

MINUTES OF THE 82nd MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE HELD ON SATURDAY, 20th JULY, 2024, FROM 10:30 A.M. ONWARDS, IN CONFERENCE HALL, HOTEL SOLAR RESIDENCY, RAJ BAGH, SRINAGAR-190008, JAMMU & KASHMIR.

PRESENT:

Ar. Abhay V. Purohit : President (In Chair)
Ar. Gajanand Ram : Vice-President

MEMBERS :

1.	Ar. Amitava Roy	18.	Ar. Vidur Mehta
2.	Ar. Navin Sharma	19.	Ar. Harinder Arora
3.	Ar. Punit Sethi	20.	Ar. Yogesh Kumar Garg
4.	Ar. Minakshi Jain	21.	Ar. Rajiv Rampher Mishra
5.	Ar. Kiran S. Mahajani	22.	Ar. Aldrina K. Marak
6.	Ar. Millind Kollegal	23.	Ar. Benjusingh Nongthomban
7.	Ar. Radhika Nagpal	24.	Ar. V. Neilazo Metha
8.	Ar. K. Senthil Kumar	25.	Ar. Sushant Kumar Patra
9.	Ar. R. Ramesh Kumar	26.	Ar. P. Vaitianadin
10.	Ar. Bapilu Chai	27.	Ar. Ritu Singh
11.	Ar. Atonu Baruah	28.	Ar. Sanjiban Datta
12.	Ar. Naveen Kanithi	29.	Ar. T. Loganathan
13.	Ar. Kapil Setia	30.	Ar. Ravi Kumar R.
14.	Ar. Vijay Garg	31.	Ar. Manish Chakraborti
15.	Ar. Vishal Arun Kumar Vyas	32.	Er. Sandip Kumar Deb
16.	Ar. Marwin Caridade Gomes	33.	Er. Mahavir B. Chopda
17.	Ar. Sanjeev Kumar	34.	Dr. G.S. Inda

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sh. R. K. Oberoi : Registrar-Secretary
Sh. Deepak Kumar : Deputy Registrar

The following members were granted leave of absence:

1.	Ar. Abhijit D. Shirodkar	2.	Ar. Vidyadhar S. Wodeyar
3.	Ar. Rajesh Pradhan	4.	Ar. Ashutosh Kumar Aggarwal
5.	Ar. Vandana Sehgal	6.	Ar. Anil Kumar
7.	Ar. Nadisha V. M	8.	Ar. Tarun Garg
9.	Ar. Mahendra Pratap	10.	Ar. Ajay Meena Alias B. L Meena
11.	Ar. Lalichan Zacharias	12.	Ar. P. S Rajeev
13.	Ar. George Lalzuia		

No information was received, about their absence, from following members:

1.	Ms. Saumya Gupta		Ar. Shashi Mohan Srivastava
2.	Ar. Sandeep Laxman Bangde		

The President welcomed the members and thanked them for sparing their valuable time for attending the meeting in the beautiful city of Srinagar.

The President welcomed the new member Ar. Vidur Mehta, who is nominated by Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Further, the Council felicitated the outgoing member Ar. Nand Lal Chandel, who also served as a member of the Executive Committee and also Convenor of several other committees and thanked him for his valuable services to the Council.

The President requested all the Hon'ble members to introduce themselves for the benefit of all the members. Thereafter, the regular agenda of the meeting was taken up.

ITEM NO.	PARTICULARS OF THE ITEMS
01	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 81st MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.
	The President informed the members that the Minutes of the 81st meeting of the Council was circulated to the Hon'ble members on 28th December, 2023. The comments received from Ar. Vishal Vyas, Member, and Ar. Meenakshi Jain were clarified to them. The President assured the members that he would seek prior approval of the Council before submission of final proposal on Amendments of Architects Act to the Central Government. With the above deliberations, the Council approved the minutes. Accordingly, the President signed the minutes.
02	ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE MINUTES OF THE 80th MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.
	The Registrar-Secretary briefed the members on the action taken report on the Minutes of the 81st meeting of Council. The Hon'ble Members noted the action taken report.
03	APPROVAL FOR RESTORATION OF NAMES TO THE REGISTER OF ARCHITECTS MAINTAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE UNDER SECTION 32 OF THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972.
	The Council granted ex-post facto approval to the action taken by the Registrar for restoring names of 5863 defaulter Architects, in terms of Section 26(2) of the Architects Act, 1972, whose name were restored to the Register of Architects on payment of requisite fees during the period from 15.11.2023 to 30.06.2024
04	APPROVAL FOR REMOVAL OF NAMES FROM REGISTER OF ARCHITECTS:

a)	ON REQUEST FROM THE CONCERNED ARCHITECT:																																																																				
	The Council noted that some Architects have surrendered their certificate of Registration and requested for removal of their name from the Register of Architects. The Council approved the removal of names of the architects from Register of Architects as requested by them, in terms of Section 29(1) (a) of the Architects Act, 1972, and accordingly passed the following Resolution: Resolution No.: 571 Resolved that: (i) The names of the following architect be removed from the Register of Architects as per their request in terms of Section 29(1) (a) of the Architects Act, 1972: <table><tr><th>Sl. No.</th><th>Name of Architect</th><th>State/City</th><th>Regn no.</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>Ms. Gauri Pandurang Palekar</td><td>Maharashtra</td><td>CA/2000/026961</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>Ms. Natasha Azizahmed Shaikh</td><td>Gujarat</td><td>CA/2017/084211</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>Ms. Pallavi Prakash Lotlikar</td><td>Goa</td><td>CA/2005/036573</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>Mr. Jobin T. Jose</td><td>Kerala</td><td>CA/2015/070857</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>Mr. Akshay Verma</td><td>Delhi</td><td>CA/2020/122755</td></tr><tr><td>6.</td><td>Ms. Mohini Anantrao Rehpade</td><td>Maharashtra</td><td>CA/2004/033818</td></tr><tr><td>7.</td><td>Mr. Jaswanil S. Sambari</td><td>Maharashtra</td><td>CA/2013/061707</td></tr><tr><td>8.</td><td>Mr. Parvez S. Kapadia</td><td>Maharashtra</td><td>CA/1991/014180</td></tr><tr><td>9.</td><td>Ms. Keerthana Vivin</td><td>Karnataka</td><td>CA/2021/127246</td></tr><tr><td>10.</td><td>Mr. Aman Singh</td><td>Uttar Pradesh</td><td>CA/2015/068269</td></tr><tr><td>11.</td><td>Ms. Neha Rishi</td><td>Uttar Pradesh</td><td>CA/2010/050943</td></tr><tr><td>12.</td><td>Ms. Pranjali Vijay Gandhare</td><td>Maharashtra</td><td>CA/2021/130699</td></tr><tr><td>13.</td><td>Ms. Krithika A</td><td>Tamil Nadu</td><td>CA/2018/102509</td></tr><tr><td>14.</td><td>Ms. Dakshi Bharti</td><td>Delhi</td><td>CA/2022/143267</td></tr><tr><td>15.</td><td>Mr. A.E. Jaikumar</td><td>Telangana</td><td>CA/1975/001770</td></tr><tr><td>16.</td><td>Mr. Vishwas Mahadeo Shidore</td><td>Maharashtra</td><td>CA/1975/000007</td></tr></table>	Sl. No.	Name of Architect	State/City	Regn no.	1.	Ms. Gauri Pandurang Palekar	Maharashtra	CA/2000/026961	2.	Ms. Natasha Azizahmed Shaikh	Gujarat	CA/2017/084211	3.	Ms. Pallavi Prakash Lotlikar	Goa	CA/2005/036573	4.	Mr. Jobin T. Jose	Kerala	CA/2015/070857	5.	Mr. Akshay Verma	Delhi	CA/2020/122755	6.	Ms. Mohini Anantrao Rehpade	Maharashtra	CA/2004/033818	7.	Mr. Jaswanil S. Sambari	Maharashtra	CA/2013/061707	8.	Mr. Parvez S. Kapadia	Maharashtra	CA/1991/014180	9.	Ms. Keerthana Vivin	Karnataka	CA/2021/127246	10.	Mr. Aman Singh	Uttar Pradesh	CA/2015/068269	11.	Ms. Neha Rishi	Uttar Pradesh	CA/2010/050943	12.	Ms. Pranjali Vijay Gandhare	Maharashtra	CA/2021/130699	13.	Ms. Krithika A	Tamil Nadu	CA/2018/102509	14.	Ms. Dakshi Bharti	Delhi	CA/2022/143267	15.	Mr. A.E. Jaikumar	Telangana	CA/1975/001770	16.	Mr. Vishwas Mahadeo Shidore	Maharashtra	CA/1975/000007
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(b)	Due to death																																																																				
	The Council noted with grief the passing away of some Architects. The members expressed their condolences to the families of the deceased Architects and observed one minutes silence. The Council decided to remove their names in terms of Section 29(1) (b) of the Architects Act, 1972 and passed the following resolution: Resolution No.: 572 Resolved that:																																																																				

	(i) The names of the following Architects be removed from the Register of Architects due to their death as provided under the Section 29(1) (b) of the Architects Act, 1972: <table><tr><th>Sl. No.</th><th>Name of Architect</th><th>State/City</th><th>Registration No.</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>Mr. Himanshu Dilsukhrai Chhaya</td><td>Gujarat</td><td>CA/1975/01241</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>Ms. Maneesha Kothare</td><td>Maharashtra</td><td>CA/1987/11231</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>Ms. Ritika Wadhera</td><td>Jammu & Kashmir</td><td>CA/2003/31081</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>Mr. Bhabaniprasad Gangopadhyay</td><td>West Bengal</td><td>CA/1977/03611</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>Mr. Ashok Kumar Mahajan</td><td>Jammu & Kashmir</td><td>CA/1986/10217</td></tr><tr><td>6.</td><td>Mr. Kento Eshi</td><td>Itanagar</td><td>CA/1993/16099</td></tr></table>	Sl. No.	Name of Architect	State/City	Registration No.	1.	Mr. Himanshu Dilsukhrai Chhaya	Gujarat	CA/1975/01241	2.	Ms. Maneesha Kothare	Maharashtra	CA/1987/11231	3.	Ms. Ritika Wadhera	Jammu & Kashmir	CA/2003/31081	4.	Mr. Bhabaniprasad Gangopadhyay	West Bengal	CA/1977/03611	5.	Mr. Ashok Kumar Mahajan	Jammu & Kashmir	CA/1986/10217	6.	Mr. Kento Eshi	Itanagar	CA/1993/16099
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5	APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY AUDITOR OF COUNCIL FOR AUDITING THE BOOKS OF ACCOUNTS OF COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-2024.																												
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council invited Tenders/ EOI from Chartered Accounts / Firms for Appointment as Empanelment of Statutory Auditors. In this regard, the Council received 48 Tenders, and after scrutinizing the Tenders, out of 48 bids, 17 have been found qualified for empanelment of statutory auditor, meeting the criteria prescribed by the Council. Out of 17 who were found qualified as per merit, M/s V.K. Verma & Company, New Delhi-110001, has already served as statutory auditors for more than six years in Council of Architecture (i.e. from 2017-2018 till 2022-2023). Accordingly, the President, CoA, appointed second in the merit list, M/s B.C.Jain & Company, 16/77-A, Civil Lines, Kanpur-208001 (B.O. At New Delhi), as Statutory Auditors of CoA for the year 2023-2024. The Council after deliberations ratified the decision taken by President and approved the appointment of M/s B.C.Jain & Company, 16/77-A, Civil Lines, Kanpur-208001, having Branch Office at New Delhi, as Statutory Auditors of Council for auditing the books of Accounts of Council for the financial year 2023-2024.																												
6	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE COUNCIL FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-2025.																												
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that Budget Estimates of the Council for the financial year 2024-25, as approved by the Executive Committee of the Council in its 258th Meeting held on 28th March, 2024, Recurring Expenses to the extent of Rs.28,86,05,000/- [Rupees Twenty-eight crores eighty-six lakhs and five thousand only] and Non-recurring expenditure of Rs.5,45,00,000/- [Rupees Five Crores fourth five lakhs only] totaling to Rs.34,31,05,000/- [Rupees Thirty-Four Crores thirty-one lakhs and five thousand only] along with probable Income Receivable to																												

	the tune of Rs.34,31,16,000/- [Rupees Thirty-four crores thirty-one lakhs and sixteen thousand only]. The Council after deliberations approved the Budget Estimates for the financial year 2024-2025 and desired that Research Grants be released after making a detailed procedure for the same and details of expenditure incurred on NATA 2024 till now be shared with Council members.
7	TO CONSIDER THE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AGAINST ARCHITECTS FOR ALLEGED PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT FROM THE ARCHITECTS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND GOVT. AGENCIES.
	The Section 22 and 30 of the Architects Act provide for filing of Complaints for Professional Misconduct against Architects with the Council. The Registrar-Secretary has received several Complaints and the same were dealt with as per procedure laid down under Council of Architecture Rules, 1973. The Council perused all the Complaints together with the Statement of Defence received from Respondent Architects as placed in the agenda. The Council after considering the Complaints together with the Statement of Defence and Preliminary Report received from the Council members to whom the respective complaints were referred, passed the following Resolution: Resolution No. : 573 Resolved that : i. CA/DC/573 – With regard to complaint filed by the Shri Harish Kumar against Shri Anubhav Rastogi, Architect, Dehradun, the Council noted that the Complainant vide his email dated 12.06.2024 withdrew his complaint by stating that the matter is resolved with the Respondent. Accordingly, the Council dismissed the complaint as withdrawn. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures.
	ii. CA/DC/574 - With regard to complaint filed by Mr. Vijay Babaji Kondalkar, Mumbai against Ar. Ashsih R Solanki, Mumbai, the Council noted that the complaint against the Respondent Architect is that the Respondent Architect claimed that his firm Ashish Solanki Architect was established in the year 2002, however, later on it was revealed that the said firm came into existence in 2016. Thus, in order to induce or allure members of the society to cast votes in his favour considering his huge experience, he deliberately showed his firm's existence from the year 2002. The act of misleading amounts to Professional Misconduct which invites action against the Respondent under the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972 and Rules and Regulations framed thereunder.

The complaint further alleged that the Respondent Architect submitted his tender on 10.09.2022 to get him appointed as Project Management Consultant (PMC). Meanwhile, it was only Respondent who attended the Annual General Body Meeting of Petitioner's society on 28.09.2022 i.e. before his selection of PMC. This fact was admitted by the Petitioner's society in proceeding before Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, P -ward, Mumbai, which was unfair for other Architects who were shortlisted and /or participated for giving their presentation in the SGM held on 13.11.2022 for selection of PMC, as the Respondent canvassed and persuaded the mind of the members by attending the AGM held on 28.09.2022 prior to the selection. Thus, there was no fair competition between the Respondent and other shortlisted PMC's resulted in unjust and /or irreparable loss to the members including Petitioner, which invites action against the Respondent under the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972 and Rules and Regulations framed thereunder.

The Respondent Architect in his defence denied that he induced and allured the members of the society to cast votes in his favour, or deliberately showed the firm's existence in the year 2016.

He further stated that the Respondent holds a valid license to work as a professional Architect from the Council of Architecture since the year 2000 and was practicing as an Architect since 2002 under the proprietorship firm called square, thereafter from 2005 also had partnership firm called Ashish Solanki Architects. In the year 2016, he continued to practice under the proprietor firm under the personal name as mentioned hereinabove. The Respondent has right to offer his professional services through and under any name as he deserves and by doing so, he has not breached any code of conduct nor misrepresented anything to the society when it comes to the year of establishment of his firm.

The Respondent got a call from the society to attend the Annual General Body meeting held on 28.09.2022 to have his opinion on certain aspect with redevelopment of the Respondent's client and therefore the Respondent had attended the AGBM.

The Respondent was not aware as to other PMC not being invited to the AGBM and not responsible for non-invitation of other PMCs to said AGBM. The Respondent never acted hand in glove with the Managing Committee members to gain benefits of vote in the favour. He has not suppressed any fact by attending the AGBM as it was the society who had invited the Respondent to attend the same.

The Council noted that the Complainant was a member of the Selection Committee, and as a member of Society in the selection of PMC, he could have raised concerns during the process or at the time of presentation by the shortlisted candidates. After the presentation, Ar.Saloni Deodhar received 47 votes in comparison to the 65 votes received by the respondent. The third shortlisted candidate received only 13 votes.

The Council further noted that the Complainant has filed a case which is pending before the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Mumbai.

	The Council opined that there is no prima facie case of Professional Misconduct against the Respondent Architect and dismissed the complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures.
iii.	CA/DC/575 - With regard to the complaint filed by Mr. Veeran S. Kamat against Ar. Viraj Mane, Kolhapur the Council noted that the Respondent Architect agreed to undertake construction of Bungalow of the Complainant at Deolali, Nashik. As per the Complaint the Respondent Architect failed to provide his services to the best of his ability which resulted in water seepage in building and also did not complete the work as per the agreement. The Respondent also demanded additional charges from the Complainant. The Respondent Architect in his defence stated that the extra cost was charged because of the rise in the cost of material. On 07.07.2021 the Respondent gave a quotation which includes RCC construction of first floor, Second floor and external plaster work. Installation of Doors, windows, Tiles, Light fitting, plumbing, coloring, constructing compound and site Development was not a part of phase 1. The actual area of construction was not fixed. The total construction area of the first phase was 3690 square feet. The Council after deliberations in the matter noted that the Respondent Architect has acted as a contractor while using his name and seal as an Architect and came to the opinion that there is a Prima facie case against the Respondent Architect and referred the matter to Disciplinary Committee for detailed investigation as per Council of Architecture Rules, 1973. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures.
iv.	CA/DC/576 - With regard to complaint filed by Mrs. Nirupama against Ar. Atin Kumar Bose, Greater Noida, the Council noted that the Respondent Architect was approached by the Residents of 11 Apartments in Sahyog Appartments, Mayur Vihar Phase -1 Delhi for Designing, approval and managing the construction of lift and connecting corridors. The Respondent Architect got the lifts installed, contrary to the Building Bye Laws of MCD. The Respondent Architect in his defence submitted that he was approached by 11 residents of block B-1 for finding a suitable location for a common single lift connecting Bridges approachable directly to their flats situated on all floors through wheelchair and prepare drawings and help them in preparation of all documents for obtaining approval of MCD. The Respondent has used all his intelligence, diligence and experience in dealing with this small but complex project. The Complainant has filed a case against RWA and MCD in court of law and the same has been dismissed. The respondent has also stated that he has left the project due to his wife's health and regular visits to his children living abroad.

	The Council after deliberations in the matter observed that no Prima facie case of alleged Professional Misconduct is made out against the Respondent Architect. Accordingly, the Council has dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures
v.	CA/DC/577 - With regard to complaint filed by Mrs. Priyanka Desai against Ar. Parthavi Patel, Ahmedabad, the Council noted that the Complainant vide her letter dated 21.03.2024 informed that they have reached an amicable settlement in the matter and withdrew her complaint. Accordingly, the Council dismissed the complaint as withdrawn. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures.
vi.	CA/DC/578 - With regard to complaint filed by Mrs. Tilotlamma Lahri against Ar. Ayan Roy and Ar. Soumyodeep Das, Kolkata, the Council noted that the Respondent got a project from Bhutan to design the New Domestic Terminal Building and other facilities at Yonphula, Bhutan. The Complainant was appointed to provide designs for the same at a fixed fee of Rs. 3,15,000/- However, the Respondents made payment up to Rs. 2,52,000/- only to the Complainant. The Respondent Architects in their defence submitted as under: - Drawings provided by the complainant lack basic details pertaining to elevation and section. - No rectification of the defects done by the Complainant. - The Complainant did not provide the changed conceptual section as per the requirement of the client. - Due to substandard quality of the work of the Petitioner the respondent had to incur additional charges - The Total dues of the Respondents have not been cleared by the client and despite that they have made payments for 2 stages to the Petitioner. The Council, after deliberations in the matter noted that the Respondents were required to make payments to the Complainant as per the agreed terms and conditions. However, they did not do so. They did not point out any deficiency in her services earlier. Accordingly, the Council opined that there is a prima facie case against the Respondent Architects and referred the matter to Disciplinary Committee for detailed investigation as per Council of Architecture rules 1973. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures.
vii.	CA/DC/580 - With regard to complaint filed by Shri Narinder Singh Chhikara against Ar. Bharat B. Bhatia, Delhi, the Council noted that the Respondent

	Architect submitted that false certificates, statements and undertaking in favour of Mr. Parvesh Kumar, a member of the Society of the Complainant. The Respondent Architect submitted in his defence that all the documents were jointly signed by the Architect, Structural Engineer and President of the society. The Respondent only compiled these documents and submitted an Occupancy Certificate Application to the Town and Country Planning Department. The Dispute regarding the President of the society arose after the application for Occupancy Certificate was submitted. The matter is currently under the Jurisdiction of courts to decide the rightful owner. The Respondent Architect also stated that he would withdraw himself from this project. The Council after deliberations in the matter observed that no Prima facie case of alleged Professional Misconduct is made out against the Respondent Architect since the dispute is related to ownership of Trust and related properties. Accordingly, the Council has dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures.
viii.	CA/DC/581 - With regard to complaint filed by Mr. Shashikant S Amin & Ors. against Ar. Vilas Vasant Dikshit, the Council noted that the complaint of the complainant is that the Respondent Architect/ his firm was appointed as project Management consultant by the Aadarsh Nagar Shramik Cooperative Housing Society limited for Redevelopment of old Residential Buildings as per applicable laws. In the appointment letter from the Respondent, it was mentioned that his fees would be paid by the Developer. Prior to the appointment process of Developer, the Respondent firm responsible for preparation and floating of the tender did not disclose any connection with the list of Developers available in the market to the Society and its members. This deliberate omission shows lack of transparency and potential conflict of Interest. The Petitioner also made allegations about the Respondent favoring the Developer. The area of entitlement of every member has been reduced. The Respondent Architect in his defence denied the contents of Complaint. He further stated that he was appointed by society by following due process of law. The Complainant has no locus standi to file a complaint of Professional Misconduct against the Respondent. The Complainants are four members of Society. The Society is comprised of 504 members who are satisfied with the work of the Respondent and have no grievances. The Respondent submitted that the complaint is bogus, devoid of substance and merit and should be dismissed. The Council noted that Ar. Vilas V. Dikshit is a Registered Architect and has a partnership firm with the name "Shilp Associates" where his son, who is not an Architect, is also a Partner. The Council also noted that the Respondents ought to have informed their clients about the scale of fees for Professional Services to be rendered by them. The same is missing from their appointment

	letter. Further the Respondents have not explicitly disclosed to the clients about their having previous relations with M/s. Oberoi Realty Limited i.e. Developer. Accordingly, the Council opined that there is a prima facie case against the Respondent Architect and referred the matter to Disciplinary Committee for detailed investigation as per Council of Architecture rules 1973. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures.
ix.	CA/DC/582 - With regard to complaint filed by Ar. Leena Kumar against Ar. Jitendra Mehta, the Council noted that the Complaint against the Respondent Architect is that the Respondent Architect's name and photograph appeared in 6E Indigo in-flight magazine duly endorsing the Brand "Bonton". The Respondent is currently Vice President, IIA and should have conducted himself in a more professional manner. The Complaint alleged that the Respondent Architect violated Regulation 2(1) (xxv) of the Architects Professional conduct Regulations 1989 which forbids Advertisement of Professional Services by the Architects. The Respondent architect in his Defence submitted that the advertisement in question was published without his knowledge. The Advertisement primarily showcased images illustrating the Advertiser's work, with only one image depicting the Respondent's work at Samrat Vikramaditya Bhawan, Ujjain (M.P), which was executed by the Advertiser. No reasonable individual could infer from the advertisement that the aforementioned work was attributed to the Respondent, constituting an endorsement of the Respondent's services or an advertisement of the Respondent as the Architect of the Advertiser. Prior to the Complaint made by the Complainant, the Respondent had already taken proactive measure to address the issue with the Advertiser. The Advertiser vide letter dated 23.03.2024 sent a written apology. The Respondent also promptly informed the Council about this incident. Thus, the complaint should be dismissed. The Council noted that the Respondent Architect had already taken proactive steps in the matter and the advertisement has been withdrawn by the Company and they have also apologized for the same. The Council after deliberations in the matter observed that no Prima facie case of alleged Professional Misconduct is made out against the Respondent Architect. Accordingly, the Council dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures.

x.	CA/DC/583 - With regard to the complaint filed by Mr. Saad Hannan against Ar. Dharmendra Kumar, the Council noted that the Complaint against the Respondent Architect is that he was appointed for the project "R. Ali Grand Mall". The Respondent Architect planned the above commercial and Residential project with maximum FAR permissible under the Ranchi planning Standards and Building Bye Laws-2009. As per the Sanction letter the construction of multistorey Building was to be completed within a period of 3 years from the date of sanction and a completion certificate had to be submitted by the concerned party. If this was not done, then the building/ development permit would have to be got revalidated before the expiry period. However, in the present case the building could not be completed within the prescribed period and there were deviations from the sanctioned plan. The Developer and the Respondent Architect did not apply for revalidation of Building plan for completing the construction. The Respondent Architect and developer M/s.APJ Express submitted a revised Building plan which was found to be much above the permissible deviation limit of 10 % under the Jharkhand Building Bye laws-2016. The Revised Building plan was rejected by the Ranchi Municipal Corporation. The Respondent Architect issued a back dated completion certificate in the year 2020 certifying that the said project was completed in the year 2012 itself. The complaint further alleged that the Respondent Architect added a piece of land to the plot of M/s. Anand Jewelers Pvt. Ltd. and also difference in site plan and length of plot. The Respondent Architect in his defence stated that the complaint is baseless and should be dismissed. Since the shape of the site is irregular the building was constructed on site having some minor deviations, in setback, ground coverage, height and covered area also. The building was constructed in March, 2016. All shop owners must do their own flooring, painting, fall sealing interior etc. The completion certificate was issued in 2020, due to typographical mistake the year got written as 2012. A Revision/addition/Alteration is a legal process which is done following the due process as per applicable byelaws. The Council noted that the complainant has no agreement with the Respondent Architect. Further, no fault was found by any local authority against the Respondent Architect. A complaint filed before Jharkhand RERA in the matter was dismissed. The Council after deliberations in the matter observed that no Prima facie case of alleged Professional Misconduct is made out against the Respondent Architect. Accordingly, the Council has dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures.
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xi.	CA/DC/584 - With regard to complaint filed by Mr. Santosh Shamrao Kate against Ar. Atul Patel the Council noted that the complaint against the Respondent Architect is that he deposited wrong blueprints to Maharashtra RERA and CIDCO. He provided incorrect drawings and incorrect measurements on the plans for getting approval from the CIDCO. There is a huge difference between the actual plan and construction of the building. The Respondent misguided the customers for the projects Widenest, Tulip infra, Progressive Prive and N. D. Garden. Due to submission of incorrect drawings CIDCO imposed penalty on Developer. The Respondent Architect in his defence stated that the complaint is misconceived, frivolous and bogus and filed to harass the Respondent Architect to extract illegal money. Complainant has no locus standi to file a complaint against him. Respondent has done everything legally and obtained project approvals from the competent authority. The role of an Architect is limited to the preparation of the actual design and obtaining permissions based on those designs. The developers have to construct on the basis of design as prepared by the Architect and the approval granted by the Planning Authority. Once the Occupation Certificate is issued by the planning Authority it presupposes that the construction has been carried out in accordance with approved plan. In the instant case in 3 out of 4 projects Occupation certificate have already been issued by the Planning Authority i.e. CIDCO and with respect to 1 project, already application for occupation Certificate has been made into CIDCO after completion of construction in accordance with the approved plans. He further stated that as per the standard procedure after the completion of construction the proposal is again sent to CIDCO to obtain Occupancy Certificate. If there had been an alleged difference in the drawings and actual construction, consequentially CIDCO, the planning authority would have rejected the proposal post construction and did not have issued the Occupancy Certificate. The Council noted that the Respondent Architect was appointed by the Developer and no complaint has been made by the Developer. Three projects have already been granted Occupation Certificate by the Competent Authority and application for grant of Occupation certificate for the 4th project has been submitted by the Respondent Architect. The Complainant could not establish the alleged violations on the part of Respondent Architect. The Council after deliberations in the matter observed that no Prima facie case of alleged Professional Misconduct is made out against the Respondent Architect. Accordingly, the Council has dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures.
xii.	CA/DC/587 - With regard to complaint filed by Mr. Ramesh Phirodia against Ar. Arshad Shaikh, Ahmednagar, the Council noted that the Respondent Architect was appointed as Part of Inspection Committee for considering

	Extension of Approval of Ramesh Phirodia College of Architecture for the year 2021-2022. The Respondent Architect did not disclose his association with the said college before accepting the appointment as one of the members of the Inspection Committee. The Respondent Architect was Principal of Ramesh Phirodia College of Architecture during 2017-18. There were certain differences of opinion between the Principal and the Management and the Respondent resigned from the post of Principal in May 2018. The Respondent Architect's son was also doing B. Arch. from the same college when he was appointed for inspection of the Institution. The Respondent architect in his defence submitted that the complaint is baseless, false and frivolous. He resigned when the management has made alternative arrangements for the post of Principal. He did not have any differences with the management. He got his son and other students admitted in the college because he has good terms with the college. The Council was well aware of its association with the college and he was appointed as part of the local inspection committee due to emergency condition of Covid. The complaint is an afterthought since the complainant never objected to his appointment as a part of Inspection committee at the time of inspection of thereafter and the complaint was filed after 3 years. The Council after deliberations noted that the Respondent Architect ought to have informed his prior association with the institution and about his son studying in the same college to Council before accepting his appointment as a member of the Inspection Committee. Accordingly, the Council opined that there is a prima facie case against the Respondent Architect and referred the matter to Disciplinary Committee for detailed investigation as per Council of Architecture Rules, 1973. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures.
08	TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR OF COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-2024.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Internal Auditor of Council has conducted Internal Audit of Books of Accounts of the for the financial year 2023-2024 and has submitted his report. The Council, after deliberations desired that further necessary action be taken on the observations of the internal auditor.
09	TO CONSIDER THE ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-2024.

	The President reported that the Executive Committee in its 261st Meeting held on 13.07.2024 has considered the Annual Report and Audited Statement of Accounts of the Council for the financial year ending on 31st March, 2024. The Executive Committee has recommended placing the same before the Council and that the same may be accepted. The Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31.03.2024 of the Council of Architecture, Council of Architecture (Contributory Provident Fund) Account and Council of Architecture Employees' Group Gratuity Scheme and the Annual Report for the period, as annexed with the agenda were perused and approved by the Council and accordingly, the Council passed the following resolution: Resolution No.:574 Resolved that: (a) The Annual Report together with Audited Statement of Accounts as placed before the Council be approved for the period ended on 31.03.2024; (b) The same be published in the Gazette of India as required under the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972; and (c) A copy of the same be sent to the Central Government in terms of the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972.
10	TO CONSIDER REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE FOR RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS, ON THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS UNDER THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council had constituted a committee to consider the applications/references received from the Central Government consulting the Council for considering recognition/otherwise of the Foreign Qualifications possessed by the respective candidates. The Committee consists of Ar. Lalichan Zacharias as Convenor, Ar. Kiran S. Mahajani, Ar. Abhijit Digambar Shirodkar as Members, Ar. Dr.Kavita Daryani Rao and Ar. Durganand Balsavar, Special Invitee. The Committee held 2 meetings on 25.06.2024 & 02.07.2024 and had considered 16 applications/request(s) received from candidate(s) for recognition of foreign qualification under Section 15 of the Architects Act, 1972. The Committee, after going through the application form, documents, syllabi, duration of the course, training period, and number of credits and compared the same with the Minimum Standards of Architectural Education, 2020 prescribed by the Council of Architecture, finalized its recommendations in respect of 8 candidates. The recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

Sl.	Name	Qualification	Recommendations of the Committee
1.	Ms. Archana Bangalore Ramesh	M. Arch. from University of Melbourne, Australia	Not Recommended for recognition.
2.	Mr. Jasjit Singh	Master of Landscape awarded by Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Melbourne	Not Recommended for recognition.
3.	Mr. Balaji R	Master of Architecture, Architectural Association, School of Architecture, The Royal Charter of The Open University, U.K.	Not Recommended for recognition.
4.	Ms. Shibani M	Laurea Magistrale (Master's Degree) in Sustainable Architecture and Landscape Design, Politecnico Di Milano, Italy	Not Recommended for recognition.
5.	Mr. Mohesh Babu R	Master of Architecture (Professional), Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand	Not Recommended for recognition.
6.	Mr. Advait Ajay Patel	Part-2-Architecture Confluence Degree Level-B by Confluence-Institute for Innovation and Creative Strategies in Architecture, Paris, France	Not Recommended for recognition.
7.	Mr. Harsh Rajendra Dewoolkar	1. Bachelor of Arts (Honours) (ARB/RIBA Part-1) Architecture awarded by De Montfort University and 2. Master of Architecture (ARB/RIBA Part-2) awarded by Arts University Bournemouth, United Kingdom	Not Recommended for recognition.

	8.	Mr.Parth Rajendra Dewoolkar	Bachelor of Science in Architecture awarded by Coventry University, United Kingdom	Not Recommended for recognition.
	The Council perused the recommendations of the Committee and after detailed deliberations passed the following Resolution: Resolution no.575 Resolved that: 1) The qualification processed by the following candidates be not recognized under Section 15 of the Architects Act, 1972 by the Central Government as they do not meet the Minimum Standards prescribed by Council: a) Ms. Archana Bangalore Ramesh, M. Arch. from University of Melbourne, Australia b) Mr. Jasjit Singh, Master of Landscape awarded by Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Melbourne c) Mr.Balaji R, Master of Architecture, Architectural Association, School of Architecture, The Royal Charter of The Open University, U.K. d) Ms.Shibani M, Laurea Magistrale (Master's Degree) in Sustainable Architecture and Landscape Design, Politecnico Di Milano, Italy e) Mr. Mohesh Babu R, Master of Architecture (Professional), Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand f) Mr.Advait Ajay Patel, Part-2-Architecture Confluence Degree Level-B by Confluence-Institute for Innovation and Creative Strategies in Architecture, Paris, France g) Mr.Harsh Rajendra Dewoolkar, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) (ARB/RIBA Part-1) Architecture awarded by De Montfort University and 2. Master of Architecture (ARB/RIBA Part-2) awarded by Arts University Bournemouth, United Kingdom h) Mr. Parth Rajendra Dewoolkar, Bachelor of Science in Architecture awarded by Coventry University, United Kingdom			
11	CONDUCT OF SINGLE ENTRANCE EXAM FOR ADMISSION TO FIRST YEAR OF B. ARCH. DEGREE COURSE.			
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Ministry of Education, Government of India has proposed to conduct Single Entrance Test for admission to Architecture courses all over India through NTA. The Ministry of Education held meetings on 22.03.2022 and 25.01.2024 to discuss the issue of conduct of Single Entrance.			

	The President, Council of Architecture, put forth the stand of Council that NATA Test is doing well. NATA is an Aptitude test whereas JEE is an Entrance Test and only JEE paper-2 contains Test on Architecture Course. It was also informed that NATA is widely accepted all over India by all institutions be it Government, Private or Affiliated colleges. The NATA Scores are also valid for two years. Further, in JEE there is no minimum passing marks whereas NATA requires 35% passing marks to qualify in the Test. It was also informed that private and deemed universities conduct their own exam. The Council only conducts the Aptitude Test, while counselling and Admission to the course are carried out by the competent Authority of the concerned Institutions/State Governments. Thus, Council fully upholds their autonomy and authority to make admissions. The President, COA, also sought a personal meeting with the Hon'ble Secretary, Higher Education to discuss this matter further so that only NATA is made as single Aptitude Test for Admission to Architecture Course. However, no meeting could be held. The Ministry vide its letter dated 26.06.2024 has again requested the Council to follow-up the matter with NTA for Conduct of Single Entrance Test. The Council noted that there is no single entrance test for Engineering, pharmacy and Law Disciplines. The JEE is an entrance test and NATA is an aptitude Test. The Council should continue to hold the NATA Test independently. This would ensure safer and faster process of admission for Architecture Course and all the State Governments and other private Institutions/ Universities would have their full autonomy in conduct of Admissions/ Admission Counseling.
12	IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the University Grants Commission is conducting meetings with Regulatory Authorities to ensure effective implementation of NEP 2020. NEP 2020 proposed Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) as a single umbrella Body for entire higher education excluding medical and legal education. To carry out for essential task of regulation, accreditation, funding and academic standards, NEP 2020 has proposed for Institutional Structures. These 4 structures are as under : - National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC); - National Accreditation Council (NAC) ; - Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC); and - General Education Council (GEC). The General Education Council will frame expected learning outcomes for higher education programmes. The National Higher Education Qualification Framework will be formulated by GEC and it shall be in sync with National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).

	Professional Councils such as Indian Council for Agricultural Research, Veterinary Council of India, National Council of Teacher Education, Council of Architecture, National Education for Vocational Education Training will act as professional standards setting bodies (PSSBs). They will play key role in higher education system and will be invited to be Members of GEC. A high-level committee constituted by the UGC has asked the Council to submit the role it would like to play under the NEP. The same will be submitted to them in due course. The Member deliberated on the issue and considering the paucity of time suggested that the draft proposal may be circulated to the Executive Committee and after incorporating their views/suggestions, the same may be submitted to the High-Level Committee. The proposal be shared with the Hon'ble members of the Council.
13	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:
i)	CONDUCT OF NATIONAL APTITUDE TEST IN ARCHITECTURE (NATA 2024).
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the President, Council of Architecture has constituted NATA Coordination Committee consisting of Ar. P. Vaitianadin, as Convenor and Prof. Milind Kollegal, Prof. Radhika Nagpal and Prof. Milind Gujarkar as members of the Committee with the mandate that Committee shall finalise the exam calendar, syllabus, pattern and other modalities and also monitor smooth conduct of examination. The Committee has recommended to conduct NATA 2024 in 68 sessions on 17 weeks on every Saturday & Sunday starting from April to July 2024. The Committee also recommended to conduct exam in 2 parts. Part A computer-based test and Part B offline (Drawing and composition test). The NATA test commenced from 6th April, 2024, and so far, the Council has conducted tests in 52 sessions on 13 weeks successfully. The details of the candidates registered, appeared and passed as on 30.06.2024 is given below: 1. Total appointments for Tests registered : 35397 2. Unique Candidates registered for NATA : 20035 3. Unique Candidates Qualified for NATA 2024 : 17082
ii)	PREPARATION OF MANUAL ON UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Committee on Preparation of Manual on Universal Accessibility has held 27 meetings and has so far finalized of Volume 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Volume 6 is being completed. The Council conducted 1st Phase of Training program on Universal Accessibility for training of Master trainers on 11th & 12th March, 2024. 25. The 2nd phase of training was conducted on 4th & 5th July, 2024 at New Delhi. Master Trainers were awarded Certificate of Training by the Secretary,

	DEPWD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Govt. of India and President, COA. The DEPWD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India vide letter dated 02.02.2024, has authorized the Council to register Universal Accessibility Auditors including renewal of their registration and prescribing code of conduct and ethics for Auditors and taking disciplinary action in case of violation of code of conduct. The Council has also sent a proposal to DEPWD for grants for conducting the Training Programme for Master Trainers and for printing and publishing of Manual and Registration of Universal Accessibility Auditors. The DEPWD has agreed to the proposal of the Council and shall be releasing 50% of the actual expenditure. The DEPWD has requested the Council to share 50% of the Expenditure. The Council Members after deliberations desired that the Manual be completed at the earliest and same be distributed to all State Governments for their compliance.																																
iii)	ORGANISING REGISTRATION/ RENEWAL CAMPS ALL OVER INDIA BY COUNCIL.																																
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council organized a registration/renewal camp in association with Chapters of Indian Institute of Architects at following places: <table><tr><th>Sl. No.</th><th>PLACE</th><th>DATE</th><th>No. of Architects</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>Navi Mumbai Centre</td><td>22nd & 23rd December, 2023</td><td>325</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>Nagpur, Maharashtra</td><td>27th & 28th October, 2023</td><td>350</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>Patna, Bihar</td><td>17th & 18th February, 2024</td><td>060</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>Ludhiana, Punjab</td><td>03rd & 04th February, 2024</td><td>050</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>Raipur, Chhattisgarh</td><td>16th March, 2024</td><td>065</td></tr><tr><td>6.</td><td>Mumbai, Maharashtra</td><td>22nd March, 2024</td><td>125</td></tr><tr><td>7.</td><td>Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh</td><td>15th May, 2024</td><td>040</td></tr></table> During these camps lot of Architects visited the camp and updated their address, photograph, applied for new certification of Registration certificates, paid renewal and restoration fees. The Council members appreciated the action taken in the matter.	Sl. No.	PLACE	DATE	No. of Architects	1.	Navi Mumbai Centre	22 nd & 23 rd December, 2023	325	2.	Nagpur, Maharashtra	27 th & 28 th October, 2023	350	3.	Patna, Bihar	17 th & 18 th February, 2024	060	4.	Ludhiana, Punjab	03 rd & 04 th February, 2024	050	5.	Raipur, Chhattisgarh	16 th March, 2024	065	6.	Mumbai, Maharashtra	22 nd March, 2024	125	7.	Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh	15th May, 2024	040
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iv)	ENTERING INTO MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION WITH AICTE.																																
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has explored the possibility of COA and AICTE working together in national interest to effectively implement National Education Policy and to facilitate Higher Education Institutions to offer multi-disciplinary programmes.																																

	The Chairman, Executive Committee discussed the matter with the Chairman, AICTE on 04th January, 2024. It was proposed that a Memorandum of Cooperation may be entered into between COA and AICTE in light of the following facts: 1. The Architecture Education along with Diploma courses in Architectural Assistantship & Interior Design course are being regulated by Council of Architecture and disciplines like Art, Design and Planning are regulated by AICTE. As Architecture and Interior Design have symbiotic relationship with Art, Design and Planning and complement each other with many common & inter-related knowledge domains, an inter-disciplinary teaching and learning would be beneficial for all. 2. For strengthening Art, Architecture Design, Planning disciplines, AICTE should allow existing Architecture Institutions approved by Council of Architecture to impart Diploma, Degree and PG degree programmes in Art, Design and Planning subjects, treating all such institutions as existing institutions as per AICTE norms without insisting for any security and other deposits. 3. After entering Memorandum of Cooperation between COA and AICTE, the institutions, faculty members and students would be able to get funds, grants, research grants, scholarships, etc. from AICTE. There would be more multi-disciplinary courses in institutions and the institutions would also be able to implement multi- entry multi-exit schemes as envisaged in National Education Policy. 4. Further students in Architecture institutions can take elective subjects from Art, Design and Planning disciplines similarly Art, Design and Planning institutions can offer subjects of Architecture as elective subject(s). Further, the possibility of having a common course at first year level for Art, Architecture, Design and Planning courses can also be explored. The Executive Committee in its 256th Meeting held 7th January 2024, approved a draft MOC which was sent to AICTE for its consideration. The Memorandum of Cooperation is yet to be signed. It may be mentioned that the AICTE has allowed COA approved Architectural Institutions to apply for postgraduate programmes being regulated by AICTE, treating them as existing institutions as per AICTE norms, without insisting on any security and other deposits. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
v)	APPROVAL OF ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2024-2025.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has received applications from various architectural institutions for imparting B.Arch. Programme/ M. Arch. Programme / for introduction of B.Arch. programme/ for

	introduction of M. Arch. Programme and for introduction of 3-year Diploma Programmes for the academic session 2024-2025.																																
	The Council till date has granted approval to Institutions as under:																																
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vi)	PRINTING/ PUBLICATION OF FOLLOWING BOOKS/ JOURNALS BY THE COUNCIL.																																
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has published/ printed following books/ journals for promoting Architectural Education and Profession. The list of books printed/ published since 01.04.2023 to 22.05.2024 is as under:																																
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vii)	TRAINING PROGRAMME AND OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AT TRC PUNE AND BHOPAL.																																
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Training and Research Centers of Council at Pune and Bhopal have conducted following activities and programme since 01.04.2023 to till date:																																

	COA TRC Pune:				
	Sr. No.	Title of the TTP Program	Dates of the Program	Name of the Program Coordinator	Total Participants
	1	Safety in architecture: Educating on the design of architectural spaces with due consideration to user safety	1st April 2024 to 5th April	Prof. Himani Tawade	64
	2	Exploring the Meaningfulness of Site and Context for Fostering Creativity in Design Development	22nd April 2024 to 26th April 2024	Prof. Adarsh Viswam	48
	3	Exploring Architecture with An Ekistics Approach	6th May 2024 to 10th May 2024	Dr. Prof. Anand Achari	42
	4	Introduction to Pre-Design	13th May 2024 to 17th May 2024	Dr. Prof. Anand Achari	71
	COA TRC Bhopal: 1. National Online FDP on "Research Methods & Techniques in Architecture & Planning" from 8th to 12th January 2024. 2. International conference on "APIC" (Architecture and People International Conference) 2024, from 24 to 25 February, 2024 at Rizvi College of Architecture, Mumbai. 3. National Online STTP on "Python for Beginners – Level 2" from 22nd to 26th April 2024 4. International conference on "Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Human Settlement," scheduled from May 2nd to May 4th, 2024 at the Poornima University, Jaipur. The Hon'ble members noted the information.				
viii)	PROGRESS MADE ON CONSTRUCTION OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE BUILDING AT BENGALURU.				
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has submitted revised Building Plans due to change in approach road as well as per the Building Bye-laws for approval of local authorities for construction of building of Centre of Excellence at Bengaluru. It is expected that the plans will be approved by the BMC shortly. The Hon'ble members noted the information.				
ix)	RECOGNITION OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE EMPLOYEES CPF TRUST BY INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AUTHORITIES.				
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has applied with the Income Tax Department for recognition of the Council of Architecture				

	Employees CPF Trust and other Authorities. The Council has obtained PAN Number for COA Employees Trust – “AACTC6409M”. The matter is being regularly followed up by the Office with the Department(s) for granting recognition. The Hon’ble members noted the information.
x)	ISSUANCE OF REFUND ORDER BY INCOME TAX FOR THE ASSESSMENT YEAR 2015-16.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the refund filed in Income Tax Return filed by the Council for the Assessment Year: 2015-16 was not granted due to late filing of Form-10B due to some technical issues {i.e. for accumulations transferred to building fund, to be utilized in the next five years as per Section 11(2)}. The Income Tax Department treated the complete income for the assessment year 2015-16 taxable and raised a demand of Rs.4,68,69,012/-. Further, the refund due for the assessment years 2015-16, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 were adjusted against the above demand. The matter was taken up by the Council at appropriate levels and an appeal was filed against the said demand. Finally, the submission for Form 10B was accepted by the Income Tax Department on 30.09.2019. Accordingly, the Council has been issued a refund order from Income Tax Department vide Order dated 31.05.2024 for the Assessment Year: 2015-16, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 to Rs.2,37,11,068/- including interest amounting to Rs.31,03,365/-. The Hon’ble members noted the information and appreciated the efforts done by the Office in this regard.
xi)	APPEAL FILED BY COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE AGAINST IMPOSITION OF SERVICE TAX/ GST ON THE FEES/ CHARGES COLLECTED BY THE COUNCIL.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has 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 & HSEC and on various services received/rendered, besides interest and penalty u/s 75,76,77 & 78 of The Finance Act, 1994 issued by the Principal Commissioner of Service Tax, Delhi-II. The year wise Service Tax demand is given below: 1. Rs.29,01,463/- for the period 01.07.2012 to 31.03.2013, 2. Rs.58,41,183/- for the period 01.04.2013 to 31.03.2014 and 3. Rs.86,18,304/- for the period 01.04.2014 to 31.03.2015. 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: 1. Rs.69,16,284/- for the period 01-4-2015 to 31-03-2016 and 2. Rs.1,84,68,492/- for the period 01-04-2016 to 30-06-2017. Several Hearings has been held before the Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi. The orders in respect of above-mentioned appeal cases are reserved by the Tribunal. Final liability, if any, shall be booked at the time of final disposal of Council's reply by the Service Tax Department. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xii)	REGISTERING OF FIR AGAINST MR. VIKRAM TALREJA, BENGALURU.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council of Architecture is in receipt of a Complaint against Mr. Vikram Talreja, Bengaluru for falsely claiming himself as an Architect and also forging the Certificate of Registration of some other architects and using it for his own wrongful gains. The Council made written Complaints to Police authorities in Bengaluru but the same has not yielded any results. Accordingly, after considering the material facts and provisions of the Architects Act,1972, it was found appropriate to go ahead with prosecution of the above person by filing a Complaint before appropriate Court of Law so as to act a deterrent for other persons. The COA decided to file a Complaint in Bengaluru before appropriate Court of Law under Section 200 of Cr.PC. However, on pursuance of the matter by the Council with DCP (Central), Bengaluru Police, the Police Inspector, Cubban Park Police Station, Bengaluru, registered FIR on 09.05.2024 in the matter. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xiii)	ACTION TAKEN AGAINST MR. HARRISH BAJAJ, NEW DELHI, BY COUNCIL FOR ABUSING THE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL AND MINISTRY.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that a person named Mr. Harrish K Bajaj from New Delhi was continuously abusing the Hon'ble members of Disciplinary Committee, Council members and officers of Council to seek favorable action regarding the two complaints for alleged Professional Misconduct filed by him against two Architects. While one complaint was dismissed another complaint was kept in abeyance in view of pendency of Court case. In order to stop the continuous abuse and defamatory actions by Mr. Harrish K. Bajaj, the Council filed a case no CS SCJ 773/23 before Senior Civil Judge

	Ms. Swati Sharma South East, Saket Courts, New Delhi and the Hon'ble court vide order dated 20.04.2024 has restrained Mr. Bajaj from making any further abusive statements or defamatory/derogatory comments/communications. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xiv)	STEPS TAKEN FOR ENTERING INTO MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT WITH NCARB, US AND ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION BOARD, UK.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has so far held 3 meetings with NCARB, USA for having MRA for recognition of Architectural Qualifications and Registration as an Architect in each other's country. Two meetings were held online with NCARB. The President, CoA held another meeting in person with NCARB Officials at Los Angeles on 21.04.2024, during his visit to Los Angeles at Sci Arch University, USA for taking part in Undergraduate Thesis Review 2024 as an External Juror. The NCARB has sent a format on competency of Indian Architects and the same is being filled for sending to NCARB for further necessary action in the matter. Further, the Council has also initiated dialogue with Board of Architects, UK for having reciprocal arrangement. An online meeting was held with representatives of Board of Architects, UK. Further, a delegation of Indian Architects also met the representatives of UK in London during their visit for London Design Week. The documents sent by ARB, UK, are being studied for further action in the matter. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xv)	CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION IN CHANGING WORLD" AT VIT VELLORE, CHENNAI ON 15TH, 16TH AND 17TH FEBRUARY, 2024.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council conducted an international Conference titled as "COA International Conference – Architecture Education in the Changing World -Reviewing and Rethinking the Way Forward (COA-ICFAE)", a premier conference dedicated to the dynamic and evolving landscape of Architectural Education, from 15th, 16th and 17th February 2024 at VIT, Vellore, Tamil Nadu. Renowned experts and thought leaders in architectural education conducted engaging sessions on emerging trends, challenges, and innovative approaches in 6 Sub-Themes of architecture education. Selected papers received for the conference will be presented by the authors to contribute to the academic discourse at the conference. This conference provided a unique platform for educators, researchers, and industry professionals to come together, connect and explore the

	transformative potential of architectural education. With an emphasis on innovation, technology, and interdisciplinary collaboration, COA-ICFAE aimed to inspire new ideas and strategies for shaping the future of architectural education. “Samunnati Vistarah - Architecture Education in the Changing World” was based on following six broad themes: 1) Relevance of Architecture Curriculum to Practice and Research; 2) Role of Regulatory Bodies; 3) Emerging Technologies in Architecture; 4) Contemporary Concerns in Architecture; 5) Innovative Initiatives; and 6) NEP and its implication on Architectural Education. The International Conference was attended by Council Members, EC members, Past Presidents of Council, Eminent Academician, Practicing Architects and students in large capacity. The President further informed that the proceedings of the Conference are being compiled and will be shared with the Hon’ble members shortly. The Hon’ble members noted the information.
xvi)	SLP (CIVIL) NO.8034 OF 2024, FILED BY INAMUL HASSAN, AGAINST ORDER DATED 09.02.2024 OF DIVISION BENCH OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT DISMISSING APPEAL FILED BY INSTITUTION REGARDING CHARGING OF SECURITY DEPOSIT BY COA.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Inamul Hassan Education Trust has filed a Writ petition against Council for charging of Security Deposit for imparting B.Arch. Course. The Writ petition was dismissed by Single Judge and in appeal filed by the Trust was also dismissed by Division Bench of Hon’ble Gauhati High Court. The Council is now in receipt of Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No. 8034 of 2024 Inamul Hasan V/s The Council of Architecture, challenging the decision of the Division Bench of Hon’ble Gauhati High. The case was listed for hearing before the Hon’ble Supreme Court on 19th July 2024. The Hon’ble members noted the information.
xvii)	CONDUCT OF POST GRADUATE ENTRANCE TEST IN ARCHITECTURE FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2024-2025.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council in its 80th Meeting held on 02.09.2023, decided to conduct Entrance Test for admission to PG Courses in Architecture. Accordingly, a committee consisting of Ar. T. Loganathan as Convenor, Dr. Binumol Tom, Prof. Anupama Sharma, Prof.

	Abhijit Sadashiv Natu and Prof. Ar. Anand Achari as Members, was constituted to prepare a scheme of examination, modalities and syllabus for conducting and entrance/ eligibility test for admission to Post-Graduation Programme in Architecture from the academic session 2024-25. Based on the above recommendations, Council has decided to conduct Post Graduate Entrance Test in Architecture (PGETA 2024) at national level on July 28, 2024, and August 04, 2024, for admission to Post Graduate Programme in Architecture being imparted at the Architectural Institutions approved by the Council of Architecture for the academic session 2024-2025. The syllabus of the Test is based on the COA (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020. This will facilitate students to avoid appearing in multiple entrance tests being conducted by different authorities/ institutions. After qualifying in the Entrance Test, students can take admission in PG programme in Architecture being imparted at COA approved Architectural institutions all over India. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xviii)	PROMOTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL PENDING APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS IN COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE EMPLOYEE'S RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION REGULATIONS, 2000.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Executive Committee in its 257th Meeting, noted that the proposal for amendments in the Council of Architecture Employees Recruitment and Promotion Regulations is under active consideration of the Ministry. The Executive Committee also noted that due to the delay in approval of the revised recruitment rules, the promotion of many officers and employees of the Council are long pending. The Committee, therefore, decided that the deserving and eligible Officers and Employees be promoted on adhoc basis for a period of six months or till approval of the Central Government, whichever is earlier. Accordingly, as per recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee, the following Officers and Employees were granted promotion: 1. Shri Deepak Kumar, Administrative Officer, as Deputy Registrar. 2. Shri Deepak Kumar Singh, Asst. Administrative Officer, as Administrative Officer 3. Shri Lalit P. Kala, Superintendent, as Asst. Administrative Officer Further, Mrs. Harpreet Kaur, Stenographer was promoted as Senior Stenographer on regular basis as post of Senior Stenographer is already approved in the existing Regulations. The Hon'ble Members congratulated all Officers and employee(s) on their promotions and conveyed their best wishes for their future endeavors.

xix)	CONDUCT OF BRAINSTORMING SESSION BY MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GOVT.OF INDIA FOR UPCOMING YUGA YUGREEN BHARAT MUSEUM.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India has organized a four-day brainstorming session/workshop as part of the joint working group with France on the Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum (YYBM), which has held on June 26-29, 2024. The workshop was conducted in brainstorming mode with presentation by the French and Indian Side to discuss the best model and visitor experience in museums, India and abroad. The final session was presided by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Culture, together with Secretary, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture. The representatives from various Government organisations, eminent experts from various fields, delegation from France participated at the workshop. The President, CoA, Registrar, CoA and experts from Council also attended the event and participated in the brainstorming session for the upcoming YYBM. Further, Ministry of Culture and CoA are in consultation about the possibility of hosting a design hackathon for the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xx)	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE JUDGEMENT DATED 01ST JULY, 2024 IN WRIT PETITION NO. 4100/2023, DOBARIYA MOHIT RAMNIKAL, PETITIONER VS. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION OF LD. SINGLE JUDGE OF HON'BLE DELHI HIGH COURT.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the petitioner possessed a B.Tech. degree in Civil Engineering from an Indian University also Master of Architecture Degree from University of Maryland, USA. He applied for recognition of his foreign qualification under Section 15 of the Architects Act, 1972 by the Central Government. The Council after examining the matter recommended to the Central Government that the qualification(s) possessed by the Petitioner are not equivalent in course content, duration and other parameters to the B.Arch. degree awarded by Indian Universities and as prescribed in COA Minimum Standards 2020, hence his qualification cannot be recognized. The Petitioner challenged the communication issued by the Central Government rejecting his request for recognition of his qualification under Section 15 of the Architects Act, 1972. The Hon'ble High Court held that the M.Arch. Degree possessed by the Petitioner is accredited to NAAB, USA. Further, Serial No. 8(a) and 8(b) of the List of foreign qualification recognized by Central Government referred to accreditation of Institutions/Universities awarding B.Arch/M.Arch/D.Arch degrees by the NAAB and not NCARB.

The Hon'ble Court further observed that unfortunately, Section 15(1) of the Architects Act, while empowering the Central Government to, by consultation with the COA, notify a qualification awarded by a foreign institution as a recognized qualification under the Architects Act, does not provide any guideline or basis for grant of such recognition. Per corollary, the Act is also silent on the grounds on which a request to treat a qualification awarded by a foreign university as a recognized qualification can be rejected.

Section 15(1) does not envisage comparison of the course awarded by the foreign university with the B.Arch. course awarded by the Indian university as a consideration based on which the Central Government, or the COA, could decide whether the course awarded by the foreign university is, or is not, entitled to recognition. The respondents have, therefore, proceeded to reject the petitioner's request on grounds which are foreign to the Architects Act.

A bare reading of the MSAER 2020 reveals that it prescribed the duration, conditions for admission, intake and migration, courses and period of studies, examinations and standard of staff, equipment, accommodation, training and other facilities for providing architectural education in India. The Regulations have no application to institutions providing architectural education outside India.

Nor, in the MSAER 2020, is there any stipulation to the effect that institutions providing architectural education outside Indian must also conform to the specifications contained in the MSAER 2020. No such stipulation is to be found in the Architects Act, either.

Ex facie, therefore, the extrapolation, by the respondents, of the standards and syllabi envisaged by the MSAET 2020 for the B.Arch. Course provided in India, to the M.Arch. course provided by the University of Maryland, to assess "comparability" between the two, is misguided both on facts and in law. In the absence of any stipulation, either in the Architects Act or in the MSAER 2020 to the effect that an architectural course provided by a foreign University/ institution, in order to merit recognition under Section 15(1), must conform to the MSAER 2020, the respondents could not have rejected the plea for recognition, as urged by the petitioner, on the ground that the M.Arch. course awarded by the University of Maryland did not satisfy the standards contained in the MSAER 2020.

The Hon'ble Court quashed and set aside the communication dated 13th July 2021 issued by the Central Government and held that the petitioner is entitled to recognition of the M.Arch. degree awarded to him by the University of Maryland, so as to enable him to practice as an architect in India. The Central Government was directed to issue the necessary notification, for the said purpose, under Section 15(1) of the Architects Act.

The Registrar-Secretary further informed that the Council shall be filing an Appeal before Division Bench of Delhi High Court in the matter and has also requested the Central Government to legally examine the matter for necessary action.

	The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xxi)	TO TAKE NOTE OF CONSTITUTION OF FOLLOWING COMMITTEE(S) BY PRESIDENT/ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE AFTER 81ST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the President, COA and Executive Committee have constituted Committees to carry on the functions of the Council. The details of these committees are as under: 1. Constitution of Sub-Committee to prepare a scheme of examination, modalities and syllabus for conducting an entrance/eligibility test for admission to Post-Graduation Programme in Architecture: The Committee was setup on 02.01.2024 consisting of Ar.T. Loganathan as Convenor, Dr.Binumol Tom, Prof.Anupama Sharma, Prof. Abhijit Sadashiv Natu and Prof. Ar. Anand Achari as Member to prepare a scheme of examination, modalities and syllabus for conducting and entrance/ eligibility test for admission to Post-Graduation Programme in Architecture from the academic session 2024-25. The Committee has held 11 meetings so far. The last meeting was held on 08.06.2024. The Committee has finalized all the modalities for conduct of PG Entrance Test. The First Test will be conducted on 28th July 2024 and Second Test on 4th August, 2024 as a computer-based test at designated Centers all over India. 2. Constitution of a Sub-Committee for working out details for the training Programs conducted by the TRCs: The Committee was setup on 16.05.2024 consisting of Ar.Loganathan as Convenor, Dr.Rama Subrahmanian, Dr.Ketan Kimmatkar, Prof. Jayashree Deshpande and Ar.Lakshmi Rao as Members to identify the types of training programs that can be conducted by the TRCs as per the mandate of UGC and decide the nomenclature of each type, to decide on the mode and duration of each type of training program, to work out and decide the credits that can be allocated to the participants of the above training programs and to suggest a fee structure for the programs based on online, offline and hybrid modes. The Committee has held three meeting so far. 3. Constitution of a Sub-Committee for the listing of Journal of Council of Architecture (JCOA) with UGC CARE / SCOPUS The Committee was setup on 16.05.2024 consisting of Prof.Radhika Nagpal as Convenor, Prof. Jayashree Deshpande, Prof. Nandini Kulkarni, Ar. Shruthi Verma, Dr. Pratheek Sudhakaran and Dr. Smita Dalvi, as Members to provide proper status to COA Journal with UGC Care/Scopus. The first meeting was conducted on 14th June, 2024.

	4. Constitution of a Sub-Committee to review the initiative namely “Universe of Architecture Course: The Committee was setup on 31.05.2024 consisting of Ar.Bapilu Chai as Convenor, Ar. Senthil Kumar and Prof. Jayashree Deshpande as Members to review the educational content “Universe of Archi Course” developed by Ethos, to study content about its utility and potential impact on school students and society. The Committee was requested to go through the content and share their valuable feedback about the content and its utility to encourage school students towards architecture. The Committee held its first meeting on 08.06.2024. 5. Constitution of Advisory Committee on International Relations: The Committee was setup on 03.06.2024 consisting of Dr. Vandana Sehgal as Convenor, Ar. Tushar Sogani, Prof. Chirayu Bhatt, Ar. Durganand Balsavar, Ar. Dilipchandra Chatterjee and Prof. Rajendra Kumar as Members to identify opportunities for international cooperation and engagement, to develop strategies to expand the Council of Architecture's presence and influence on the global stage, to provide guidance and support to architects seeking international opportunities, to collaborate with international organizations, institutions, and stakeholders to promote best practices in architecture and to advise the Council of Architecture on matters related to international policies, regulations, and standards affecting the profession. The Committee has yet to conduct its meeting. The Hon’ble members noted the information on constitution of Committees and progress made by these committees.
14	MATTERS PENDING FOR APPROVAL OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
i)	Amendment in Eligibility for admission to B.Arch. Programme.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has submitted its proposal for amendments in eligibility for B. Arch course for removal of PCM subjects for admission to 1st year of 5 years B. Arch course. Further, as decided in the 80th meeting of the Council the proposal for allowing lateral admission in the 2nd year of 5-year B. Arch course has also been submitted to the Ministry of Education, Government of India for according their approval for amending Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations 2020 in terms of Section 45 of the Architects Act, 1972. The Ministry vide its letter dated 01.12.2023 constituted a committee to have a comprehensive review of amendment proposed by COA and to suggest its feasibility and way forward. The Committee consist of following members: 1) Prof. (Dr.) Kailasa Rao M, Director, SPA Bhopal 2) Dr. Mohammed Firoz-HOD(Architecture), NIT Calicut

	3) Nominee of Director, IIT Roorkee-Prof. Gaurav Raheja, HOD, D/O Architecture and planning, IIT Roorkee 4) Nominee of Director, CEPT-Prof. Chirayu Bhatt, Deputy Provost, CEPT University 5) Deputy Secretary (NITs & SPAs) The Council requested the Ministry to include nominee of the Council on the Committee. The Ministry agreed to have one nominee of the Council on the Committee as a Special Invitee. Accordingly, the Council vide its letter dated 19.01.2024 has nominated Ar. Habib Khan, Former President, COA on the Committee to place the stand of the Council in the matter. The Council vide its letter dated 07.06.2024, requested the Ministry in view of pendency of the recommendations of the Committee, to allow continuation of eligibility as approved by them for the academic session 2023-2024 for the academic session 2024-2025 as a stop gap arrangement in the interest of students. The Ministry's vide its letter dated 05.07.2024 accepted the proposal of the Council to adopt the last year's eligibility criteria for admission to 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. degree course and approved the amendment in the eligibility for admission to 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. Degree Course as prescribed under Regulation 4(1) of the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations 2020, from the academic session 2024-2025 onwards, as under: <i>“(1) No candidate shall be admitted to architecture course unless she/he has passed 10+2 or equivalent examination with Physics and Mathematics as compulsory subjects along with either Chemistry or Biology or Technical Vocational subject or Computer Science or Information Technology or Informatics Practices or Engineering Graphics or Business Studies with at least 45% marks in aggregate or passed 10+3 Diploma Examination with Mathematics as compulsory subject with at least 45% marks in aggregate.”</i> The same has been published in the Official Gazette of India on July 8, 2024 and has come into effect from the date of publication in the Gazette. The Registrar-Secretary further informed that the proposal of the Council for amendment in eligibility for B. Arch course for removal of PCM subjects and for allowing lateral admission in the 2nd year of 5-year B. Arch course is still pending with the Ministry. The Hon'ble members noted the information and requested the Ministry to expedite its approval in the matter.
ii)	Re-Constitution of Disciplinary Committee.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council in its 80th meeting elected Ar. Naveen Kanithi as member of the Disciplinary Committee. The Council vide its letter dated 13.10.2023 has requested the Ministry of Education, Government of India to issue Gazette notification for re-

	constitution of Disciplinary Committee. The Notification of the Ministry is awaited in the matter. The Hon'ble members expressed their serious concern over the delay of more than a year in re-constitution of Disciplinary Committee. The Council unanimously decided that the Central Government may be requested to expedite the constitution of Disciplinary Committee and to amend the Rules appropriately to avoid delays in its re-constitution from time to time.
iii)	Approval of Enhancement of fees to be charged from Architects.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council of Architecture has submitted its proposal for enhancing the fees charged by Council under Council of Architecture rules 1973 for Registration, Renewal, Restoration etc. The fees were last revised in the year 2014 and since then administrative expenses of the Council have increased manifold. However, the Ministry has communicated its decision to not to increase the fees. The Council perused the letter dated 11.03.2024 received from the Ministry and unanimously disagreed with the reasons given for not acceding to the request of Council. The Council after deliberations decided that the Ministry be once again requested to approve revision in the fees being charged from Architects in view of escalation in the prices of goods and services in the country. The same should not be linked with the corpus available with the Council to meet its other liabilities as the Council is not provided with any grants by the Central Government.
iv)	Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) for PG courses and Grant of equivalence to foreign PG qualifications.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council of architecture vide its letter dated 02.11.2022 has submitted the draft Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) for PG courses Regulations to the Ministry for according its approval in terms of Section 45 of the Architects Act, 1972. The Council also submitted vide its letter dated 27.04.2023 a proposal to the Ministry for according its approval to the Foreign PG Qualification equivalence scheme as approved by Council in its 79th meeting held on 12.03.2023. The Ministry constituted a committee for comprehensive review of the CoA's (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education for Post Graduate Degree Programme and PG Degree Equivalence) Regulations, 2023, consisting of Dr. S Ramesh, Director, SPA Vijaywada, as Chairman, Prof. Gaurav Raheja, Prof. Subrata Chattopadhyay, Prof. Rajiv Mishra as Members and Prof. V. K.

	Paul as Member Secretary. The approval of the Ministry is awaited in the matter. The Hon'ble members noted the information and requested the Ministry to expedite its approval in the interest of students and faculty members.
v)	Amendment in the Council of Architecture Rules, 1973 in terms of directions of Hon'ble Karnataka High Court in writ petition filed by Ar. Sharan Desai regarding prescribing requirements for nomination of members of Council.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Hon'ble Karnataka High Court vide order dated 08.02.2023, in Writ Petition No.16114 of 2021 (GM-RES) directed the Union of India represented by Secretary, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India as under: X X X X X X X X X X <i>(iii) The Union of India shall take steps to notify certain criteria for nomination of members of the Council qua the qualification and experience under the Rules, which would become binding on every State Government, as expeditiously as possible.</i> In the in terms of the above order, the Ministry wrote a letter no.4-7/2020-TS.VI dated 17th April, 2023 to the Council to examine the matter regarding adopting criteria for nomination of Members of the Council under Section 3(3)(f) of the Architects Act, 1972 and to submit a proposal to the Ministry. The Council vide its letter dated 12.05.2023, submitted the criteria for nomination of members of the Council. Thereafter, the Ministry issued GSR No.623(E) dated 24.08.2023 for amending the Council of Architecture Rules, 1973. On receipt of the notification, the CoA vide letter dated 15.09.2023 pointed out that the notification requires further amendment since it uses certain words like <i>“nomination to contest election” in Rule 22A and invitation of nomination by Department handling Technical Education or Higher Education of the concerned State/ UT in Rule 22A</i>, which are not as per the letter and spirit of the Section 3(3) (f) of the Architects Act, 1972. The Council held discussions in the matter with Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. The Council was assured that a suitable amendment shall be carried out in the Rules to make them consistent with the Architects Act and Rules framed thereunder. Further action in the matter from the Ministry is awaited. The Hon'ble members noted the information and requested the Ministry to issue appropriate notification for amending the Council of Architecture Rules, 1973.

vi)	Conduct of elections of five representatives of Indian Institute of Architects for membership of the Council.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the term of members representing Indian Institute of Architects on the Council has ended on 27.12.2023. The IIA has conducted the elections in December 2023 and informed the same to the Ministry. The Hon'ble members noted that though the elections were conducted, and result was notified in December 2023, the Ministry is yet to take further action in the matter. The Council unanimously decided that the Central Government be requested to do the needful in the matter in the interest of continuity of members and their prescribed tenure in Council in terms of provisions of the Architects Act, 1972.
vii)	Amendment In Council of Architecture Employees Recruitment and Promotion Regulations, 2000.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has submitted a revised proposal duly approved by the Executive Committee of the Council for amendments Council of Architecture Employees Recruitment and Promotion Regulations, 2000, as per DOPT requirements for approval of the Ministry. The approval of the Ministry in the matter is awaited. The Council after deliberations requested the Ministry to expedite its approval in the matter.
15	ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.
i)	TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST RECEIVED FROM AR.K.SENTHIL KUMAR, MEMBER, COA, FOR DISCUSSING THE PROVISIONS OF TAMILNADU COMBINED DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING RULES, 2019.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Ar. K.Senthil Kumar, Member, COA, vide email dated 07.07.2024 has requested for discussion on the requirements for registration as an Architect prescribed under the Tamilnadu Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019. Ar. K.Senthil Kumar made a presentation before the Council Highlighting the relevant provisions of the Tamilnadu Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019 wherein Architects are required to seek Registration with local bodies to practice the profession of Architecture. Further Architects are also required to have 2 years or more experience after registration as an Architect with the Council to provide their professional services. The Council after the deliberations suggested that the matter be brought to the notice of the highest authorities in the State Government and if no action is taken then the concerned Architects can approach Court of law.
(ii)	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE REQUEST RECEIVED FROM MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, VIDE LETTER NO. 1/22/2024-

	PUBLIC DATED 29.04.2024-REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS OF PADMA AWARD 2025.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council of Architecture is in receipt of a letter No. 1/22/2024-Public dated 29.04.2024 from Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, requesting the Council to make nominations/recommendations for identifying suitable candidates for Padma Awards. The Padma Awards, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country. Instituted in 1954, these Awards are announced on Republic Day every year. The award seeks to recognize 'work of distinction' and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields/disciplines, such as, Art, Literature and Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work, Science and Engineering, Public affairs, Civil Service, Trade and Industry etc. All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these Awards. The letter of Ministry of Home Affairs states that nominations/recommendations for the award will be received only on the Rashtriya/Puruskar portal https://awards.gov.in designed for this purpose. The nominations/recommendations should contain all relevant details specified in the format available on the above portal, including a citation in narrative form (maximum 800 words), clearly bringing out the distinguished and exceptional achievements/service of the person recommended in his/her respective field/discipline. While recommending a person online, it should be ensured that all the necessary details are properly filled in. The steps to be taken for making online recommendations are available on the above said portal https://awards.gov.in. The letter of the ministry further states that while making recommendations we have to consider all those who have made outstanding contributions to the field and deserve recognition. The Ministry has directed to keep the following points in view while making recommendations: 1) Persons recommended are pre-eminently worthy of the Awards, looking at their life-time achievement. The criteria for selection should invariably be "excellence plus" and the highest standards should be applied while recommending persons for these awards. The existence of an element of public service in the achievements of the person recommended for the award would be a desirable factor. 2) As the Padma Award is the second highest civilian award of the award of the country, it should also be considered whether the recommended person has earlier been given any National award or a state award in his /her respective field.

	3) Efforts may be made to identify talented persons from amongst women, weaker sections of the society, like SCs & STs, divyang persons, etc, who deserve to be considered for the award. 4) The decoration is normally not conferred posthumously. However, in highly deserving cases, Government could consider giving an award posthumously if the demise of the person proposed to be honoured has been recent, say within a period of one year preceding the Republic Day on which it is proposed to announce the award. 5) A higher category of Padma Award can be considered in respect of a person who has earlier been conferred an award, provided a period of at least five years has elapsed. However, in exceptionally deserving cases, a relaxation can also be considered. 6) Government servants, including those working with PSUs except Doctors and Scientists, are not eligible for Padma Awards. Further, the letter of ministry has also suggested to constitute a committee to identify suitable candidates for Padma awards. The matter is referred to the Committee consisting of Ar. Lalichan Zacharias, EC Member, Convenor, Prof. Ujwala Chakradev, Member, Ar. Jitendra Mehta, Member and Ar.Durganand Balsavar, Member. The Committee shall identify suitable candidates in the field of Architecture Education and Profession who could be considered for grant of Padma awards and shall submit its report the Council for further submission to the Government of India. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
(iii)	TO TAKE NOTE OF CONSTITUTION OF BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION TO PREPARE DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR THE UNDERGRADUATE, POSTGRADUATE AND DIPLOMA COURSES IN LINE WITH NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) AND THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Chairman, Executive Committee has constituted a Board of Architectural Education for Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Diploma Courses in order to prepare draft Regulations for the undergraduate, Postgraduate and Diploma courses in line with National Education Policy (NEP) and the proposed amendments in Architects Act, 1972 consisting of Ar. P. Vaitianadin (Convenor), Ar. Nand Lal Chandel (Co-Convenor), Ar. Kiran S. Mahajani, Member, Ar.Milind Kollegal, Member, Ar.Radhika Nagpal, Member, Ar. K.Senthil Kumar, Member, Ar. Chirayu Bhatt, Special Invitee, Ar. Mamatha P. Raj, Special Invitee, Ar. Ajay Monga, Special Invitee, Ar.Pushkar M. Kanvinde, Special Invitee, Ar. Sheetal Sharma, Special Invitee. The terms of Reference of the Board are as under:

	1) To prepare the Minimum standards of Architectural Education in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) as well as the proposed amendments in Architects Act, 1972. 2) To take up any issue/matter as may be deemed relevant by the Board. The Board has held 15 meetings so far and the final report shall be submitted to the Council shortly. The same shall be placed before the Council for approval after the same is finalized. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
iv)	TO RECONSIDER THE CLOSURE POLICY OF THE COUNCIL.
	The President, COA, informed the members that his attention has been invited time and again towards Closure Policy of the Council which prescribes Complete Closure as the norms for closure of institutions. The President, COA informed the members that the complete closure results in many problems to Students and Faculty members. Further, the institutions also have to bear the remuneration of the Administrator appointed by the Council to facilitate complete closure. The President, COA also pointed out that the AICTE also allows progressive closure apart from Complete Closure. The President, COA informed that the Executive Committee in its 262nd meeting decided that the Closure Policy of the Council be amended, and Institutions be allowed Progressive Closure apart from Complete Closure. The decision to allow Progressive Closure or Complete Closure shall be taken by the Executive Committee looking at the facts and circumstances of each institution applying for closure or directed by Council for closure in case it is not able to impart Architectural Education as per the Minimum Standards of Council. The Council after deliberations decided to allow progressive closure of the Institutions.
v)	EMPANELMENT OF ARCHITECTS UNDER WEST BENGAL MUNICIPAL BUILDING RULES.
	Ar. Amitava Roy, Member, invited the attention of Hon'ble Members towards empanelment of Architects by each and every Municipality in West Bengal and charging of Registration Fees from Architects. He further stated that in West Bengal Architects are being discriminated and not allowed to submit building plans for smaller plots. He informed that the Council has taken up the matter with the Government of West Bengal, however, no remedial action is by the West Bengal Government.

	Ar.Amitava Roy requested the Council should take up the matter with the Central Government to interfere in the matter in the interests of Architects. The President, COA, assured all assistance in the matter and suggested that the matter be taken up for further necessary action by the West Bengal Chapter of IIA. The President further informed that Council is willing to share the data of Architects with the State Government and requested Ar. Amitava Roy, Member, and West Bengal Chapter of IIA to initiate dialogue in the matter with the Municipal Engineering Directorate, Department of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Govt. of West Bengal.
vi)	PROBLEMS FACED BY ARCHITECTS IN VARIOUS STATES FOR SUBMISSION/ APPROVAL OF BUILDING PLANS.
	Few Members invited the attention of the Council towards problems faced by Architects in different states in approval of Building Plans. He stated that young Architects are made to register with different local bodies. If this practice is not stopped all States would start their own Registration as an Architect. The Members suggested that State Level committees constituted by the Council should take pro-active steps in the matter. The Members felt that the Council should issue Public Notices about quacks and lists be also published on COA website. The President, COA, assured that the Council would take necessary action in the matter and various courts judgements on these issues would be sent to all States for their compliance. He requested the support of IIA in the matter. The Council will soon issue Public Notice on quacks and list the persons issued notices by Council for misuse of title and style of architect will be updated on the Council's website.
vii)	CADRE STRENGTH OF ARCHITECTS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.
	Ar. Sanjiban Datta informed the members that the Council has framed its guidelines on Roles of Architects in Govt. Department and their Cadre structure. However, states are not complying with the same. The Council after deliberations constituted a committee consisting of following members to suggest ways and means/ strategies to address these issues : 1. Ar. Gajanand Ram, Vice-President, COA, Convenor; 2. Ar. Naveen R. Kanithi, Member; 3. Ar. Vishal Vyas, Member; and 4. Ar. Sanjiban Datta, Member. The Committee shall submit its report to the Council within 3 months.
viii)	REVISION IN PERSPECTIVE PLAN FOR ARCHITECTURE INSTITUTIONS.

	Ar. Kiran Mahajani, Member, requested the Council to revisit the Perspective Plan of Architectural Institutions in view of several institutions closing down and new institutions applying for introduction of architecture courses. The Council after deliberations constituted a committee consisting of following members to study and examine the existing Perspective Plan for Architectural Institutions and make its recommendations : (i) Ar. Manish Chakravarthy, Convenor; (ii) Ar. Punit Sethi, Member; (iii) Ar. Minakshi Jain, Member; and (iv) Ar. Rajiv Mishra, Member. The Committee shall submit its report to Council within three months.
ix	TO CONSIDER THE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AGAINST ARCHITECTS FOR ALLEGED PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT FROM THE ARCHITECTS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND GOVT. AGENCIES.
	The Section 22 and 30 of the Architects Act provide for filing of Complaints for Professional Misconduct against Architects with the Council. The Registrar-Secretary has received several Complaints and the same were dealt with as per procedure laid down under Council of Architecture Rules, 1973. The Council perused all the Complaints together with the Statement of Defence received from Respondent Architects as placed on the agenda. The Council after considering the Complaints together with the Statement of Defence and Preliminary Report received from the Council members to whom the respective complaints were referred, passed the following Resolution: Resolution No. : 576 Resolved that : CADC/572 – With Regard to Complaint filed by Shri Dheeraj Kumar Sharma, Canada against Ar. Vijay Bhandari, Ludhiana, the Council noted that the complaint against the respondent Architect is that he submitted a valuation report at the behest of wife of the complainant with whom the complainant is undergoing Divorce proceedings and the concerned property is to be divided between the spouses as per requirements of Canadian Court. The complainant alleged that the valuation report submitted by the respondent is false, vague, overvalued and done without proper investigation to provide illegal benefits to the Respondent's clients. The Respondent Architect in his defence submitted that the property in question is in a posh area. He made his valuation report after physically visiting the site and taking into the account various other parameters namely construction of building type of construction, location, direction and size of plot, width of the road, existing land use, parking of cars on the street, class of residents and nearby amenities.

	The Council, after deliberations and application of its mind opined that the Respondent Architect has submitted his valuation report as per his own professional competence. The valuation is an opinion based on different considerations and limitations. Accordingly, the Council decided that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect and dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per the procedures.
x)	LAUNCH OF PERSONAL ACCIDENTAL, HEALTH AND PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE POLICIES FOR ARCHITECTS.
	The President informed the members that Council after detailed negotiations with the ICICI Lombard has come out with insurance policies i.e. Personal Accidental, Health Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance, which can be availed by Architects on payment of a very nominal premium. The representatives of the ICICI Lombard and M/s. K.M. Dastur explained the features of the each of the policies. Dr. G.S. Inda, the senior most Council member launched the policies on the Council's website www.coa.gov.in.
xi)	UPLOADING SOFTCOPY OF THE MANUAL OF ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE ON THE COA WEBSITE.
	Some Members requested that the Manual of Architectural Practice published by the Council should be made available to the stakeholders at large for awareness. The President suggested that the CoA shall upload the digital copy of the MAP on website of the Council to have wider reach and easy access to all concerned.
xii)	TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT IN COA (MINIMUM STANDARDS OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION) REGULATIONS, 2020, FOR ENHANCEMENT OF RETIREMENT AGE OF HEAD OF ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTIONS.
	Some Members raised issues about the age of Superannuation of the Head of Architectural Institution/Principal/Director. As per Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020 the age of Superannuation is stipulated as 65 years. Members brought to the knowledge of the Council about the Central Government notification for eligibility criteria for appointment to the post of director is considered upto the age of 70 years.

	The Members also expressed the view that it is becoming increasingly difficult to get Senior and experienced and qualified Head of Institution. Therefore, it is necessary to enhance the age of superannuation of the HOI/Director/ Principal/ HOD up to the age of 70 years. The Members suggested that the council may adopt the notification issued by the Central Government for enhancement of the age of the HOI/Director/ Principal/ HOD upto the age of 70 years. Hence, the provisions of the Council of Architecture need amendment to have consistency with the central government norms. The President agreed with the Members that the Council may adopt the notification issued by the Central Government for fixing the age of the HOI/ Director/ Principal/ HOD upto the age of 70 years and accordingly directed the Register-Secretary to submit the proposal to ministry for amending the relevant Regulation in Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020.
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The Vice-President thanked the President, Members of the Council for attending the meeting and making their valuable contribution. He also thanked the Registrar-Secretary, Officers and Employees of the Council for organizing the meeting. The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.
