



## COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE

(A Statutory Body of Govt. of India)

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

**ATTENTION : ALL GOVT. DEPARTMENTS/ UNDERTAKINGS, MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES**

The Parliament of India enacted the Architects Act, 1972 (No. 20 of 1972) to regulate architectural education and profession in the country and to provide for registration of Architects on all India basis and for matters connected therewith. The Act extends to the whole of India.

It is hereby brought to the notice of all concerned that the Supreme Court vide Order dated 14.02.2017, in Civil Appeal Nos. 3346-3348 of 2005, has upheld the Bombay High Court order dated 29th November, 2004 in Writ Petition No. 4692 of 1990, holding that Architects registered under the Architects Act, 1972 would not be required to obtain licenses under the Municipal Authorities like Mumbai Provincial Municipal Corporation (Para 9 of High Court order).

Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held that "While we find no reason to interfere with the impugned judgment and order dated 29th November, 2004 passed by the Bombay High Court in Writ Petition No. 1830 of 1988 and connected matters, we are of the view that the High Court was in error in rejecting the contention of the appellant that practice under the Architects Act, 1972 is not restricted only to the architects. It is not correct to say that anyone can practice as an architect even if he is not registered under the Architects Act, 1972". A copy of the above Order is available at Council's website.

It is clarified that as per the provisions of the Act, only an architect or a firm of architects can practice as an Architect. Companies and LLPs, non-architects, juridical entities etc. cannot practice as an architect.

Thus, all concerned authorities in country are advised that :

- i) Only an architect (or firm of registered architects) registered under the Architects Act, 1972 with the Council can practice as an architect in the country. Any person not registered as an architect with the Council be not allowed by the development authorities/local bodies/municipal authorities etc. to practice as an architect under their jurisdiction.
- ii) No development authority/ local body/ Municipal authority i.e. Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council, etc. should insist architects registered with the Council to obtain further registration/ license to practice as an Architect under their jurisdiction.
- iii) Development Authorities/Local bodies/ Municipal Bodies, etc. should not register/ license any person as an architect under their jurisdiction.
- iv) The relevant existing building bye-laws/ regulations requiring registration/ licensing of architects be amended to comply with the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972 and the above Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The details of registered architect can be verified from the Council's website [www.coa.gov.in](http://www.coa.gov.in).

Dated : 30.03.2017

New Delhi

Registrar