

MINUTES OF 277th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE HELD ON JANUARY 24, 2026 FROM 11:00 AM ONWARDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE AT CORE 6A, FIRST FLOOR, INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI.

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, (Online)
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 meeting commenced with a heartfelt tribute to late Ar. Vijay Garg, Former Acting President and Vice President of the Council of Architecture, who passed away on 31.12.2025. The Chairman paid homage to Ar. Vijay Garg, who had served the Council with distinction in various capacities and made valuable contributions to the profession and to the functioning of the Council. The Chairman recalled his commitment and service to the architectural fraternity. The Chairman also read out a Condolence Message sent to his family.

The Members of the Executive Committee expressed their deep condolences to the bereaved family and observed two minutes of silence to pray for the peace of the departed soul.

Subsequently, the Chairman welcomed the Members of the Executive Committee and the Officers of the Council and thanked them for sparing their valuable time to attend the meeting. Thereafter, the regular agenda items of the meeting were taken into consideration.

ITEM NO.	PARTICULARS OF THE ITEMS
1	CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 276TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the Hon'ble Members that the Minutes of the 275 th and 276 th Meetings of the Executive Committee were circulated to the Hon'ble Members vide email dated 23.12.2025, after approval of the Chairman, for their views/comments.
	No comments/views have been received from the Members on the Minutes.

	The Executive Committee, after deliberations, confirmed the Minutes of the 275 th and 276 th Meetings of the Executive Committee.
2	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE 276th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the Hon'ble Members that the Action Taken Reports on the Minutes of the 275th and 276th Meetings of the Executive Committee are placed before the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee perused the Action Taken Reports of the meetings and also decided to issue letters to architectural institutions functioning without qualified and experienced Heads of Institution, informing them that their approved intake shall be withheld if a qualified Head of Institution is not appointed and/or requisite details are not furnished to the Council within a period of three months.
3	TO CONSIDER THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE HIGH-POWER COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED TO REVIEW THE AIIA (BY EXAMINATION) CONDUCTED BY THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (IIA)
	The Registrar-Secretary stated that the Executive Committee, at its 270th meeting, had examined an appeal received from the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) vide letter dated 05.06.2025, wherein the IIA sought consideration and recognition for registration under the Architects Act, 1972 of candidates enrolled as Associateship Members of IIA (AIIA – By Examination) after July 2022. After detailed deliberations, the Executive Committee decided to seek comprehensive information from the IIA regarding the conduct of the AIIA (By Examination), including the syllabus, eligibility criteria, teaching methodology, evaluation process, question papers, reference materials, and fee structure, which was subsequently furnished by the IIA vide its letter dated 26.07.2025. Thereafter, the Executive Committee, at its 272nd meeting, upon examination of the information submitted by the IIA, constituted a High-Power Committee to review and assess the standards and conduct of the AIIA (By Examination) in the light of the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020. The High-Power Committee, comprising Ar. Gajanand Ram, Vice-President, COA as Convenor, Ar. Ritu Singh and Ar. Ravi Kumar R. as Members, was mandated to undertake a comprehensive review of the syllabus, eligibility criteria, teaching and evaluation processes, thesis work, question papers, availability of reference materials, adequacy of guides, and other academic aspects, including physical inspection of facilities. The Committee visited the office of IIA, Mumbai on November 1-2, 2025, completed its assessment, and submitted its detailed report and recommendations to the Council.

The Executive Committee considered the report and noted that the High-Power Committee, after a detailed review of the academic framework, syllabus, eligibility criteria, teaching and evaluation processes, examination methodology, availability of academic resources, and physical inspection of facilities at IIA, Mumbai, had submitted its recommendations to the Council.

The Executive Committee of the Council, after consideration of the report and detailed deliberations, decided as under:

1. Admissions to the AIIA (By Examination) programme for the academic session 2025–2026 are approved by the Council.
2. The intake for the academic session 2026–2027 shall not exceed forty (40) students. Any proposal for an enhanced intake shall be considered by the Council only after full compliance with the conditions stipulated herein and shall be subject to specific approval.
3. Regularisation of admissions made by IIA during the past academic years 2022–2023, 2023–2024, and 2024–2025 shall be subject to the concerned candidates appearing in and successfully passing of subject examinations designed and evaluated by subject experts nominated by the Council of Architecture and conducted by IIA.
 - a. The remuneration payable to examiners and subject experts for conducting such examinations shall be borne by IIA, in accordance with its prevailing norms.
 - b. No examination fee shall be charged from the candidates for the said examinations.
 - c. The entire process, including conduct of examinations and declaration of results, shall be completed by IIA within a period of nine (9) months from the date of issuance of this communication.

Further, for continued compliance with the norms and standards prescribed by the Council of Architecture, IIA shall fulfil the following conditions within a period of six months or as indicated against each condition:

1. The syllabus shall be revised by IIA strictly in accordance with the Minimum Standards of Architecture Education Regulations, 2020 prescribed by the Council of Architecture, and the revised syllabus shall be submitted to the Council for its consideration and approval within a period of 3 months.
2. A fully functional Learning Management System (LMS) shall be developed by IIA, containing comprehensive academic content for each subject of examination to facilitate self-paced learning. Upon development, the same shall be formally communicated to the Council and demonstrated for its review.
3. The qualifications and experience of paper setters, moderators, evaluators, jurors, and examiners shall strictly conform to the norms prescribed by the Council of Architecture.
4. A digital library, comprising the prescribed books and journals, shall be created and/or procured. Once operational, the same shall be demonstrated to the Council.

	5. All students admitted with the approval of the Council of Architecture shall be enrolled with the Council as students, in the same manner as applicable to students of other recognised architectural institutions. 6. A formal Board of Studies shall be constituted, comprising academicians and professionals. The Board shall oversee academic activities including, but not limited to, syllabus formulation and revision, quality assurance of the Learning Management System, empanelment of examiners, quality of question papers and evaluation processes, periodic updation of the digital library, and maintenance of archives of students' academic work. The Executive Committee directed the Registrar-Secretary to issue communication to Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) to ensure compliance with the aforesaid recommendations and conditions of the Council within the stipulated timelines, so as to facilitate further appropriate action in the matter.
4	TO CONSIDER REQUEST LETTER RECEIVED FROM KL34 - D.C. SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN, IDUKKI, KERALA, FOR WAIVER OF SECURITY DEPOSIT FOR MERGER OF INSTITUTIONS OF B.ARCH. PROGRAMME.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the institution KL34 - D.C.School of Architecture and Design, Idukki, Kerala had applied for merger of institutions with another institution under the same Society DC Kizhakemuri Foundation, Kottayam, Kerala namely D.C. School of Management and Technology, Idukki, Kerala from the academic session 2025-2026. In this regard, the Council, vide letter dated 24.06.2025 requested the institution to deposit an amount of ₹25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Lakh only) towards interest-free security deposit, as per the prescribed norms approved by the Executive Committee at its 269th meeting. Subsequently, the Council has received a request vide letter dated 28.11.2025 from KL34–D C School of Architecture and Design seeking waiver of the security deposit in respect of the proposed merger of institutions for the B.Arch. Programme. The Executive Committee deliberated upon the request and examined the applicable norms governing merger of institutions and the requirement of security deposit. After detailed deliberations, the Executive Committee decided not to accept the request for waiver of the security deposit and reiterated that the requirement of depositing the interest-free security amount of ₹25,00,000/- shall remain applicable, as per the norms approved by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee directed the Registrar Secretary to communicate the above decision to the institution in the matter.
5	TO CONSIDER REQUEST LETTER RECEIVED FROM AP18-SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE, VIJAYAWADA, ANDHRA PRADESH, FOR

	RELAXATION OF THE PRESCRIBED FEE FOR CHARGES OF CHANGE IN LOCATION OF INSTITUTION.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that AP18-School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada has submitted a letter/application dated 16.12.2025 to the Council seeking approval for a change in the site/location of the Institution, along with all requisite documents as prescribed by the Council. It has requested for relaxation of the prescribed fee of Rs.2 Lacs for change in location of institution. The institution has stated that it is an institution of the Government of India, functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and is fully funded by the Central Government. Further, the proposed change in address involves only relocation within approved premises and does not entail any commercial intent or expansion of activities. The Executive Committee deliberated upon the request and examined the justification submitted by the institution, keeping in view the nature of the institution and the scope of the proposed change in location. The Executive Committee noted that the Council has prescribed a uniform fee for change in location applicable to all institutions, which is utilised towards administrative expenses, including conducting inspections for verification of documents and ensuring compliance with all other applicable norms of the Council of Architecture. Accordingly, the Executive Committee decided not to accede to the request of the institution for waiver of charges. The Executive Committee directed the Registrar-Secretary to communicate the above decision to the institution.
6	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE MEETING HELD WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF A SINGLE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR ADMISSION TO B.ARCH. COURSE AND CONDUCT OF NATA 2026
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that a meeting was held on 23.12.2025 in the Ministry with representatives of the Ministry and officials of the Council of Architecture. During the meeting, issues relating to admission to the B.Arch. programme through a single entrance examination were deliberated upon. During the discussions, it was, inter alia, conveyed that the Council shall conduct the National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) for the academic year 2026-2027 with an understanding that the National Test Agency (NTA) will carry on with the Aptitude Test in future. The Ministry also advised the Council to examine the following issues relating to the conduct of NATA, with a view to maintaining compatibility with JEE: • Reduction of the validity period of the NATA score from two years to one year • Consideration of eligibility of 10+1 candidates to appear in NATA.

- Adoption of a percentile-based scoring methodology in place of marks, to ensure uniform and equitable performance grading.

The Executive Committee took note of the discussions held with the Ministry of Education and accordingly decided to conduct NATA Examinations for admission to 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. degree programmes approved by the Council for the academic session 2026-2027.

The Registrar-Secretary placed before the Executive Committee a draft schedule for conduct of NATA 2026 wherein the examinations are proposed to be conducted on multiple Fridays and Saturdays during the months of March, April and May 2026, with both morning and afternoon sessions, commencing from 20.03.2026 and concluding on 23.05.2026.

After deliberations, the Executive Committee approved the proposed schedule for conduct of NATA 2026 from 20th March, 2026 to 23rd May, 2026 on all Fridays (1:30 PM – 4:30 PM) and Saturdays (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM) at approved NATA centres (except on public holidays). NATA Tests conducted during this period shall be for filling up seats filled by various Admission authorities in the Centralized Admission Counselling.

The Executive Committee, after detailed deliberations, decided that NATA 2026 shall adopt a percentile-based scoring system to ensure uniform and fair assessment of candidates across multiple test sessions. A candidate may appear in a maximum of two attempts in NATA 2026, and each attempt shall generate a raw score. After completion of all test sessions, a final percentile score shall be calculated based on the candidate's best performance, relative to the entire population of test-takers.

A single consolidated merit list shall be prepared on the basis of the final percentile scores. The percentile-based rank shall form the sole criterion for admission and counselling, irrespective of the session in which the candidate appeared.

Candidates holding a valid NATA 2025 score shall also be eligible for inclusion in the NATA 2026 merit list. Their scores shall be converted into percentile scores using an appropriate normalization methodology and ranked together with NATA 2026 candidates in the consolidated merit list.

Admissions shall thus be conducted through a common percentile-based framework, ensuring equity and transparency in both examination years.

In case a NATA 2025 candidate chooses to appear for a second attempt in NATA 2026, the final percentile score shall be determined accordingly, based on the prescribed methodology.

It was also decided to conduct an additional NATA examination in the month of August 2026, for a duration of two weeks, exclusively for candidates who did not appear in the earlier phase of NATA and who are desirous of seeking admission to

	the Architecture programme. Such candidates may appear for a single attempt only and shall be considered for admission only against available vacant seats at institutions after completion of the Centralized Admission Process. The percentiles obtained in this August examination shall be treated independently and shall not be linked or equated with the percentiles of the NATA examinations conducted during March to May 2026. The Executive Committee further decided that dates for conduct of PGETA 2026 for admission to 1st year of 2-year Post Graduate programmes be also decided appropriately in consultation with Sub-Committee constituted by the Council for conducting PGETA. The Executive Committee also noted that the tenders awarded to the Service Providers of the Council for conduct of NATA 2025/PGETA 2025 and for manufacture and supply of 3D NATA Kits contain a provision enabling the Council to extend the engagement of the successful bidders by one additional year, subject to satisfactory performance. In view of the paucity of time and considering the need for uninterrupted continuity and operational preparedness for conduct of NATA 2026 & PGETA 2026, the Executive Committee decided to extend the engagement of the existing Service Providers for conduct of NATA & PGETA and for manufacture and supply of 3D NATA Kits for a further period of one year i.e. for 2026, on the existing terms and conditions. The Executive Committee directed the Registrar-Secretary to take necessary action accordingly.
7	TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST RECEIVED FROM MH21–MAHARSHI KARVE STREE SHIKSHAN SAMSTHA’S DR. BHANUBEN NANAVATI COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE FOR WOMEN, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA, REGARDING THE PROPOSAL FOR RECOGNITION OF THE PG DIPLOMA IN BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Council has received the request letter dated 28.11.2025 from the Principal of MH21–Maharshi Karve Stree Shikshan Samstha’s Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture for Women, Pune, Maharashtra, regarding the proposal for recognition of a PG Diploma in Built Environment Programme. The Executive Committee noted that as per the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education for Post-Graduate Degree Programme) Guidelines, 2022, the Council grants approval exclusively to two-year full-time Master of Architecture (M.Arch.) degree programmes only. The Executive Committee accordingly decided that the proposal cannot be considered at this stage and the same may be examined once the Regulations based on NEP are approved by the Central Government and duly notified.

	The Executive Committee directed the Registrar-Secretary to communicate the above decision to the institution.
8	TO CONSIDER THE LETTER DATED 03.12.2025 ALONG WITH LIST OF FACULTY MEMBERS WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FROM TS10–AURORA’S DESIGN INSTITUTE, HYDERABAD, FOR GRANT EXTENSION OF APPROVAL TO B.ARCH. DEGREE PROGRAMME FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2025-2026.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the institution TS10–Aurora’s Design Institute, Hyderabad, had submitted the applications on the web portal seeking extension of approval of B.Arch./M.Arch. degree programmes for the academic session 2025-2026. Further, the institution also applied for Change of site, Change of Management and for (3) Change of name of Institution from Aurora-s Design Institute to School of Architecture and Planning. After consideration of assessment report and application form submitted by the Institution, the Competent Authority of the Council decided to grant extension of approval to B.Arch. degree programme with an intake of 40 for the academic session 2025-2026. Accordingly, the Council, vide letter dated 07.10.2025, requested the institution to submit the requisite security deposit to proceed further in the matter. However, the institution has not yet submitted the same. The extension of approval of the B.Arch. degree programme for the academic session 2025–2026 remained on hold due to non-submission of the security deposit of ₹25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Lakhs only). On receipt of complaint from a faculty member, the Council in order to verify faculty appointments of the institution, sought information from the institution and has received the letter dated 03.12.2025, along with the list of faculty members and supporting documents, from TS10 – Aurora’s Design Institute, Hyderabad, for the purpose of compliance with the Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020. The Executive Committee decided that the concerned institution be asked to furnish the following factual information to the Council for verification: (i) Bank statement(s) evidencing disbursement of the pending salaries to the faculty members. (ii) An undertaking from the President/Chairperson/Registrar confirming disbursement of the pending salaries. (iii) Acknowledgement receipts from the concerned faculty members confirming receipt of the said payments.

	The Executive Committee directed the Registrar-Secretary to communicate the above decision to the institution.
9	TO CONSIDER THE LETTER DATED 05.12.2025 ALONG WITH LIST OF FACULTY MEMBERS WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FROM TN29–MOHAMED SATHAK A.J. ACADEMY OF ARCHITECTURE, CHENNAI, REGARDING THE COMPLAINT LODGED BY FORMER ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT THE INTITUTION.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Council is in receipt of a complaint dated 11.09.2025, from a Former Assistant Professor (Allied staff) of TN29 – Mohamed Sathak A.J. Academy of Architecture, Chennai, against the institution, regarding multiple issues, namely-(1) non-payment of salary for 3.5 months, (2) non-release of EPF remittance from November 2024, and (3) non-issuance of corrected experience-cum-relieving letter. Further, the faculty has alleged that he was subjected to unethical treatment, harassment, and verbal abuse by the senior faculty of College. Accordingly, the Council, vide letter dated 10.10.2025, requested the institution to take immediate action in the matter. In response, the institution, vide its letter dated 29.10.2025, submitted its response to the complaint regarding non-payment of salary for a period of 3.5 months. The Council again received another complaint dated 21.11.2025, from against the institution, regarding non-payment of salary for 3.5 months and withholding of relieving and experience certificates. Accordingly, the Council, vide letter dated 25.11.2025, requested the institution to furnish the relevant factual data available with the institution in order to ascertain compliance with the <i>Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020</i>. In response, the institution vide letter dated 05.12.2025, along with the list of faculty members and supporting documents, from the institution. The Executive Committee examined the complaint, the replies submitted by the institution, and the supporting documents placed before it. The Executive Committee also noted that the institution has recently confirmed that the salary dues have been paid to the faculty and that the remaining formalities, including relevant certificates such as experience certificate, relieving order etc., are in the process of being issued. The faculty has also confirmed receipt of the salary amount. The Executive Committee took note of the submissions made by the institution and the faculty and decided to treat the complaint as resolved.
10	TO CONSIDER THE EMAIL/LETTER RECEIVED FROM MINISTRY FOR CONSIDERATION OF REDUCTION IN INTAKE GA01-GOA COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, GOVERNMENT OF GOA OVER THE NEXT ACADEMIC

	SESSIONS FOR REGULARIZATION OF STUDENTS ADMITTED IN EXCESS OF SANCTIONED INTAKE.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Council had received an email dated 11 February 2025 and a letter dated 06 January, 2025 from the Ministry concerning admissions made beyond the sanctioned intake at GA01–Goa College of Architecture during the academic years 2019–2020 to 2023–2024, following the implementation of the EWS quota. The Ministry has requested the Council to review the reduction of seats decided by the Council for the subsequent 6 academic sessions, stating that such reduction is not appropriate where the increase in intake was necessitated due to the introduction of the EWS quota, in accordance with the directives of the Government of India. It may be mentioned that the Council, vide its letter dated 06.09.2024, had regularized the admission of 10 candidates by the institution admitted under EWS every year, over and above the sanctioned intake, during 2019-2020 to 2023-2024 and had reduced the intake by 5 seats every year for the next six academic sessions. The Council, upon receiving the request from Ministry of Education reviewed the matter to determine whether the increase was indeed attributable to the said quota. The Council, vide its letter ref.no. CA/5/Academic-GA01 dated 07.04.2025 sought requisite information regarding admission of students belonging to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) at Goa College of Architecture from 2019-2020 to 2023-2024 to initiate further action. In response, the institution vide letter ref.no. Arch/COA/EWS res//2025-26/524 dated 30.06.2025 informed Council that since there were no eligible applicants to fill up 40+10 seats as per the Centralized Admission Process of Directorate of Technical Education, the vacant supernumerary seats against the reserved/EWS categories were allocated to General Category candidates totaling to 30 during 2019–2020 to 2023–2024. The Executive Committee at its 269th meeting reviewed the communications and decided to seek 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. The Council vide letter dated 15.09.2025 sought confirmation of the Ministry as to whether candidates from General category may also be considered for admission in B.Arch. degree programme beyond the sanctioned intake against the vacant reserved categories seats (including SC, ST, SEBC, EWS), consequent to the unavailability of such candidates. In response, the Council received a letter on 29th December 2025, from the Ministry regarding admission beyond sanctioned intake belonging to General “Open

	Category” at Goa College of Architecture, Goa. The Ministry stated that as per the reservation policy of Government of Goa, the vacant reserved seats belonging to any category shall be filled by admitting the general category students and that the actions of the institution, of increasing the seat for EWS category and filling vacant reserved seat with general category, are as per the policy of the State of Goa. The Executive Committee deliberated upon the matter and noted that clear policy guidance is required from the Central Government regarding transfer or conversion of vacant reserved-category seats (including EWS) to the General Category at architectural institutions all over the country, particularly where such transfer results in admissions beyond the intake sanctioned by the Council. The Executive Committee, therefore, decided that the Ministry of Education may be requested to clarify the applicable policy of the Central Government to all the institutions in the country regarding: • Conversion of vacant reserved-category seats (including EWS) to General Category seats; and • Permissibility of admitting such candidates beyond the sanctioned intake approved by the Council of Architecture. The Executive Committee directed the Registrar-Secretary to seek the above clarification from the Ministry and to place the matter before the Executive Committee again upon receipt of the response, for further consideration and appropriate decision.
11	TO CONSIDER THE EMAIL/LETTER DATED 27TH DECEMBER, 2025 RECEIVED FROM GA01-GOA COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, GOA, FOR ISSUANCE OF ENROLLMENT NUMBERS TO TWO M.ARCH. STUDENTS ADMITTED DURING ACADEMIC SESSION 2024-2025 BASED ON PGETA 2025.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that The Council has received the request from GA01-Goa College of Architecture, Panaji, North Goa, Goa on the web portal for issuance of enrollment numbers of 2 students who were admitted in the M.Arch. degree course without passing any Aptitude Test in Architecture during the academic session 2024-2025. The Council had earlier rejected the request of the institution to admit these 2 students in the M.Arch.programme based on the PGETA 2025 scorecard. The institution has clarified that the said students subsequently appeared in PGETA 2025, obtained valid percentile scores, and were admitted against vacant seats as per CoA Circular dated 21/06/2024 which stated : <i>"In case any seats remained vacant after the admission process conducted on the basis of PGETA 2024; the same may be filled by the institutions at their level with candidates who have passed an examination in B.Arch. Course with at least 50 percent aggregate marks or equivalent CGPI."</i>

	As decided by the Executive Committee, the Council, vide letter dated 19.11.2025, requested the institution to furnish the relevant documents/details relating to the admission of students. In response, the institution, vide its letter/email dated 27th December 2025, submitted its reply. The Executive Committee examined the submissions made by the institution and, after deliberations, decided to allow the admissions of the two M.Arch. students and approved issuance of enrolment numbers, as a one-time measure, without setting any precedent. The Executive Committee directed the Registrar-Secretary to take necessary action accordingly.
12	TO CONSIDER THE REPRESENTATION DATED 04.11.2025 RECEIVED FROM MR. PARAM SHITALKUMAR MORI W.R.T. ORDER DATED 16.10.2025 and 09.12.2025 PASSED IN THE MATTER OF W. P. NO. 13520 OF 2025, PARAM SHITALKUMAR MORI VS. BALWANT SHETH SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND OTHERS, BY HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Council is in receipt of a Representation received from Mr. Param Shitalkumar Mori, received on 19.12.2025 at the office of the Council, w.r.t. Order Dated 16.10.2025 and 09.12.2025 in W.P. (C) No. 13520 of 2025. Mr. Param Shitalkumar Mori, was admitted into the 5-year B.Arch. programme by Respondent No.1 Balwant Sheth School of Architecture, BSSA Studies, in the academic year 2024-2025 based on the NATA 2023 Score, which was valid only for the academic session 2023-2024. The Institution applied for enrollment of students admitted on 24.10.2024 to Council. On 29.07.2025, the Council sent emailed communication asking for 10+2 marksheet and NATA scorecards of two students, namely (1) Mr. Param Shitalkumar Mori and (2) Ms. Nishi Lalit. On 19.09.2025, the institution vide email shared 10+2 marksheet and NATA scorecard of remaining two students, namely (1) Mr. Param Shitalkumar Mori and (2) Ms. Nishi Lalit. On 23.09.2025, the Council sought clarification from the institution as to how the student Mr. Param Shitalkumar Mori was admitted into first year of 5-Year B.Arch. programme for the academic session 2024-2025 without possessing a valid NATA Score. The institution vide email dated 01.10.2025 shared letter dated 30.09.2025, clarifying that Mr. Param Shitalkumar Mori was found ineligible for the program and by an oversight of the institution, verification of the student was not done accurately and inadvertently the student was admitted in the programme. The institution acknowledged the discrepancy and apologized for the same informing the Council

that the student has been informed to initiate the admission cancellation process and subsequently his fees will be refunded.

The Petition was filed by the candidate seeking directions to Respondents to allow the petitioner to continue with his course of B. Arch. Course and further permit him to continue with his admission for B. Arch programme and appear for his 3rd semester commencing from 03/10/2025.

Initially the Council of Architecture was not a party in the petition. The Hon'ble High Court of Bombay, by its order dated 16.10.2025, directed that the Registrar, Council of Architecture, be impleaded as Respondent No. 4 in the Petition and passed interim directions permitting the petitioner to provisionally appear for the third semester examination, subject to the condition that the result shall not be declared without the leave of the Court and that no equities shall be created in the petitioner's favour. The Court further listed the matter on 26 November 2025 to examine whether the Council of Architecture can consider the possibility of regularizing the admission

On 24.11.2025, the Council vide email/letter ref. no. CA/5/Academic-MH42 dated 24.11.2025 directed the institution to show cause as to why action should not be initiated against the institution for admitting Mr. Param Shitalkumar Mori in B.Arch. course in violation of the Council Regulations and also informed that the Council has prescribed Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020, with the approval of the Central Government in terms of sections 21 & 45 of the Architects Act, 1972.

Pursuance to the order dated 16.10.2025 of Hon'ble High Court, the Council filed an affidavit in the matter highlighting the suppression of information by petitioner and negligence made by the Respondent No. 1 Institution in admitting the petitioner.

The Council also apprised the Hon'ble Court that as the petitioner is aggrieved by the action taken by the Council of Architecture i.e. refusing enrollment no. to him to continue B. Arch. Course, he should make a representation to the Executive Committee so that the same can be considered appropriately and in case the petitioner still feels aggrieved by the decision of the Council, he may approach the Hon'ble High Court.

Accordingly, the Hon'ble High Court on 09.12.2025 ordered as under:

4. *Our order dated 16th October 2025, makes a mention that earlier National Aptitude Test in Architecture ('NATA') results (which is an admission process to the professional course of Bachelor of Architecture) were valid only for one year. Now the NATA result is valid for two years from the academic year 2024- 2025.*

*Therefore, the Executive Committee can consider the case of the Petitioner in the light thereof, on its own merits. **We make it clear that we have not expressed any opinion in favour of the Petitioner.***

5. In view of the above, **this Writ Petition is disposed off.** After the Petitioner makes the representation, we would expect the Committee to decide the same within the period of 45 days from the date of receipt of the representation and convey its decision to the Petitioner within 24 hours, on his following E-mail Address:- paramm0910@gmail.com

The Executive Committee deliberated on the matter and noted that, in terms of the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020, only a candidate who has passed the 10+2 examination with the prescribed mandatory subjects and has qualified in the Aptitude Test in Architecture is eligible for admission to the five-year B.Arch. degree programme. Further, the NATA Brochure 2023 also states that NATA-2023 score shall be valid only for admission in the academic session 2023-2024.

The Committee further noted that, Mr. Param Shitalkumar Mori was admitted in institution MH42- Balwant Seth School of Architecture during 2024-2025 without having a valid NATA score card for academic session 2024-25 for admission to B. Arch. degree programme and thus, admission was made in violation of Council of Architecture MSAER, 2020.

The Executive Committee further noted that Mr. Param Shitalkumar Mori has already appeared in two semesters of B. Arch course and also attended classes for 2nd year 3rd Semester. Further, the Hon'ble High Court vide its interim order dated 16.10.2025 permitted him to appear for the third semester examination starting on 28th October, 2025. The Hon'ble High Court also ordered as under:

We wish to hear from the Council of Architecture, which has cancelled the Petitioner's admission, as to whether there is any scope for regularizing the Petitioner's admission. No doubt, prima facie, the records indicates that the Petitioner was illegally admitted in the academic year 2024-2025.

As such, we permit the Petitioner to provisionally appear for the third semester examination on the clear condition that the result shall not be declared without the leave of this court.

The Executive Committee perused the order dated 09.12.2025 passed by the Hon'ble High Court and, after considering the facts and circumstances of the case, noted that although Mr. Param Shitalkumar Mori was not eligible for admission to the B.Arch. Degree Programme due to the expiry of his valid NATA 2023 score, the time already spent and fees paid to the institution, as well as the completion of three semesters of the B.Arch. course by the candidate, warrant sympathetic consideration.

Accordingly, the Executive Committee decided that, in the interest of justice and equity, the admission may be regularised as a special case, strictly as a one-time measure, without treating the same as a precedent in any future case.

	The Executive Committee observed that the institution had committed serious illegality by admitting an ineligible candidate and had acted in a casual and negligent manner in dealing with matters relating to admission to the Architectural Course, which is a matter of serious concern as it directly affects the life and career of students. Accordingly, the institution should be held accountable for this legal lapse for failure to ensure strict compliance with the COA (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020. The Executive Committee unanimously decided to impose a fine of ₹1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only) on the institution, to be deposited with the Council of Architecture within a period of thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of this communication. The Executive Committee also decided to direct the Institution to submit an undertaking on non-judicial stamp paper of ₹100/-, duly signed by the competent authority of the Institution, affirming that all future admissions into the B.Arch. degree programme shall be made strictly in accordance with the Regulations, Norms, and Guidelines prescribed by the Council from time to time. Upon receipt of the required fine and undertaking from the institution, the Council shall proceed to issue enrolment to the candidate.
13	TO CONSIDER THE LEGAL OPINION DATED 06.01.2026 OF COUNCIL'S ADVOCATE, SHRI ABHINAV BAJAJ, REGARDING CONSIDERING THE APPLICATION OF MS. VIMLESH SINGH FOR REGISTRATION AS AN ARCHITECT.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Council received a complaint for misuse of title and style of "Architect" against Mrs. Vimlesh Singh who was working as Associate Architect in Noida Authority, Noida, U.P. Even after issuance of Show Cause Notices and reminders neither Mrs. Vimlesh Singh nor the Noida Authority changed her designation, and continued violating the Architects Act, 1972. Accordingly, the Council filed a Complaint against Mrs. Vimlesh Singh on 03.09.2009 for violation of Section 35, 36 and 37 of the Architects Act, 1972 through Advocates of the Council. The said complaint was dismissed by the learned Metropolitan Magistrate, Saket Courts, on the ground of lack of territorial jurisdiction on 23.09.2017. Thereafter, a revision petition preferred by the Council before the Sessions Court and same was also dismissed on 16.11.2018. On 27.08.2012 Council received an application for registration as an Architect from Mrs. Vimlesh Singh the same was kept pending as per advice of Council's Advocate(s) who were dealing with Complaint and Revision matters. She had undergone B. Arch Degree from Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi. Further, Mrs. Vimlesh Singh (Plaintiff) instituted a civil suit on 13.01.2020 claiming damages amounting to 1,00,80,000/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Thousand only) on account of alleged malicious prosecution in respect of the complaint pertaining

	to misuse of the title and style of "Architect", along with other benefits and future interest. The matter is still going. Recently, the Council vide its letter dated 24.12.2025 sought a legal opinion from its Advocate as to whether the Council can consider application of Mrs. Vimlesh Singh for grant of registration as an Architect under the Architects Act, 1972 even though her suit is still pending against Council. The Executive Committee perused the legal opinion dated 06.01.2026 submitted by the Council's Advocate and after detailed deliberations, decided that the application of Mrs. Vimlesh Singh be processed for registration as an architect with the Council and Certificate of Registration be issued to her.
14	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE AND SUBSEQUENT JOINING OF SELECTED CANDIDATE FOR THE POSTS OF DIRECTOR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AT THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRES (TRCs)
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Council had constituted a duly approved Selection Committee for conducting interviews for the posts of Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director for the Council of Architecture Training and Research Centres (TRCs) and Proposed Centre of Excellence located at Delhi, Pune, Bengaluru and Bhopal, pursuant to the advertisement dated 02.04.2025. The Selection Committee conducted interviews on 06th and 07th November, 2025 at the Council of Architecture, New Delhi, and submitted its report dated 07.11.2025, along with marks awarded to the candidates and recommendations for appointments. As per the recommendations of the Selection Committee: • No candidate was found suitable for the post of Director. • Five (5) candidates were selected for appointments to the posts of Deputy Director and Assistant Director, against the notified vacancies as under: Deputy Director: - Ar. S. Prabhakaran - Dr. Rashmi B. Tandon - Ar. Aditi Lanke - Ar. Fatema Quresh Ateka Kabir. Assistant Director: - Ar. Shrutika Joshi

	Subsequently, the Council issued appointment orders to them for contractual appointments for a period of six months. Out of the appointed candidates, Ar. Rashmi Baluja Tandon has joined at TRC, Delhi and Ar. S.Prabhakaran has joined at TRC, Bengaluru and presently requested to continue with the work reated to proposed Centre of Excellence, Bengaluru. Two selected candidates, i.e. Ar. Aditi Lanke and Ar. Fatema Quresh Ateka Kabir have declined the offer of appointment, while Ar. Shrutika Joshi is expected to join from February 2026. The Executive Committee took note of the report of the Selection Committee and the subsequent joining status of the selected candidates. The Executive Committee also had a personal interaction with Dr. Rashmi Baluja Tandon upon her introduction to the Committee.
15	TO CONSIDER THE REQUESTS RECEIVED FROM DEPUTY DIRECTORS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL AT THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRES (TRCS) FOR ENHANCEMENT OF REMUNERATION.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the Council is in receipt of requests from Dr. Rashmi B. Tandon and Ar. S. Prabhakaran, appointed as Deputy Directors by the Council at the Training and Research Centre (TRC), Delhi, and the proposed Centre of Excellence, Bengaluru, respectively, requesting the Council to consider enhancement of their remuneration in view of their qualifications and experience. The Executive Committee decided that the issue of revision of remuneration of the new appointees may be examined appropriately, based on their performance, the responsibilities handled by them, and the functional requirements of the Training and Research Centres.
16	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE HOSTING AND PARTICIPATING IN “BHARAT PARVA 2026”
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that in continuation of its association and successful participation during Bharat Parva 2025, the Council of Architecture is once again hosting and participating in “Bharat Parva 2026”, being organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, from 26th January to 31st January 2026, on the occasion of the Republic Day of India at the Historic Red Fort. As in the previous year, the Council proposes to present a curated exhibition on Indian Architecture, highlighting India’s architectural heritage, regional diversity, traditional knowledge systems, and contemporary practices, with a view to creating greater public awareness and engagement with the built environment. An area of 100 sq.m has been allotted to the Council at the Red Fort ground. The participation of the Council in Bharat Parva 2026 is envisaged as a continuation of its mandate to promote architectural education, professional discourse, and cultural integration at the national level.

	The detailed programme structure, theme, and schedule for Bharat Parva 2026 is being finalised in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India. The Executive Committee welcomed the initiative and took note of the same.
17	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE HOSTING “AARAMBH” – ARCHITECTURAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME AT JAIPUR
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that continuation of the launch of “Aarambh”, the Architectural Awareness Programme initiated by the Council of Architecture to introduce school students to the field of architecture and its role in shaping the built environment, the Council proposes to host another edition of “Aarambh” in March, 2026 at Jaipur. “Aarambh” is proposed to be hosted by the Council in 20 major Indian cities. The programme is envisaged to further strengthen awareness among school students about architecture as a creative, socially relevant, and nation-building profession, and to inspire young minds through interactive sessions, exhibitions, and engagement with architectural professionals and educators. The proposed programme at Jaipur forms part of the Council’s sustained efforts to reach out to students across regions and to promote architectural literacy at the school level. The detailed programme schedule, venue, and modalities for the Jaipur edition of <i>Aarambh</i> shall be finalised and placed before the Council separately. The Executive Committee welcomed the initiative and took note of the same.
18	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE THIRD COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE (COA) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – SHAPE 2026.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Council of Architecture is organizing its Third COA International Conference titled “SHAPE 2026” in collaboration with Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture, Patiala from 26th to 28th February, 2026 at Chitakara University, Punjab. The Conference is envisaged as a major international academic and professional platform to deliberate on contemporary issues, emerging challenges, and future directions in architecture, architectural education, and professional practice. SHAPE 2026 aims to bring together national and international experts, academicians, practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and students to engage in meaningful dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaborative learning. The Conference will focus on advancing discourse on innovation, sustainability, technology integration, pedagogy, and the evolving role of architects in shaping the built environment.

	The proposed Conference forms part of the Council's continued efforts to promote excellence in architectural education, research, and professional development at the national and international levels. The detailed programme structure, themes, venue, and modalities of SHAPE 2026 shall be finalised shortly. The Executive Committee took note of the same and appreciated the efforts of the Council in organizing third COA International conference.
19	TO CONSIDER THE LETTER DATED 26.12.2025 FROM THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF KERALA FOR RESERVATION OF TRANSGENDER PERSONS AND CREATION OF SUPERNUMERARY SEATS FOR B.ARCH. DEGREE PROGRAMME IN ARCHITECTURE COLLEGES.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Government of Kerala has sent a letter dated 26.12.2025 to the Council requesting for reservation of two seats for Transgender persons and creation of supernumerary seats for B.Arch. degree programme to the Transgender community in Architecture Colleges. The Executive Committee deliberated upon the request and examined the proposal in the context of the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972 and the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations. After due deliberations, the Executive Committee agreed to allow the creation of two supernumerary seats for transgender persons for admission into 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. degree programme, as proposed by the Government of Kerala, subject to the creation of adequate infrastructure and maintenance of cadre-wise faculty as per the norms of the Council of Architecture. The Executive Committee directed the Registrar-Secretary to communicate the above decision to the Government of Kerala.
20	TO CONSIDER THE LETTER DATED 07.01.2026 RECEIVED FROM CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY, UNNAO, UTTAR PRADESH, REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING AT CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY, UNNAO, UTTAR PRADESH, FROM THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2026–2027.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Council has received the letter dated 07.01.2026 along with the supporting documents received from Chandigarh University, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, regarding the establishment of a School of Architecture and Planning at Chandigarh University, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, from the Academic Session 2026–2027. As per the existing COA's Perspective Plan for Growth of Architectural Education (Amended), the proposed institution falls under Category IV in the country where no new architectural institution is permitted for introduction of B.Arch. degree programme.

	The Executive Committee considered the matter and decided that Chandigarh University, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, may be informed of the provisions of the existing Perspective Plan Policy of the Council. The Executive Committee directed the Registrar-Secretary to communicate the above to the institution.
21	ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF CHAIR
i	TO CONSIDER EXTENSION OF CONTRACTUAL APPOINTMENT OF MRS. JAYASHREE DESHPANDE, DIRECTOR, COA–TRC, PUNE
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Council has appointed Prof. Jayashree Deshpande as Director, CoA–TRC, Pune, on a contractual basis. She is presently handling several key academic initiatives of the Council, including the conduct of training programmes, awards programmes, publications, international workshops, training of master trainers for universal accessibility, and other related academic activities. The contractual appointment of Prof. Jayashree Deshpande has been extended from time to time by the Council, and her current term is due to expire on 31.01.2026. The Executive Committee considered the matter and after deliberations, decided to extend the contractual appointment of Prof. Jayashree Deshpande as Director, CoA–TRC, Pune for a further period of one year, on the existing terms and conditions. The Executive Committee directed the Registrar-Secretary to take necessary action in the matter.
ii	TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR ENGAGEMENT OF NEW INTERNS (TRAINEE PROFESSIONALS) WITH THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that in view of the increasing workload of the Council and the expanding scope of activities relating to architectural education, research, training, outreach programmes, digital initiatives, and policy support, there is a requirement to engage new interns (Trainee Professionals) with the Council of Architecture. The interns have previously contributed effectively to various academic, research, documentation, data analysis, and programme implementation activities of the Council. Considering the positive outcomes and ongoing requirements, the Council proposes to initiate a fresh process for engagement of interns for a defined contractual period. The proposed engagement is intended to support the Council in areas such as architectural education monitoring, research and publications, training and capacity-building programmes, examinations and admissions-related activities, digital platforms, and other allied academic and professional initiatives.

	Accordingly, it was proposed that the Council may invite applications from eligible undergraduate and postgraduate candidates in Architecture through an open advertisement on the Council's website, newspapers and other appropriate platforms, and undertake a transparent selection process, including screening and interaction/interview, as decided by the competent authority. The Executive Committee considered the proposal and, after deliberations, agreed to the proposal for engagement of new interns (Trainee Professionals) in Council. The Executive Committee further directed that the process for engagement of interns be initiated in accordance with the applicable norms and procedures of the Council.
iii	TO CONSIDER THE EMAIL DATED 9TH JANUARY 2026 RECEIVED FROM MH12-DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU ENGINEERING COLLEGE, AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA, REGARDING REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF AGE LIMIT UP TO 75 YEARS FOR THE POSITION OF PROFESSOR (DESIGN CHAIR).
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Council has received an email dated 09 January 2026 from the MH12 – Department of Architecture, Jawaharlal Nehru Engineering College, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, seeking extension of the upper age limit up to 75 years for the position of Professor (Design Chair). Accordingly, the Council replied vide email dated 12.01.2026, enclosing a copy of the Gazette Notification dated 06.06.2025 regarding amendment in COA (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020, stipulating a maximum age limit of 70 years for teaching posts upon re-employment after superannuation. The Executive Committee considered the request of the institution and noted that as per the COA Regulations, the retirement age for teaching posts including Professor (Design Chair) shall be 65 years or as prescribed by the Central/State Government from time to time, with provision for re-employment against sanctioned vacancies, at the discretion of the concerned Institution/University, up to the age of 70 years. The Executive Committee directed the Registrar Secretary to communicate the above provision in the Regulations to the institution in the matter.
iv	TO CONSIDER THE LETTER DATED 15TH JANUARY 2026 RECEIVED FROM OR01-FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY, ODISHA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH, TECHNO CAMPUS, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, REGARDING EXTENSION OF APPROVAL FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2025-2026.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Executive Committee of the Council of Architecture (COA) at its 271st meeting considered the application form submitted by OR01-Faculty of Architecture and Design, College of Engineering & Technology,

	Odisha University of Technology and Research, Techno Campus, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, together with the information provided, for extension of approval of 5-year full-time Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) degree course for the academic session 2025-2026 The Executive Committee, therefore, had issued <i>show cause</i> to the institution as to why its intake was not reduced in B.Arch. degree course from existing intake 20 to 10 for the academic session 2025-2026. Accordingly, the Council, vide its letters/emails dated 08.07.2025, 25.07.2025, 18.08.2025, and 02.09.2025, requested the institution to submit relevant factual data, as available with the institution, including the list of faculty members. In response, the institution submitted its reply vide letters/emails dated 24.09.2025 and 15.01.2026, along with Special Leave to Appeal (C) No. 15791/2023 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, for consideration of the Council. The Executive Committee perused the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India directing that the selection of faculty candidates shall not be finalised without leave of the Court and noted that the Institution is taking steps to promote and re-designate faculty members under the Career Advancement Scheme. The Executive Committee decided that, in view of the above, an intake of 20 students in the B.Arch. degree programme may be granted to the Institution for the academic session 2025–2026, subject to appointment of adequate cadre-wise faculty on a contractual basis. It was further decided that, if the Institution is found to be imparting deficient education due to inadequate faculty in violation of the norms of the Council of Architecture, the intake of the Institution shall be reduced to zero from the subsequent academic session.
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The meeting ended at 04:00 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.