their closure and after consideration of their requests, decided that these institutions be allowed to continue to impart B.Arch. course for one more year as one last and final opportunity and be sanctioned intake as per their last approved intake for the academic session 2022-2023. Further, the institutions, as a special case, be granted a period of 15 days for making admissions and in case they fail to admit students in the course due to completion of admission process for 2022-2023, less admissions for the said session should not be considered for the purpose of closure during 2023-2024 for the said Institutions.</p>
ITEM NO.09	TO CONSIDER APPROVING ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2023-24.
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that Council is required to announce its Academic Calendar to facilitate institutions to apply for the academic session 2023-2024, for imparting B.Arch. and M.Arch. Course and fix last dates for submission of applications, conduct of inspections by the Council, grant of approval, etc.</p> <p>The Committee perused the draft Academic Calendar as enclosed with Agenda and after deliberations approved the same for implementation for the academic session 2023-2024.</p>
ITEM NO.11	TO CONSIDER APPROVAL HANDBOOK PROCESS FOR THE APPROVAL PROCESS OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2023-24.
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has prepared a draft of Approval Process Handbook (APH) for the academic session 2023-2024 on the lines of APH for previous academic session, to provide a compendium of relevant information for the new/existing institutions to apply for imparting B.Arch., M.Arch., Diploma Courses along with procedure, and norms of the Council</p> <p>The members perused the draft Approval Process Handbook for the academic session 2023-2024 as annexed with the Agenda and after deliberations, desired that the same may be circulated to the EC Members for their perusal before implementation of the same. If no comments are received from the Members within three days the APH may be deemed as approved.</p>
ITEM NO.12	ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.

I)	<p>TO TAKE NOTE OF CONDUCT OF IDEAS DESIGNS COMPETITION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INTERMODAL STATION (IMS) AT KATRA BY COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE ON BEHALF OF MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS.</p>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to develop Inter Modal station (IMS) at Katra integrating various infrastructure modes at one point and creating a Inter Modal Station which shall have Bus Terminal as the main component having facilities including Multi Level car parking, hotels, Commercial/Retail offices, helipad, ropeway terminal etc.</p> <p>Accordingly, a design ideas competition for Development of Intermodal Station (IMS) at Katra was organized by the Council of Architecture which was open for the Architects registered with the Council. 222 Architects registered for the competition and 34 persons submitted their entries.</p> <p>The Jury consisting of Ar. K.T. Ravindran, Delhi, Convenor, Ar. Prashant Sutaria, Mumbai, Member and Ar. Dean D’Cruz, Goa, Member evaluated the entries online and shortlisted 6 entries for the final evaluation.</p> <p>The Final evaluation of the entries was held on 07th November, 2022 in the office of Council of Architecture, New Delhi. The Jury after a daylong deliberations and evaluation of the selected entries, shortlisted the three entries, which are submitted to the NHAI for final selection and for announcement of results.</p> <p>The members appreciated the action taken in the matter.</p>
II)	<p>TO TAKE NOTE OF CONDUCT OF ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION FOR STANDARDIZATION OF BUS SHELTERS.</p>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India has over 1,50,000 kilometers of National Highway spread across the length and breadth of the country. The National Highways are being developed by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways/National Highway Authority of India and National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NLHML).</p> <p>The development of highways is being done as per the Manual of IR, however, there is no standard design provided in this Manual for bus shelters so that the same can be constructed at minimal cost and without compromise on the basic functionality. NHML was mandated to take forward the design of standard of Bus Shelters so that the same can be replicated.</p> <p>Accordingly, a design competition was organized by the Council of Architecture which was open for the Architects registered with the Council and general public to bring in innovation and path breaking designs having the desired facilities for the passenger road from the Bus Shelter from the Road till boarding or deboarding the buses.</p> <p>2436 Persons have registered for the competition and 252 persons have submitted their designed/plans for the standardization of Bus Shelters.</p>

	<p>The Jury consisting of Ar.Amogh Kumar Gupta, Convenor, Ar. Vijay Uppal, Member, Ar.Ritu Singh, Member, Ar. Salil Ranadive, Member, Ar.Manish Chakraborty, Member and Ar.Shamit Manchanda, Member evaluated the entries online and shortlisted 49 entries for final evaluation. The Final evaluation of the entries was held on 14th September, 2022 in the office of Council of Architecture, New Delhi.</p> <p>The Jury after day long deliberations and evaluation of the selected entries shortlisted 5 entries in order of their merit, which were submitted to the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India for final approval and for announcement of results.</p> <p>The members appreciated the action taken in the matter.</p>
<p>III)</p>	<p>TO TAKE NOTE ON CONDUCT OF DESIGN IDEAS COMPETITION FOR PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY TOILETS FOR URBAN INDIA, UNDER SWACHH BHARAT MISSION 2.0 WITH MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.</p>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the Council is conducting a Design Competition for Public and Community Toilets for Urban India, under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.</p> <p>The themes under which design solutions are sought are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Pilgrim and tourist locations ii) Specially challenging areas iii) Old/Big cities with land constraints iv) Disaster prone areas <p>The Competition was launched on 19th November, 2022 on the occasion of World Toilet Day and the last of Registration for the competition is extended upto 15th January, 2023 and last date of submission of design is extended upto 31st January, 2023.</p> <p>CoA will shortlist the top two entries across each thematic area identified by MoUHA and submit it to MoUHA for further perusal.</p> <p>The members appreciated the action taken in the matter.</p>
<p>IV)</p>	<p>TO TAKE NOTE OF ISSUANCE OF TENDER FOR SELECTION OF VENDOR FOR CONDUCT OF NATA FOR THE YEAR 2023.</p>
	<p>Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has invited sealed Bids (Technical & Financial) from reputed Service Providers adequately experienced and equipped with latest software, web-based technologies and sufficient infrastructure for conduct of online National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) 2023 in the country for the Academic Session 2023-24.</p>

	<p>NATA 2023 is proposed to be conducted thrice in two sessions during March to July, 2023 as a comprehensive Computer Based Aptitude test at the test centers, on an all-India basis and also at select international cities.</p> <p>The members appreciated the action taken in the matter.</p>
V)	<p>TO CONSIDER THE OPINION OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT OF COA ON EXTENSION OF STAY AND OTHER FACILITIES TO ALL FORMER PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF COA FOR TWO DAYS, TWO TIMES IN A YEAR AT INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, NEW DELHI.</p>
	<p>The Executive Committee in its 236th meeting held on 25th February, 2022 decided to extend the facility of Stay and other facilities to all former President, Vice-President and Executive Committee Members of COA for two days, two times, in a year at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The Executive Committee also decided that matter be referred to the Chartered Accountant of COA for advice in the matter so that the same may be implemented.</p> <p>The Chartered Accountant vide his letter/email dated 07.11.2022, opined that the Council should take permission of the Central Government in terms of Section 11 of the Architects Act, 1972.</p> <p>The Committee perused the opinion of CA and decided that a legal opinion be also taken from the Council's Advocate in the matter.</p>
VI)	<p>TO TAKE NOTE OF CONDUCT OF MAP OUTREACH PROGRAMME AT AHMEDABAD, RAJKOT AND PANAJI.</p>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the Council has conducted MAP launch programme at Ahmedabad on 09.12.2022, Rajkot on 10.12.2022 and Goa on 16.12.2022.</p> <p>He further informed that it is proposed conduct the next MAP launch at Hyderabad to spread awareness about the manual and provisions of the Architects Act, 1972.</p>
VII)	<p>CONTINUATION OF RECOGNITION OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (IIA) BY EXAMINATION UNDER THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972.</p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that IIA vide its letter dated 11.10.2022 communicated to the Council that IIA's communication dated 26.09.2022 may be kept on hold as the matter is proposed to be discussed further in the forthcoming meeting of IIA national Council and IIA will revert back to the Council in the matter.</p> <p>The Committee noted that no further response has been received from IIA and IIA is dragging the matter and not taking any step to comply with the norms of the Council.</p>

	The Committee reiterated that the IIA be communicated to implement the recommendations within 15 days failing which appropriate action would be initiated by the Council.
VIII)	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH OFFICERS OF THE LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT ON MAKING PRESENTATION BEFORE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND LEGISLATE ASSEMBLIES ONLINE/OFFLINE ON IDEAL VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN.
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that on 22nd December, 2022, he had met Dr. Ms. Seema Kaul Singh, Director, Parliamentary Research & Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE), Lok Sabha Secretariat, regarding making a presentation before Members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies online/offline on “Ideal Village Development Plan. The Lok Sabha Secretariat shall soon organize this event.</p> <p>The Members noted the information and appreciated the initiative.</p>
IX)	TO CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED ON PERSPECTIVE POLICY.
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the Council has received some suggestions to the Perspective Plan which are as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consider relaxation in clause 5 of 8.1 policy - Relaxation in location (Category) may be considered if promoted by trust/ society formed and run by architects OR having minimum 25 years existence with good financial standing, experience in running professional higher education institutions and good academic reputation. <p>Since the institutions are closing down in various states, the relaxation of 25 may be brought down to appropriate years of existence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consider grant of approvals to institutions in areas/regions marked as Category-IV where a considerable number of institutions have been closed or are under closure. <p>The Executive Committee decided to refer these suggestions to the Perspective Plan Committee for their recommendations.</p>
The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.	
