

**MINUTES OF 272<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE HELD ON AUGUST 04, 2025 FROM 11:00 AM ONWARDS IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE, INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, NEW DELHI-110 003.**

**PRESENT:**

1. Prof. Abhay V. Purohit, Chairman – in Chair
2. Ar. Gajanand Ram, Vice-Chairman
3. Ar. Kiran S. Mahajani, Member
4. Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty, Member
5. Ar. B.R. Mohan, Member
6. Ar. Ritu Singh, Member
7. Ar. Ravi Kumar R., Member

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

1. Shri R. K. Oberoi, Registrar-Secretary
2. Shri Deepak Kumar, Deputy Registrar
3. Shri Deepak Kumar Singh, Administrative Officer

The Chairman welcomed the newly elected members of the Executive Committee and the officials of the Council. The Chairman thanked the Members for taking the time to attend its first physical meeting since the constitution. He expressed confidence that with the newly constituted Executive Committee, the Council would be able to function more efficiently and fulfill its responsibilities more effectively. Thereafter, the regular agenda of the meeting was taken up.

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	<b>PARTICULARS OF THE ITEMS</b>
<b>01</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 270<sup>th</sup> &amp; 271<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Minutes of the 270<sup>th</sup> Meeting and the 271<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee were circulated on 23rd June, 2025 and 14th July, 2025 to all Hon'ble Members for their views and comments.</p> <p>The Members considered the comments from Ar. B.R. Mohan, EC Member, on minutes of 271<sup>st</sup> meeting and after deliberations confirmed the Minutes of the 270<sup>th</sup> &amp; 271<sup>st</sup> Meetings.</p> <p>The Executive Committee further resolved that, in the event its decision to grant approval to an institution is not in conformity with the established policy, the said policy shall take precedence, and the Committee shall be apprised accordingly thereafter.</p>



02	<b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE 270<sup>th</sup> &amp; 271<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.</b>
	The Executive Committee perused the action taken report on the Minutes of the 270 <sup>th</sup> & 271 <sup>st</sup> Meetings and noted the same.
03	<b>TO HEAR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF DR. YSR ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS UNIVERSITY, KADAPA, REGARDING REGULARIZATION OF STUDENTS ADMITTED DURING ACADEMIC YEARS 2020–2021, 2021–2022 &amp; 2022–2023.</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Executive Committee at its 270th meeting had perused the compliance dated 17.05.2025 from AP24-School of Architecture, Dr.YSR Architecture and Fine Arts University, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh in response to Council's letter dated 25.10.2024 for regularization of students admitted in past academic sessions 2020-2021 (64 students), 2021-2022 (6 students) &amp; 2022-2023 (15 students), for the purpose of registration as an Architect by the Council under the Architects Act, 1972.</p> <p>The Executive Committee had noted that the appointment of regular faculty is still pending. Further, the university has not appointed faculty on contractual basis also but has been imparting deficient education by employing visiting faculty.</p> <p>Following detailed deliberations, the Executive Committee had decided to invite representatives of the University to appear in person and presented their case.</p> <p>Accordingly, the representatives of the University Prof. G. Viswanadha Kumar, Vice-Chancellor appeared before the Committee and provided necessary clarification and explanation for delay in appointment of faculty.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor of the University, vide its letter dated 04.08.2025, submitted an undertaking on behalf of the University and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, assuring that contractual appointments to the posts of Professor and Associate Professor would be made, with consolidated remuneration equivalent to the basic pay of the respective positions, excluding any additional allowances. He further affirmed that the interviews for these posts would be conducted within a period of three months, and the requisite faculty would be in position within the institution accordingly.</p> <p>The representatives were also requested to take up the matter with the appropriate department in the Government of Andhra Pradesh responsible for Higher Education, to ensure the appointment of the requisite faculty.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Executive Committee of the Council, resolved that the B.Arch. batches of 64 students for the academic sessions 2020-2021, 6 students for the academic 2021-2022 and 15 students for the academic session 2022-2023 admitted by School of Architecture, Dr.YSR Architecture and Fine Arts University, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, admitted in B.Arch. degree without approval by the Council be recognized and the students possessing the recognized qualifications</p>



	<p>imparted by the institution be registered as Architects upon receipt of applications, subject to fulfillment of eligibility prescribe by the Council under the Regulations.</p> <p>The Executive Committee, also decided to grant extension of approval to 5-year full-time Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) degree course with an intake of 40 for the academic session 2025-2026, subject to maintenance of adequate infrastructure and appointment of cadre-wise qualified faculty as per COA Norms.</p> <p>In case the University fails to recruit requisite cadre-wise faculty and submits its compliance to the Council, the approval for the B.Arch. degree programme may be withdrawn by the Council from the next academic session.</p>
04	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE REPLY RECEIVED FROM INSTITUTIONS IN RESPONSE TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF APPROVAL FOR B.ARCH./M.ARCH. DEGREE PROGRAMME FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2025-2026.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council is in receipt of replies received from the Institutions in response to show cause notices issued to them for reduction of their Intake in B.Arch./M.Arch. degree programme due to deficiency in faculty and/or infrastructure.</p> <p>The Executive Committee considered the replies of the institutions and after detailed deliberations, decided to grant approval to the institutions as per <b><u>Appendix-A</u></b>.</p>
05	<p><b>TO CONSIDER REQUESTS RECEIVED FROM INSTITUTIONS FOR INCREASE OF INTAKE FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2025-2026, WHOSE INTAKE HAD BEEN REDUCED AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF APPEAL AGAINST CLOSURE DUE TO NON-FILLING UP OF AT LEAST 30% SEATS IN B.ARCH. PROGRAMME.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council has received requests from institutions whose intake had been reduced by the Council, following acceptance of their appeals against closure due to less than 30% seat occupancy in the B.Arch. programme, seeking an increase in intake for the academic session 2025–2026.</p> <p>The Executive Committee considered the requests received from the institutions and after detailed deliberations, decided to grant approval to the institutions as per <b><u>Appendix-B</u></b>.</p>
06	<p><b>TO CONSIDER REQUEST LETTER RECEIVED FROM UP03-SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE &amp; PLANNING, APEEJAY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, GREATER NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH FOR PROGRESSIVE CLOSURE OF B.ARCH. PROGRAMME.</b></p>



	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council has received a request from UP03 – School of Architecture &amp; Planning, Apeejay Institute of Technology, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, for progressive closure of the B.Arch. programme from the current academic session 2025–2026, along with withdrawal of its application for renewal of intake for the same session.</p> <p>The Executive Committee, after considering the request, decided to seek the information regarding the faculty of Architecture available at the institution for teaching the existing batches of the B.Arch. programme, before considering the application for progressive closure by the institution.</p>
<b>07</b>	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE CLARIFICATION RECEIVED FROM GA01-GOA COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, PANAJI, GOA, SOUGHT BY THE COUNCIL, REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF EWS RESERVATION SEATS TO B.ARCH. PROGRAMME FROM THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2019-2020 TO 2023-2024.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council, upon receiving the request from Ministry of Education regarding admissions beyond the sanctioned intake (i.e. 10 students over and above the sanctioned intake of 40) at GA01-Goa College of Architecture from 2019–2020 to 2023–2024 due to the implementation of the EWS quota, reviewed the matter to determine whether the increase was indeed attributable to the said quota. If confirmed, the proposed reduction in seats over the next six academic sessions may not be warranted.</p> <p>As decided by the Executive Committee, the Council sought appropriate clarification from the institution regarding the categories of students who were admitted in B.Arch. programme over and above the intake sanctioned by the Council along with relevant notifications/orders from the Central/State Government for initiating further action.</p> <p>The Council is in receipt of clarification from GA01-Goa College of Architecture, Panaji, Goa, for implementation of EWS reservation seats to B.Arch. Programme from the academic session 2019-2020 to 2023-2024.</p> <p>The Executive Committee, after perusing the letter dated 11.07.2025 from the institution, noted that the candidates belonging to General “Open” Category also have been admitted over and above the sanctioned intake of 40 from the academic sessions 2019-2020 to 2023-2024.</p> <p>The Executive Committee decided to seek clarification from the Central Government as to whether candidates from the General category may be admitted over and above the sanctioned intake, consequent to the implementation of reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).</p>
<b>08</b>	<p><b>TO CONSIDER AN APPEAL RECEIVED FROM TN41-FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, DR.M.G.R. EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE</b></p>



	<b>UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI, REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL INTAKE OF 40 FOR 2025-2026.</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council is in receipt of an appeal from TN41-Faculty of Architecture, Dr.M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute University, Chennai, against the decision of the Executive Committee, rejecting its application for additional intake of 40 from the academic session 2025-2026. The Institution has also submitted the demand draft of Rs.50,000/- for review charges of said appeal.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted that it had rejected the application of Institution for seeking additional intake of 40 in B.Arch. course due to a lesser number of admissions during last five years.</p> <p>The Executive Committee, after going through the appeal, decided to accord approval for additional intake of 20 in the existing intake of 80, making the total intake as 100, from the academic session 2025-2026.</p>
<b>09</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR OF COUNCIL FOR THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS OF THE F.Y.: 2024-2025.</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Internal Auditor of Council has conducted Internal Audit of Books of Accounts for the third and fourth quarters of the financial year 2024-2025 and has submitted his report. The Registrar also informed that all the observations mentioned in the audit report have been complied with.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the contents of the audit report.</p>
<b>10</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972.</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council in its 83<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2025, at Bengaluru considered the Council's Proposal for Amendments to the Architects Act, 1972.</p> <p>In that Meeting, the Hon'ble Members also suggested to get the proposal legally vetted from an Advocate. Accordingly, the Council's proposal for amendments of Architects Act, 1972 is got vetted from Shri Naveen R Nath, Sr. Advocate.</p> <p>The Executive Committee perused the Council's proposal for Amendments of Architects Act, 1972, vetted from Shri Naveen R Nath, Sr. Advocate and desired that the proposal may be suitably amended in light of the comments received from Institution of Engineers (India) and the discussion held with Dr. N. S. Kalsi, former Chairman, NCVET.</p> <p>The revised Draft may be placed before the Executive Committee at its next meeting.</p>



11	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO CONSTITUTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION OF INDIA (HECI) BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Ministry of Education, Government of India, had vide its letter dated 20.06.2025 constituted a committee for synchronization of Regulatory Approval Data Structures of Regulatory Bodies to be brought under the proposed Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), under the chairmanship of Dr. N. S. Kalsi, former Chairman, NCVET. The President, Council of Architecture was one of the members of the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee was tasked to analyse existing approval/ processing related database structures for HEIs; adopted by UGC, AICTE, NCTE, CoA, VCI, PCI, ICAR; to be brought under the purview of HECI. The Committee was mandated to map existing parameters/ metrics adopted for according approvals/ processing by different Statutory bodies and recommend common acceptable database fields/ protocols for adoption.</p> <p>The Committee held several meetings with the representatives of different Statutory bodies and sought relevant data and information. The Council has also provided relevant data and information related to soft copies of all relevant rules and executive orders; annual approval calendars with timelines; complete approval processes for institutions and courses; eligibility norms for recognition; types and standards of approvals across regulatory bodies; data formats for infrastructure and facilities; all current application forms; process flowcharts; details of inspection fees and approval stages; and court orders impacting the approval process etc.</p> <p>Further to this, the Ministry vide its letter dated 18.07.2025, constituted another Sub Committee-II of the Empowered Committee for HECI under the chairpersonship of Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi with an objective to analyse the organizational structure of the Professional Councils to facilitate them to function as Professional Standard Setting Bodies and to assess the requirement of positions in HECI to ensure that the Professional Councils continue to draw the curricula, lay down academic standards and coordinate between teaching, research and extension of their domain/discipline as Members of the Academic Standard Setting Council of HECI.</p> <p>Prof. Kiran S. Mahajani, Executive Committee Member, was nominated as a member on this Sub-Committee-II to represent the Council of Architecture. A meeting the Sub-Committee was held online on 23rd July, 2025.</p> <p>In accordance with the discussions during the meeting, a comprehensive note detailing the statutory role, functions, organizational structure, regulatory mandate, and activities of the Council of Architecture was prepared and submitted for the Sub-Committee's consideration.</p>



	<p>During the meetings, the Chairman, Executive Committee further apprised the members that Council has, from time to time, furnished requisite information to various Committees constituted by the Central Government for the proposed Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) related to its existing role and responsibilities of the Council as Professional Standard Setting Body (PSSB), in order to implement the provisions of National Education Policy (NEP).</p> <p>This information has been provided to the Empowered Committee of HECI for a reference document for onboarding Higher Educational Institutions to be brought under the purview of the proposed Higher Education Commission of India.</p> <p>A compendium of all the documents submitted by the Council has also been supplied to Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Chairperson, Empowered Committee of HECI, Former Chairman Space Commission/ISRO.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the progress made in constitution of HECI and the information provided by the Council.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE DELEGATION WITH THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ON 29th MAY, 2025</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar Secretary informed the Members that the delegation from the Council of Architecture (CoA), led by the President and Vice President, COA along with Prof Kiran Mahajani and Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty (Executive Committee Members), the Registrar, and Deputy Registrar of the Council, met the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of India, on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi</p> <p>The meeting aimed to apprise the Ministry of the Council's initiatives and reforms undertaken to strengthen architectural education and professional practice. A detailed presentation was made covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Curriculum revision and alignment with professional registration and renewal requirements.</li> <li>▪ Digitization of academic processes for improved efficiency and transparency.</li> <li>▪ Promotion of research, innovation, and faculty development initiatives.</li> <li>▪ Restructured internship programmes to enhance industry readiness.</li> </ul> <p>Updates on the Centre of Excellence being established in Bengaluru, envisioned as a hub for advanced learning, research, and capacity building in architecture.</p> <p>The discussions also addressed challenges faced by architectural institutions and the integration of architectural education with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and national development objectives.</p>



	<p>The Hon'ble Minister appreciated the Council's proactive efforts and assured continued support for CoA's initiatives, including its role in advancing architectural education and professional excellence.</p> <p>The Vice President briefed the Committee further on the key points discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the developments and appreciated the efforts undertaken by the Council's delegation.</p>
<b>13</b>	<b>FILLING OF SUIT OF DEFAMATION AND OTHER LEGAL ACTION AGAINST AND AR. HRISHIKESH PRATINIDHI AND OTHERS.</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council has received an RTI application on dated 24.04.2025 from Ar. Hrishikesh Pratinidhi seeking certain information regarding the complaint filed by Ramesh Phirodia against Ar. Arshad Maheboob Shaikh. In response, the Council provided the relevant information as per RTI Act.</p> <p>The Council also sent a letter dated 02.06.2025 to Ar. Hrishikesh Pratinidhi to submit his response within 7 days. However, instead of apologizing he again abused and challenged the authority of the Council by issuing another video on Social Media. Ar. Hrishikesh Pratinidhi created a video about his own grievance with Complainant institution and also misused the information supplied in RTI and made numerous false, misleading, and derogatory allegations against the Council, its office bearers, and officers, with the apparent intent to tarnish the image, credibility, and reputation of the Council and its functioning.</p> <p>Looking at the nature of allegations and abusive language used in the videos it is decided by the Competent Authority to take legal recourse in the matter so as to maintain the integrity, independence and impartiality of the Council in dealing with matters related to Professional Misconduct by Architects as a Council is quasi-judicial body.</p> <p>Shri Deepak Kumar, Deputy Registrar, explained the background and developments in the case. After deliberations, the Executive Committee noted the matter and approved initiation of necessary legal action against Ar. Hrishikesh Pratinidhi and any other individuals/entities involved, as deemed appropriate.</p>
<b>14</b>	<b>CONFIGURING OF AWARDING AUTHORITIES' STATUS BY NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (NCVET)</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the NCVET vide letter dated 02.06.2025 has conveyed their approval/issued letter of intent for grant of a provisional recognition status as Awarding Body (Dual Category).</p>



	<p>This will enable the Council to conduct Training Programme and Award Certificates/other qualification to the participants as per National Skill Qualification Framework.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the progress and desired that necessary action may be initiated for conduct Training Programme and Award Certificates/other qualification to the participants as per National Skill Qualification Framework.</p>
<b>15</b>	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST RECEIVED FROM INTERNS WORKING IN THE COUNCIL FOR REVISION OF DESIGNATION AND REMUNERATION UPON COMPLETION OF THEIR INTERNSHIP PERIOD</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council of Architecture has received representation from Architect interns working in the Council who have successfully completed their internship tenure with the Council. The Council has further extended their engagement for an additional six months in view of their satisfactory performance and ongoing requirements.</p> <p>In their representation, the interns have requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revision of their designation to a higher level, proportionate to their enhanced roles and responsibilities during the extended period.</li> <li>- Revision of remuneration, commensurate with their contributions and the professional experience acquired during their tenure with the Council.</li> </ul> <p>After due deliberation, the Executive Committee approved an increase in the remuneration w.e.f. 05.08.2025, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postgraduate Interns: Revised from ₹35,000 to ₹45,000 per month</li> <li>• Undergraduate Interns: Revised from ₹30,000 to ₹40,000 per month</li> </ul> <p>The revision will be applicable for the extended period of engagement. The Executive Committee also decided to revise their designation to 'Young Professional – Architect', in line with the recruitment policy of NITI Aayog, which aims to appoint young, talented, innovative, and dynamic professionals to the position of "Young Professional".</p>
<b>16</b>	<p><b>REFUND OF AMOUNT OF PRE DEPOSIT FOR FILING OF APPEAL BY COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE AGAINST IMPOSITION OF SERVICE TAX/ GST ON THE FEES/ CHARGES COLLECTED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.07.12 TO 30.06.2017.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council had filed an appeal bearing no.ST/53090 of 2016-DB dated 15.12.2016 by depositing a sum of Rs.17,36,095/- against demand of Rs.1,73,60,950/- as Service Tax, Education Cess &amp; HSEC and on various services received/rendered, besides interest and penalty u/s 75,76,77 &amp; 78 of The Finance Act, 1994 issued by the Principal</p>



	<p>Commissioner of Service Tax, Delhi-II. The year wise Service Tax demand is given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rs.29,01,463/- for the period 01.07.2012 to 31.03.2013,</li> <li>2. Rs.58,41,183/- for the period 01.04.2013 to 31.03.2014 and</li> <li>3. Rs.86,18,304/- for the period 01.04.2014 to 31.03.2015.</li> </ol> <p>Further, Council has also filed another appeal bearing no.ST/5194/2022-CU [DB] dated 01.08.2022 by depositing a sum of Rs.19,03,860/- towards the Pre-Deposit (Advance) of Service Tax Demand i.e. 7.5% of total demand raised and mandatory Pre-Deposit u/s 83 of Finance Act,1994. The year wise Service Tax demand is given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rs.69,16,284/- for the period 01-4-2015 to 31-03-2016 and</li> <li>2. Rs.1,84,68,492/- for the period 01-04-2016 to 30-06-2017.</li> </ol> <p>After Several Hearings held before the Customs, Excise &amp; Service Tax Appellate Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi. The appeals were allowed by the CESTAT vide its order dated 19.07.2024 against the demand of Service Tax, Education Cess &amp; HSEC besides interest and penalty u/s 75,76,77 &amp; 78 of the Finance Act, 1994 on various fee received by the Council during the period from 01.07.2012 to 30.06.2017. The Hon'ble Tribunal also held that the Council is registered under Section 12 AA of the IT Act which provides that non-profit organizations are entitled for service tax exemption.</p> <p>Consequent to the order passed by the Hon'ble CESTAT, the Council had filed the application for refund of the amount of Pre-deposit of Rs. Rs.17,36,095/- and Rs.19,03,860/- <b>totalling to Rs.36,39,955/-</b> against the demand of Service Tax on various fee received by the Council during the period from 01.07.2012 to 30.06.2017. Accordingly Service Tax Department had issued refund order dated 01.04.2025 for refund of Rs.25,28,040/- (i.e.Rs.17,36,095/- + Rs.7,91,945/- towards interest on pre deposit amount) for period from 01.07.12 to 31.03.25 and Rs.21,27,628/- (i.e.Rs.19,03,860/- + Rs.2,23,768/- towards interest on pre deposit) for the period from 01.04.15 to 30.06.17.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the same and appreciated the efforts of the Council in receiving the refund amount.</p>
17	<p><b>TO CONSIDER SANCTION OF GRANT UNDER ESDP SCHEME FOR FY 2025-26 THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSME), GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, vide Sanction Order dated 25.07.2025, has approved the release of a non-recurring grant of ₹2,81,95,000/- under the <i>Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP)</i> scheme for organising EAPs, ESDPs, and MDPs during FY 2025-26.</p>



	<p>The Council of Architecture, New Delhi, is among the listed Implementing Agencies (IAs), allocated <b>30 EAPs, 5 ESDPs, and 5 MDPs</b>, totaling <b>40 programmes</b> with a sanctioned amount of <b>₹14,75,000/-</b>.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the sanction and decided that the implementation of the programmes may be carried out by the Training and Resource Centres (TRC) of the Council in collaboration with various colleges/institutions.</p>
<b>18</b>	<b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE CONDUCT OF NATA 2025</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council has been conducting NATA-2025 Aptitude Test for admissions into approved Architectural Institutions for the academic session 2025-2026, on designated Fridays &amp; Saturdays in two sessions starting from March 2025 to June, 2025 initially. Further, the Council had decided to extend the dates for conducting NATA 2025 till August 9, 2025, allowing for 12 additional test dates comprising 18 additional sessions.</p> <p>As on 25.07.2025, the Council has received 25107 unique registrations from the candidates for NATA 2025. The NATA Tests have been successfully conducted by the Council since March, 2025 and the results for Tests conducted upto July 19, 2025 have been declared. Out of 21904 unique candidates appearing in NATA 2025, 20227 unique candidates have qualified NATA 2025 upto July 19, 2025.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the progress made in the smooth and efficient conduct of NATA 2025 and commended the efforts of the Council in its successful execution. The Committee also suggested that further initiatives be undertaken to promote NATA in the coming years, in order to enhance outreach and awareness among prospective candidates and stakeholders.</p>
<b>19</b>	<b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE CONDUCT OF PGETA 2025</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council has successfully conducted four PGETA Examinations for the year 2025 with the final test conducted on July 20, 2025, for the purposes of admission to the Postgraduate programme being imparted at the Architectural Institutions approved by the Council for the academic session 2025-2026.</p> <p>The Council received 1724 unique registrations from the candidates for PGETA 2025 and the results were published in terms of percentile scores.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the progress made in the smooth and efficient conduct of PGETA 2025 and commended the efforts of the Council in its successful execution. The Committee also suggested that further initiatives be undertaken to promote PGETA in the coming years, in order to enhance outreach and awareness among prospective candidates and stakeholders.</p>



20	<p><b>TO NOTE AND RATIFY THE DECISION TAKEN BY CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IN DECIDING THE INTAKE OF INSTITUTIONS FOR B.ARCH./ M.ARCH./DIPLOMA PROGRAMME FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2025-2026.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council following the receipt of requests from institutions seeking confirmation of their intake status for the academic session 2025–2026, and in view of the commencement of counselling for admission to B.Arch./ M.Arch./Diploma programmes in most states, the Chairman of the Executive Committee has decided the intake and approval period of the institutions after due consideration of their applications.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the decisions taken by the Chairman of the Executive Committee and ratified the same.</p>
21	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE PUNJAB &amp; HARYANA HIGH COURT JUDGMENT DATED 08.07.2025 IN CWP-26069-2024 (PUNIT SETHI &amp; OTHERS V. UNION OF INDIA &amp; OTHERS), DISMISSING THE CHALLENGE MADE BY PETITIONERS TO THE IIA ELECTIONS CONDUCTED BY IIA FOR COA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council is in receipt of the judgment dated 08.07.2025 passed by the Hon'ble Punjab &amp; Haryana High Court in CWP-26069-2024 (Punit Sethi &amp; Others v. Union of India &amp; Others).</p> <p>The Punjab and Haryana High Court dismissed a writ petition filed by Punit Sethi and others challenging the notification dated 24.08.2024 issued by the Ministry of Education appointing five architects elected by the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) as members of the Council of Architecture (COA). The petitioners alleged irregularities in the e-voting process and sought a fresh election through a government-authorized agency, as well as referral of the dispute to a statutory election tribunal under Section 5 of the Architects Act, 1972.</p> <p>The Court held that the petition was not maintainable since the statutory requirement of filing a complaint with the COA within 30 days of election result declaration (30.12.2023) was not met—the first valid complaint was made only on 03.02.2024. The Court also noted the petitioners had not challenged the COA's rejection order dated 26.02.2024, and only one of the five elected members was made a party. Finding no legal merit, the Court dismissed the petition.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the decision of the Hon'ble Punjab &amp; Haryana High Court.</p>
22	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF A COMMITTEE FOR IDENTIFYING AND RECOMMENDING SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR PADMA AWARDS (FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE) FOR NOMINATION BY THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.</b></p>



	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council of Architecture has been entrusted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to recommend suitable names from the field of Architecture for consideration for the prestigious <b>Padma Awards</b>.</p> <p>In this regard, the President, Council of Architecture, has constituted a Committee to identify and recommend five suitable candidates in the field of architecture out of the applications/requests received by the Council for nomination for Padma Awards – 2026.</p> <p>The Committee comprises the following members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Ar. Gajanand Ram</b>, Vice President, CoA – <i>Convenor</i></li> <li>2. <b>Ar. B.R. Mohan</b>, Member</li> <li>3. <b>Ar. Ritu Singh</b>, Member</li> <li>4. <b>Ar. Rajiv Mishra</b>, Member</li> <li>5. <b>Prof. Ujjwala Chakradeo</b>, Vice Chancellor, SNDT Women’s University – <i>Special Invitee</i></li> </ol> <p>The Sub-Committee has been requested to submit its report by July 29, 2025, indicating its recommendations by shortlisting suitable candidates in the field of architecture, so that the Council may initiate appropriate further action and submit its final recommendations on the Ministry’s online portal by July 31, 2025.</p> <p>The Registrar-Secretary further informed the Committee that the Ministry of Home Affairs has extended the deadline for final submission till August 7, 2025, providing additional time for due evaluation and processing of nominations.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the same and desired that necessary action may be taken by the Committee to identify and recommend suitable candidates in the field of architecture for consideration for the prestigious Padma Awards.</p>
23	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE PROGRESS MADE ON THE PREPARATION OF THE MANUAL ON UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Committee constituted by the Council of Architecture for the preparation of a Comprehensive Manual on Universal Accessibility has completed the draft of the Manual after conducting 33 meetings with experts from various disciplines, including nominees of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).</p> <p>The draft Manual, comprising seven chapters/volumes, along with the proposed fee structure for Universal Accessibility Auditors, has been formally submitted by the Council vide its letter dated 19.06.2025, to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice &amp; Empowerment, for approval.</p> <p>The Registrar further informed the members that the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities vide its letter dated 29.07.2025 has conveyed its approval on the Draft Manual submitted by the Council.</p>



	<p>The Executive Committee noted the same and appreciated the efforts of the Council in preparation and approval of the Draft Manual submitted by the Council.</p>
<b>24</b>	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS' GUIDELINES ON THE "PRIME MINISTER'S INTERNSHIP SCHEME – PILOT PROJECT (FY 2024–25)" AND THE REPRESENTATION MADE BY THE COUNCIL FOR INCLUSION OF B.ARCH. GRADUATES AND ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has announced the <b>Prime Minister's Internship Scheme – Pilot Project (FY 2024–25)</b>, which seeks to provide 1.25 lakh internship opportunities in top 500 companies, as part of a broader five-year goal to benefit one crore youth. The scheme envisages 12-month internship opportunities for eligible Indian youth (aged 21–24), with monthly assistance of ₹5,000 (₹500 from company CSR funds, ₹4,500 via Government DBT), a ₹6,000 joining grant, and mandatory work-based training in a real business environment.</p> <p>The Pilot Project is independent of existing apprenticeship and skill development programmes and aims to enhance employability through structured exposure in industry.</p> <p>In response, the Council of Architecture, vide its letter dated 03.07.2025, addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, requested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.Arch. graduates be permitted to undergo the 12-month internship under this scheme with registered Architects and Architectural Firms.</li> <li>• Architectural firms and offices be recognized as eligible "partner entities" under the scheme, similar to top companies, given that Architects operate as sole proprietorships or partnerships under the Architects Act, 1972.</li> <li>• The Council is willing to provide the Ministry with a database of registered Architects to facilitate implementation and outreach.</li> </ul> <p>The Executive Committee noted the MCA Office Memorandum dated 03.10.2024 and the Council's representation dated 03.07.2025.</p>
<b>25</b>	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE SUBMISSION OF THE JURY REPORT FOR THE DESIGN IDEAS COMPETITION FOR THE PROPOSED INTER-MODAL STATION (IMS) AT TIRUPATI, ANDHRA PRADESH</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council of Architecture (CoA), on behalf of the National Highways Logistics Management Ltd. (NHLML) under the aegis of the Ministry of Road Transport &amp; Highways (MoRTH), organized a <b>Design Ideas Competition</b> for the proposed Inter-Modal Station (IMS) at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.</p> <p>The Jury, comprising the following eminent architects, evaluated the entries received:</p>



	<p>1. <b>Ar. Sanjeev Bumb</b> – <i>Convenor</i> 2. <b>Ar. Madhav Joshi</b> – <i>Member</i></p> <p>The Jury Report, containing the evaluation and recommendations, has been formally submitted by the Council of Architecture to NHLML for further action.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the same.</p>
26	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE INVITATION ISSUED TO REGISTERED ARCHITECTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE GDA-COA ARCHITECTURAL IDEAS DESIGN COMPETITION FOR UTSAV BHAWAN AND TWO URBAN JUNCTIONS/ROUNDBABOUTS IN GHAZIABAD.</b></p> <p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council of Architecture (CoA), in association with the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA), has invited all architects registered with the CoA to participate in the <b>Architectural Ideas Design Competition</b> for the conceptual design of <i>Utsav Bhawan</i> and two selected urban junctions/roundabouts in Ghaziabad.</p> <p>The competition aims to encourage innovative, sustainable, and culturally relevant design solutions that enhance the urban fabric, create landmark public spaces, and contribute positively to the identity of the city.</p> <p>Key details of the competition include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Eligibility:</b> Architects registered with CoA (individual or teams up to 4 members)</li> <li>• <b>Submission Requirements:</b> Concept note, A2-sized drawings, and a 3D walkthrough</li> <li>• <b>Entry Process:</b> Anonymity maintained via Unique Identity Code issued at registration</li> <li>• <b>Submission Deadline:</b> 31st July, 2025</li> <li>• <b>Awards:</b> Cash prizes of ₹2 lakh, ₹1 lakh, ₹0.50 lakh, and two consolation prizes of ₹0.25 lakh each, along with trophies and certificates</li> <li>• <b>No Registration Fee</b></li> <li>• <b>Competition Guidelines:</b> Available on <a href="http://www.coa.gov.in">www.coa.gov.in</a> and <a href="http://www.gdaghaziabad.in">www.gdaghaziabad.in</a></li> </ul> <p>The Executive Committee noted the details on the conduct of the competition.</p>
27	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE INVITATION ISSUED TO REGISTERED ARCHITECTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NHB DESIGN COMPETITION – “NHB AWARD FOR BEST DESIGN IN HOUSING”</b></p> <p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council of Architecture (CoA), in collaboration with the <b>National Housing Bank (NHB)</b>, has invited all registered architects, students of architecture, and approved institutions to</p>



	<p>participate in the <b>NHB Award for Best Design in Housing</b>, under the category of <i>Best Design in Beneficiary-Led Construction on a Smaller Piece of Land</i>.</p> <p>The competition aims to encourage innovative, sustainable, cost-effective, and context-sensitive designs for compact residential units on plots up to 150 sq. meters, specifically addressing affordable housing challenges across Plains, Coastal, and Hilly Regions.</p> <p>Key highlights of the competition are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Extended Deadlines:</b> Registration open till <b>13th July 2025</b>; Design submission till <b>15th July 2025</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Eligibility:</b> Individuals and teams (up to 4 members), including students of architecture and approved institutions.</li> <li>• <b>Entry Process:</b> Registration via CoA <i>Samarthya</i> portal, with a Unique Identity Code for anonymity during evaluation.</li> <li>• <b>Design Requirements:</b> Concept note, A2-sized drawings, 3D walkthrough, and documents emphasizing sustainability, regional adaptation, cost-efficiency, and compliance with local building codes.</li> <li>• <b>Awards (per subcategory):</b> ₹3 lakh (First Prize), ₹2 lakh (Second Prize), ₹1 lakh (Third Prize), and ₹0.75 lakh (Consolation Prize), along with trophies and certificates. Winning entries will be published by NHB and CoA.</li> <li>• <b>No Registration Fee.</b></li> </ul> <p>The Executive Committee noted the details on the conduct of the competition.</p>
28	<p><b>TO CONSIDER ORGANIZING AN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION FOR “NHB AWARD FOR BEST DESIGN IN HOUSING – BENEFICIARY LED CONSTRUCTION ON A SMALLER PIECE OF LAND” IN COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL HOUSING BANK (NHB).</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council of Architecture (COA), in collaboration with the National Housing Bank (NHB), proposes to organize an Architectural Ideas Open Competition for the “NHB Award for Best Design in Housing”, focusing on Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) on smaller pieces of land.</p> <p>This initiative aligns with NHB’s mandate to promote affordable, inclusive, and sustainable housing and to encourage professional, culturally sensitive, and cost-effective design solutions for low-income segments across varied geographic regions of India.</p> <p><b>Objective of the Competition:</b></p> <p>To recognize and encourage innovation and excellence in architectural design for small residential plots under the beneficiary-led construction model, especially targeting low-income households. The designs should address affordability,</p>



adaptability to local climate and materials, modular expansion, and disaster resilience.

**Key Features:**

- **Competition Categories:** Designs to be submitted under three geographic categories – Plains, Coastal, and Hilly regions.
- **Eligibility:** Registered architects, architecture students through faculty members, and COA-approved architecture institutions.
- **Prize Structure:**
  - 1st Prize: ₹3,00,000
  - 2nd Prize: ₹2,00,000
  - 3rd Prize: ₹1,00,000
  - Consolation: ₹75,000 (as decided by jury)
  - Trophies and certificates for all winners
- **Submission Requirements:** Concept note, 3D walkthrough, A2-sized design sheets, and documentation on sustainability, innovation, and compliance with local building bylaws.
- **Competition Timeline:**
  - Launch: May 20, 2025
  - Submission Deadline: June 20, 2025
  - Jury Presentation and Awards Ceremony: To be scheduled subsequently; awards to be conferred during World Habitat Day in October.

**Role of COA:**

- Coordination of competition logistics and outreach
- Jury nomination and technical evaluation
- Ensuring transparency, registration process, and publication of results

The Executive Committee noted the details on the conduct of the competition.

**29 TO TAKE NOTE OF IN WRIT PETITION NO. 6332/2025 FILED BY MR. RAJESH ARJUNSINGH ADVANI BEFORE HON'BLE DELHI HIGH COURT AGAINST COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE ABOUT A COMPLAINT FOR PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT RECEIVED AGAINST HIM.**

The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council has received a complaint dated 27.02.2025 for alleged Professional Misconduct against Ar. Rajesh Advani. In has been alleged that Mr. Rajesh Advani does not hold Copyright over a book published through his platform, ArchiSHOTS and illegally extracting money/fees from Complainant.

In response, the Council, vide letter dated 28.02.2025, asked him to submit a Statement of Defence as per Council of Architecture Rules, 1973. However, instead of submitting the Statement of Defence, he challenged the Council's communication before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. The Court subsequently dismissed the petition as withdrawn.



	The Executive Committee noted the decision of Hon'ble Delhi High Court.
30	<b>FILING OF WRIT PETITION IN KERALA HIGH COURT AGAINST M/S SHILPI ARCHITECTS PRIVATE LIMITED KERALA FOR NOT ADHERING TO THE DIRECTION OF COUNCIL FOR REMOVAL OF WORD ARCHITECT FROM NAME OF THE COMPANY.</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council has received a complaint dated 27.09.2024 regarding the incorporation and operation of M/s Silpi Architects Private Limited, in violation of the Architects Act, 1972, as the company uses the title and style of "Architect" in its name.</p> <p>In this regard, the Council has written a letter dated 23.12.2024 to M/s Silpi Architects Private Limited. However, they have sent a vague reply. Further, Council has also written a letter dated 06.02.2025 to Registrar of Companies, Ernakulam, that under the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972, no person other than a registered Architect or a firm of Architects is permitted to use the title and style of 'Architect' for carrying on the profession of Architecture in India. The usage of the title 'Architects' by M/s Silpi Architects Pvt. Ltd. is in contravention of Sections 36 and 37 of the said Act. Accordingly, the Council has requested the Registrar of Companies to initiate legal action against the company to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972.</p> <p>The Registrar of Companies, Ernakulam replied that the directors (Mr. George Michael and Mr. Sebastian Jose) submitted affidavits and Council of Architecture registration certificates at the time of incorporation, claiming to be registered Architects, and requested the Council for verification of these certificates, stating that any action under the Architects Act does not fall under the ROC's jurisdiction.</p> <p>Further, a legal Notice dated 12.03.2025 was also sent by Council's Advocate to M/s. Silpi Architects Pvt. Ltd. However, no response has been received. The Council has written a letter dated 25.03.2025 to The Registrar of Companies, Ernakulam again advised to immediately take up the matter with the concerned company for winding up.</p> <p>The Council's advocate has advised to file a writ petition in Kerala High Court. Accordingly, appropriate action is being taken. Accordingly, a writ petition is being filed in the matter shortly.</p> <p>The Council is also in receipt of copy of a notice dated 23.07.2025 from Registrar of Companies issued to M/s Shilpi Architects Pvt. Ltd. about their Company.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the facts of the case and desired that necessary action may be initiated in the matter.</p>
31	<b>TO TAKE NOTE OF PROGRESS MADE ON THE PROJECT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE BUILDING AT BENGALURU.</b>



The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council is in the process of establishing Council of Architecture's Centre of Excellence (COA-COE) at Bengaluru with an objective to empower professionals, supervisors, and labourers through skill development programs, fostering a future where everyone has the opportunity to unlock their potential and contribute to nation-building. COA-COE aims to provide accessible, high-quality skill development programs (SDPs) that cater to diverse needs and aspirations and to collaborate with industry leaders to ensure our programs align with the demands of the job market. COA-COE shall accommodate 15 state-of-the-art labs to facilitate innovation and research.

The matter was discussed at the 83rd meeting of the Council where the project Architect - Mr. Biju Kuriakose made a detailed presentation of the revised plans of COA-COE before the Council and explained the details of the proposed space planning and materials to be used in construction. Prof. Subramani Prabakaran, OSD, Council of Architecture also made a presentation on the proposed set up of Centre of Excellence along with details of labs etc.

The Hon'ble Council members had discussed the details of COA-COE and desired that necessary action regarding commencement of the Centre of Excellence may be initiated.

The Executive Committee perused the progress status report on the COA-COE submitted by Prof. Prabakaran and noted the progress made on the project of establishment of Centre of Excellence building at Bengaluru.

The Executive Committee also noted that Prof. Prabakaran, with a reference from Ar. K. Udaya, Member, COA, approached the Chief Architect of the Karnataka Public Works Department (KPWD). A meeting was held with the Chief Architect, during which the project was explained in detail, the drawings and Detailed Project Report (DPR) were submitted, and the project certification/ scrutiny fee was negotiated at approximately 0.5% of the civil cost estimate.

The Chief Architect, Government of Karnataka, has, vide its letter dated 04.08.2025, confirmed that certification of the drawings and plans for the proposed Centre of Excellence building at Jnana Bharatiya Campus, Bangalore University, would require payment of scrutiny charges at 0.5% of the total estimated project cost (i.e. Rs.15,67,400/-). The amount is to be remitted via demand draft in favour of "Chief Architect, KPWD, Bengaluru," following which the certification process will proceed.

The Executive Committee approved the "Scrutiny Charges/Fee" of Rs.15,67,400/- for scrutiny of the drawings for COA-COE, Bengaluru, payable to Chief Architect, KPWD, Bengaluru and also decided to take necessary measures to commence with the construction of the Centre of Excellence (COA-COE) at Bengaluru at the earliest.



32	<b>TO REVIEW AND TAKE NOTE OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE STATUS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND PENDING MATTERS.</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the summary of the Committees, Sub-Committees constituted by the Council/Executive Committee, along with their current status, updates on their activities, and pending matters requiring follow-up.</p> <p>The Executive Committee perused the status report and noted the same. The Committee also desired that an adequate representation of members from different regions of the country be made on Publication Committee for Indian Knowledge System (IKS) in the context of Architecture and Built Environment.</p>
33	<b>ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR</b>
i)	<b>TO CONSIDER LETTER DATED 26.07.2025 RECEIVED FROM THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (IIA) SUBMITTING INFORMATION REGARDING CONDUCT OF AIIA (BY EXAMINATION) BY THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECT</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Executive Committee at its 270<sup>th</sup> meeting, had perused an appeal received vide letter dated <b>5th June 2025</b> from the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA), enclosing a list of candidates who have enrolled for the Associateship Membership of IIA (By Examination) <b>post-July 2022</b>. The letter sought the Council's consideration and recognition of these candidates for registration under the <b>Architects Act, 1972</b>, through Associate Membership granted by IIA.</p> <p>The Executive Committee, after detailed deliberations, decided to seek the following information from the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) regarding the conduct of the AIIA (By Examination):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A copy of the existing syllabus for AIIA (By Examination).</li> <li>- A centre/chapter-wise list of books and reference materials related to Architecture and allied areas, available in the libraries at various IIA Centres and Chapters.</li> <li>- Eligibility criteria for enrolment of candidates.</li> <li>- Details of the classes conducted for enrolled candidates, including any online teaching methodologies being adopted.</li> <li>- Copies of question papers for the last three years.</li> <li>- Information on the evaluation process of answer papers, criteria for passing, and declaration of results.</li> <li>- Any initiatives taken by the IIA in recent years to innovate and improve the AIIA examination process.</li> <li>- Fees Charged by the IIA from the Candidates.</li> </ul> <p>It was decided that upon receipt and review of the above documents, the Council would depute a Three-Member Committee to assess the quality and standards of</p>



	<p>the examination system being followed by the IIA and to submit its recommendations.</p> <p>The Council has received the above information vide IIA's letter dated 26.07.2025, submitting information regarding conduct of AIIA (by Examination) by the Indian Institute of Architects, for perusal of the Council.</p> <p>The Executive Committee reviewed the details provided by IIA and decided to constitute a committee comprising following members to go through the information provided by IIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ar. Gajanand Ram, Vice-President, COA, Convenor</li> <li>- Ar. Ritu Singh, member</li> <li>- Ar. Ravi Kumar R., member</li> </ul> <p>Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee shall be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To suggest revisions to the existing syllabus for the AIIA (By Examination) programme in light of the Minimum Standards prescribed by the Council.</li> <li>ii. To assess the quality of thesis work submitted by students appearing for the AIIA Examination, and review its availability in digital format for archiving purposes.</li> <li>iii. To examine the eligibility criteria for enrolment of candidates, and review the details of classes conducted for enrolled candidates, including the use of online teaching methodologies, if any.</li> <li>iv. To review and analyze the question papers of the AIIA Examination from the past three years, with a view to assessing their relevance, coverage of syllabus, and alignment with the prescribed academic standards.</li> <li>v. To review the evaluation process of answer scripts, the criteria for passing, and the declaration of results, and to recommend improvements, if necessary.</li> <li>vi. To examine the list of books and reference materials related to Architecture and allied fields available in the libraries of various IIA Centres and Chapters, including the availability and use of a Learning Management System for theory subjects.</li> <li>vii. To examine the number, qualifications, and adequacy of Guides supervising thesis/dissertation work.</li> </ol> <p>The Committee be requested to undertake a physical inspection of the IIA at the earliest and submit its report with recommendations to the Council for initiating further action in the matter.</p>
ii)	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF NOTIFICATION NO. S.O. 2994(E) DATED 03<sup>rd</sup> JULY, 2025 REGARDING INCLUSION OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCES IN ARCHITECTURE AWARDED BY SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, ZURICH, SWITZERLAND IN THE SCHEDULE OF THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that Dr. Rupesh had applied for registration as an architect with the Council of Architecture in 2019 based on "Doctorate of Sciences" awarded from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETH Zurich). Since only the "Doctorate of Technical Sciences in</p>



Architecture,” is recognized under the Architects Act, 1972, the registration of Dr. Rupesh was not processed. The COA sought clarification from ETH Zurich, which confirmed that the degree title was changed in 2002 but affirmed its equivalence.

Dr Rupesh S. Iyengar submitted his application for recognition of his doctorate degree in changed nomenclature to the Council, in terms of the direction of Hon’ble Karnataka High Court in 2022.

Despite this, the COA, in its 80th meeting held on 02.09.2023, rejected Dr. Rupesh’s application on the grounds that:

- The degree title “Doctorate of Sciences” does not match the notified qualification “Doctorate of Technical Sciences in Architecture” under Section 15;
- The thesis topic submitted by Dr. Rupesh was of interdisciplinary nature and not confined solely to architecture;
- The doctoral degree was research-based and lacked structured coursework, instructional periods, and examinations as required under the COA (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020;
- There was no documentary proof demonstrating that the revised degree meets equivalence with the Indian Ph.D. standards as previously recognized.

Dr. Rupesh S. Iyengar, filed writ petition Writ Petition No. 28138/2024 before the Hon’ble High Court of Karnataka in 2024 under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, seeking appropriate directions against the Council of Architecture (COA) and the Union of India, in connection with the non-recognition of his foreign qualification for registration as an architect under Section 15 of the Architects Act, 1972.

The Ministry of Education, Government of India, had on multiple occasions, including through letters 01.05.2024, and 11.02.2025, requested the COA to reconsider Dr. Rupesh’s case, especially in light of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Further, ETH Zurich, in its official correspondence dated 12.02.2025, categorically confirmed that the current degree titled “Doctor of Sciences” in Architecture is academically and substantively equivalent to the “Doctorate of Technical Sciences in Architecture.

However, the Council has maintained that recognition cannot be granted as the degree fails to meet the required parameters under the prevailing regulations. The Council has further stated that it may reconsider such cases after the revision of the Minimum Standards of Architectural Education in line with the NEP 2020, a process which is currently underway.

The Committee on recognition of Foreign Qualifications of the Council considered a clarification received dated 12.02.2025 from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETH Zurich), which affirmed that the “Doctor of Sciences” degree currently being awarded in Architecture is academically equivalent to the



earlier “Doctorate of Technical Sciences in Architecture”, a qualification already recognized by the Central Government under Section 15 of the Architects Act, 1972, as being at par with a Ph.D. from Indian universities. ETH Zurich also confirmed that the course content for both degrees is the same.

However, upon detailed scrutiny, the Committee noted that the 2000 Academic Regulations of ETH Zurich list the “Doctorate of Technical Sciences in Architecture” and the “Doctorate of Sciences” as separate and distinct qualifications, indicating that the newer degree was not originally encompassed under the previously recognized qualification. The Committee also pointed out the absence of any documentary evidence establishing that the “Doctor of Sciences” degree is presently recognized in India as being at par with the previously notified doctoral degree. Therefore, the Council concluded that any fresh consideration of this revised degree would necessitate legal and policy amendments, particularly under the revised regulations aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

Furthermore, the application submitted by Dr. Rupesh S. Iyengar to the Council was found to be incomplete, as it lacked critical details on courses undertaken, periods of study, and subjects of examination—most of the relevant fields in the prescribed form were marked as “N.A.”. Consequently, the Committee resolved to seek this information afresh from the candidate in the proper format to enable detailed reconsideration.

Contrary to the Council's views, the Ministry of Education, vide letter dated 27 March 2025, clearly expressed its disagreement and stated that the Doctor of Sciences in Architecture degree awarded by ETH Zurich should be recognized under the Architects Act.

Following this, the Council wrote to ETH Zurich on 3 April 2025, seeking clarification regarding the eligibility of holders of this degree for registration as architects in Switzerland. ETH Zurich responded via email on 5 April 2025, stating that while the doctorate is an advanced academic credential, it may not, on its own, suffice for registration as an architect in Switzerland. Additional requirements—such as professional experience or regional recognition by Swiss cantonal authorities—may be necessary. This response was formally conveyed to the Ministry by the Council on 23 May 2025, stating that since the degree is not independently sufficient for registration in its country of origin, it may not be appropriate to consider it for recognition in India under the Architects Act, 1972.

The matter is presently sub-judice before the Hon’ble High Court of Karnataka in Writ Petition No. 28138/2024, filed by Dr. Rupesh S. Iyengar.

Despite the Council's request, the Ministry of Education issued Notification No. S.O. 2994(E) dated 03 August 2025, formally including the Doctor of Sciences in Architecture awarded by ETH Zurich in the Schedule of Recognized Qualifications under the Architects Act, 1972.



	<p>The Executive Committee reviewed the details and decided that an appropriate communication be sent to the Ministry, conveying the Council's recommendation not to grant recognition to the said qualification, for its consideration and necessary action.</p>
iii)	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE MEETING HELD WITH HON'BLE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL ON 30th JUNE, 2025 REGARDING FACILITATING EXPORT OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the meeting was held on 30th June, 2025 between the Council of Architecture and Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal to deliberate on matters concerning the recognition of Indian architectural education and professional qualifications at the international level.</p> <p>The meeting was convened to deliberate on crucial matters pertaining to the export of architectural services, particularly in the context of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligning domestic regulations with international best practices and standards for architectural education and professional services;</li> <li>• Facilitating international mobility of Indian architects through appropriate recognition mechanisms and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) under Free Trade Agreements (FTAs);</li> <li>• Leveraging India's architectural expertise and regulatory framework for enhanced global competitiveness in the professional services sector.</li> </ul> <p>The Hon'ble Minister appreciated the Council's efforts and assured support in exploring avenues to promote India's architectural profession internationally. He advised the Council to prepare a detailed brief highlighting specific regulatory bottlenecks and potential frameworks for global alignment.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the same and appreciated the efforts of the Council.</p>
iv)	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE REPLY RECEIVED FROM DEV BHOOMI SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, DEHRADUN, REGARDING MISCONDUCT BY THE INSTITUTION DURING INSPECTION.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council is in receipt of reply received from Dev Bhoomi School of Architecture, Dehradun, regarding misconduct by the institution during inspection.</p> <p>The Executive Committee of the Council at its 270<sup>th</sup> meeting considered the assessment report of the Inspection Committee that conducted inspection of said institution UA06-Dev Bhoomi School of Architecture, Dehradun, together with the information provided by the institution, for extension of approval of 5-year full-time Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) degree course for the academic session 2025-2026.</p>



<p>v)</p>	<p>The Executive Committee also perused an email received from the Convenor of the Inspection Committee, reporting non-cooperation by the institution's staff and the use of unethical tactics to influence the inspectors.</p> <p>It is noted with concern that the inspectors who visited the institution were subjected to aggressive behavior by Ms. Sakshi Arora, CA, Department of Finance of the University, during the inspection when the Inspection Committee sought information related to TDR/Income Tax details of the teaching faculty members. Subsequently, white envelopes containing undisclosed cash were allegedly offered to the inspectors by the Pro Vice-Chancellor and the Principal.</p> <p>The representatives from Dev Bhoomi School of Architecture, Dehradun – the Vice-President of the institution and the In-charge Vice Chancellor of Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand University – appeared in person before the Executive Committee and tendered their apologies for the misconduct of the then Pro Vice-Chancellor. They informed the Committee that an explanation had been sought from the said Pro Vice-Chancellor as to why action should not be initiated against him, following which he resigned from the University.</p> <p>The Executive Committee took a serious view of these developments, considering them a violation of ethical and professional standards that undermine the integrity of the inspection process. The Committee directed the institution to ensure that such incidents are not repeated in the future, failing which the Council will be compelled to take stringent action against the University.</p> <p>The representatives of the University were also directed to submit a list of faculty members along with their Form-16 and TRACES forms, and to provide an explanation and written apology from Ms. Sakshi Arora, CA who had misbehaved with the inspection team.</p> <p><b>TO CONSIDER THE INSPECTION REPORT OF UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE, (PJ11), MOHALI, PUNJAB, FOR EXTENSION OF APPROVAL FOR B.ARCH./M.ARCH. DEGREE COURSE AND CHANGE OF SITE FROM THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2025-2026.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council has received, Inspection Report of the Inspection Committees which conducted inspections at PJ11-University Institute of Architecture, Formerly CGC Institute of Architecture, Mohali, Punjab, which has applied for extension of approval for B.Arch./M.Arch. degree course and change of site from Block C2 (formerly Block-6) to Block A2 (formerly Block-8) at the University Institute of Architecture (formerly CGC Institute of Architecture), Mohali from the Academic Session 2025-2026.</p> <p>The Executive Committee perused the inspection report of the Inspectors and supporting documents for change of site, and decided to approve the application of the institution for change of site, subject to submission of necessary approvals from the competent authority for the new premises. It was also noted that the</p>



	<p>institution has already been granted approval to offer B.Arch. and M.Arch. degree programmes for the academic session 2025–2026.</p> <p>It was brought to the notice of the Executive Committee that the Convenor of the Inspection Committee had neither verified the faculty present at the institution in the online assessment report nor provided timely clarification regarding confirmation of the faculty. Furthermore, the clarification submitted on the change of site, as requested by the Council, was found to be ambiguous. The Executive Committee, therefore, decided not to appoint the Expert for any future inspections of the Council.</p>
vi)	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE REPLY RECEIVED FROM OR01-FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING &amp; TECHNOLOGY ODISHA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA IN RESPONSE TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF APPROVAL FOR B.ARCH./M.ARCH. DEGREE PROGRAMME FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2025-2026.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council is in receipt of reply received from OR01-Faculty of Architecture and Design, College of Engineering &amp; Technology, Odisha University of Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar, ODISHA in response to show cause notice issued for reduction of Intake in B.Arch./M.Arch. programme due to deficiency in faculty and/or infrastructure.</p> <p>It was noted that the institution had conducted interviews for various faculty positions in Architecture in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, and the results will be published shortly.</p> <p>The Executive Committee decided to seek the following documents from the institution for its further consideration:</p> <p>i) List of faculty members selected for appointment to various teaching posts after the interviews  ii) Copy of the advertisement issued for the appointment of faculty.  iii) Status of promotion of faculty members under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) prescribed by the Council.</p>
vii)	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE PAYMENT OF CHARGES FOR INSTITUTIONS APPLYING FOR PROGRESSIVE CLOSURE TO THE COUNCIL</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Council of Architecture in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Council of Architecture held on 20th July, 2024 decided to allow institutions to apply for progressive closure apart from complete closure.</p> <p>As per policy of the Council, an existing Institution seeking Closure, through its Promoter, shall apply to the Council, in prescribed format along with documents as may be required, and payment of charges of Rs.5,00,000/-. In case the</p>



institution has submitted Security Deposit to the Council, the amount may be deducted from the Security Deposit and balance amount, if any, be refunded to the institution.

In case of Complete Closure, the Institution shall be closed completely in one Instance and the students, if any, pursuing B.Arch. Course shall be transferred/migrated to appropriate semester/level of the course to other institutions approved by the Council in the State within the sanctioned intake as per the available vacancy of seats. In such cases, the Council appoints an Administrator to facilitate smooth closure of the institution and to ensure compliance with the prescribed standards of the Council.

In case of Progressive Closure, Closure at the First Year Level shall be allowed in the current Academic Year and the subsequent years of working shall be closed at the end of each Academic Year progressively. However, final Closure order shall be issued after completion of the Programme(s) and submission of requisite documents by the Institution.

Since there are no administrative or contingent expenses involved during the process of Progressive Closure, the Council has received requests to waive the charges for applying for Progressive Closure.

The Executive Committee, after deliberations, decided that if an existing institution seeking Progressive Closure has already deposited the security deposit with the Council, no charges shall be levied towards Progressive Closure. If the security deposit has not been deposited earlier, the institution shall be required to deposit it before applying for Progressive Closure. Once the existing batches have passed out, the security deposit shall be refunded along with the issuance of the final closure order, subject to compliance with the conditions prescribed for closure by the Council.

The payment of charges of ₹5,00,000 for applying for complete closure shall, however, remain in force.

The meeting ended at 05:00 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.





**Appendix-A**  
**LIST OF INSTITUTIONS IN RESPONSE TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF APPROVAL FOR B.ARCH./M.ARCH. DEGREE PROGRAMME FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2025-2026.**

Sl.No.	Name of Inst.	Course Commencement Year	Programme	EC Decision for reduction in intake	Decision of the Executive Committee
1	KA01 School of Architecture, University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering Jnana Bharathi, Bangalore, Pin code-560056, KARNATAKA	1967	B.Arch.	Show cause 40 to 30	The Executive Committee, after considering the reply of the institution against the show cause notice issued by the Council, decided to grant extension of approval to B.Arch. degree programme with an intake of 40 for the academic session 2025-2026, subject to appointment of requisite faculty and maintenance of adequate physical infrastructure & facilities as per COA Norms. An undertaking from the Registrar of the University for appointment of requisite cadre-wise faculty within a period of 6 months should be submitted.
2	KA46 EAST WEST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE Sy No.63, New No. 195, Off Magadi Main Road, Vishwaneedam Post, Anjana Nagar, Bangalore, Pin code-560091, KARNATAKA	2018	B.Arch.	Show cause 20 to 10	The Executive Committee, after considering the reply of the institution against the show cause notice issued by the Council, decided to grant extension of approval to B.Arch. degree programme with an intake of 20 for the academic session 2025-2026, subject to appointment of requisite faculty and maintenance of adequate physical infrastructure & facilities as per COA Norms. If the deficiencies are not removed by the institution within a period of 3 months, intake could be reduced to zero from next academic session.
3	MH01 Sir J.J College Of Architecture 78/3, Dr.D.N.Road, Fort, Mumbai, Pin code-400001, MAHARASHTRA	1940	B.Arch. (Approval for M.Arch. Programme also pending)	Show cause 67 to 40	The Executive Committee noted that there is ambiguity in the designation of one contractual faculty in the appointment letter issued by Registrar of the Institution and hence, decided to seek appropriate clarification. The Executive Committee decided that upon receipt of appropriate clarification from the institution, the institution may be granted extension of approval to B.Arch. degree programme with an intake of 67 for the academic session 2025-2026, subject to appointment of requisite faculty and maintenance of adequate physical infrastructure & facilities as per COA Norms.



4	MP16 School of Architecture, Rajiv Gandhi Proudyogiki Vishwavidyalaya A State Technological University of Madhya Pradesh Airport Bypass Road Gandhi Nagar, Bhopal, Pin code-462033 ,MADHYA PRADESH	2020	B.Arch.	Show cause 20 to 0 (Zero)	The Executive Committee, after considering the reply of the institution against the show cause notice issued by the Council, decided to seek the copy of advertisement and efforts made by the institution to identify and appoint requisite cadre-wise faculty.
5	PJ12 Department Of Architectural. K. Gujral Punjab Technical University, Mohali Campus II Sector-115, Kharar-Banur Highway, KhummajraDistt. SAS Nagar , Mohali, Pin code-140301 ,PUNJAB	2014	B.Arch.	Show cause 20 to 10	The Executive Committee, after considering the reply of the institution against the show cause notice issued by the Council, decided to grant extension of approval to B.Arch. degree programme with an intake of 20 for the academic session 2025-2026, subject to appointment of requisite faculty and maintenance of adequate physical infrastructure & facilities as per COA Norms. The institution must submits its compliance within a period of 3 months.



## Appendix-B

LIST OF INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAD COMPULSORY REDUCTION OF INTAKES DUE TO NON-FILLING UP OF AT LEAST 30% SEATS IN B.ARCH. PROGRAMME AND HAVE REQUESTED FOR INCREASE OF INTAKE FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2025-2026.

Sl.No.	Name of Institutions	Intake in B.Arch. Approved by EC	Request for increase in Intake	Decision of the Executive Committee
1	KA37 School of Architecture, CMR University, Survey No. 93/1, Main Campus, Off Bagalur Main Road, Chagalatti, Bangalore, Karnataka	20 2025-2026	20 to 40 2025-2026	The Executive Committee, after considering the request of the institution, decided to grant extension of approval to B.Arch. degree programme with an intake of 40 for the academic session 2025-2026, subject to appointment of requisite faculty and maintenance of adequate physical infrastructure & facilities as per COA Norms. If the admissions at the institutions are less than 20 this year, then intake shall be reduced to 20 in next academic session.
2	TN82 Nehru School of Architecture 451-D, Palakkad Main Road Kuniyathur, Coimbatore, TAMIL NADU	20 2025-2026	20 to 40 2025-2026	The Executive Committee, after considering the request of the institution, decided to grant extension of approval to B.Arch. degree programme with an intake of 40 for the academic session 2025-2026, subject to appointment of requisite faculty and maintenance of adequate physical infrastructure & facilities as per COA Norms. If the admissions at the institutions are less than 20 this year, then intake shall be reduced to 20 in next academic session.

