

MINUTES OF THE 83rd MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE, HELD ON JANUARY 21 & 22, 2025, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY FROM 11.00 A.M. ONWARDS, AT PRIDE HOTEL, 93, RICHMOND ROAD, LANGFORD GARDENS, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA-560025.

[FIRST DAY MEETING – 21ST JANUARY, 2025]

PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS :

1.	Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty	15.	Ar. Sanjeev Kumar
2.	Ar. B. R. Mohan	16.	Ar. Vidur Mehta
3.	Ar. Nilesh D. Chavan	17.	Ar. Harinder Arora
4.	Ar. Sanjeev Bumb	18.	Ar. K. Udaya
5.	Ar. K. K. Asthana	19.	Ar. Yogesh Kumar Garg
6.	Ar. Pushkar M. Kanwinde	20.	Ar. Rajiv Rampher Mishra
7.	Ar. Binumol Tom	21.	Ar. Benjusingh Nongthomban
8.	Ar. K. Senthil Kumar	22.	Ar. Aldrina K. Marak
9.	Ar. Ajay Keshav	23.	Ar. Namita K. Mohapatra
10.	Ar. Naveen Kanithi	24.	Ar. N. Mayil
11.	Ar. Bapilu Chai Tawsik	25.	Ar. Tarun Garg
12.	Ar. Anil Kumar	26.	Ar. T. Loganathan
13.	Ar. Marwin C. Gomes	27.	Ar. Ravi Kumar R.
14.	Ar. Vishal Arun Kumar Vyas	28.	Ar. Manish Chakraborti

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

The following members were granted leave of absence:

1.	Ms. Saumya Gupta	2.	Ar. Kiran S. Majahani
3.	Ar. Rajesh Pradhan	4.	Ar. P. S Rajeev
5.	Ar. Vandana Sehgal	6.	Ar. Sanjiban Dutta
7.	Ar. Nadisha V. M.	8.	Ar. Ritu Singh
9.	Ar. Sandeep L. Bangde	10.	Ar. Rajiv Kumar
11.	Ar. Kevisino Angami	12.	Er. Sandip K. Deb
13.	Er. Mahavir B. Chopda	14.	Dr. G. S. India
15.	Ar. Atonu Baruah	16.	Ar. Vijay Garg

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

1.	Ar. Kulbhushan Jain	2.	Ar. R. Kamala Devi
3.	Ar. Shashi M. Srivastava	4.	Ar. George Lalzuia

The President welcomed the members and thanked them for sparing their valuable time for attending the meeting in the Bengaluru.

The President welcomed the new members attending the meeting - Ar. N. Mayil, Ar. Namita K. Mohapatra, Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty, Ar. Binumol Tom, Ar. B.R. Mohan, Ar. Nilesh D. Chavan, Ar. Sanjeev Bumb, Ar. K.K. Asthana, Ar. Pushkar M. Kanwinde, Ar. K.Udaya, Ar. Ajay Keshav who are inter alia nominated by various State Governments, AICTE, CPWD and elected from among members of Indian Institute of Architects.

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.

DAY 1	
ITEM NO.	PARTICULARS OF THE ITEMS
01	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 82nd MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
	The President informed the members that the Minutes of the 82nd Meeting of the Council were circulated to the Hon'ble Members on 09th August, 2024. No comments have been received from any member. With the permission of the Chair, Ar. Vishal Vyas stated that his comments about Act Amendment proposal in 81st meeting have not been incorporated. The President clarified that in the 82nd meeting he had clarified that the proposal on the Act Amendment would be sent to the Central Government after approval of the Council and the same is recorded in Minutes of 82nd Meeting. With the above deliberations, the Council approved the minutes. Accordingly, the President signed the minutes.
02	ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE MINUTES OF THE 82nd MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
	The Registrar-Secretary briefed the members on the action taken report on the Minutes of the 82 nd 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 4568 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 01.07.2024 to 01.01.2025 .

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 for 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.: 577 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 border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No.</th><th>Name of Architect</th><th>State/City</th><th>Registration Number</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>MR. ANIL CHANDRAKANT MADKAIKAR</td><td>Maharashtra</td><td>CA/1990/013089</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>MR. UDIT RAI KAPOOR</td><td>Haryana</td><td>CA/1998/023272</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>MS. PREETHI S.</td><td>Karnataka</td><td>CA/1999/024526</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>MRS. SAHER SHOAIB SHAH</td><td>Jammu & Kashmir</td><td>CA/1999/025459</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>MS. SANCHITA R.</td><td>Tamil Nadu</td><td>CA/2003/032271</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>MR. HARISH DNYANDEO AUTI</td><td>Maharashtra</td><td>CA/2003/032528</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>MR. SHABU P. JOSEPH</td><td>Kerala</td><td>CA/2007/039459</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>MS. SHEELA REDDY JANGOM</td><td>Telangana</td><td>CA/2009/046306</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>MS. RUCHIKA THAKUR</td><td>Delhi</td><td>CA/2010/046976</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>MR. MUTHU KUMARAN T.</td><td>Tamil Nadu</td><td>CA/2010/047466</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>MR. MUKESH KUMAR SONDHI</td><td>Delhi</td><td>CA/2010/047791</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>MS. MUNCHOORI PAULINIE M.</td><td>Tamil Nadu</td><td>CA/2010/049090</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>MS. KIRTI AHLUWALIA</td><td>Uttarakhand</td><td>CA/2011/051931</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>MS. NEHA RISHI</td><td>Uttar Pradesh</td><td>CA/2010/050943</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>MS. SAKSHI VIJAYKUMAR NARESH SOOD</td><td>Gujarat</td><td>CA/2013/061472</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>MS. ARSHI SABA RAUSHAN</td><td>Uttar Pradesh</td><td>CA/2015/072518</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>MS. SUPRIYA MAHLAN</td><td>Haryana</td><td>CA/2015/073466</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>MS. ISHWARI M NAINGLI</td><td>Karnataka</td><td>CA/2019/109714</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>MS. SNEHA AJEESH</td><td>Kerala</td><td>CA/2020/124120</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>MR. AAKASH BIMALKUMAR AMIN</td><td>Gujarat</td><td>CA/2021/127939</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>MS. ARCHIE SANTOSH PATEL</td><td>Gujarat</td><td>CA/2021/140250</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>MR. AHSAN ABDUL NIZAR</td><td>Kerala</td><td>CA/2024/176889</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>MR. SHANKAR ROSHAN VALIATHAN</td><td>Karnataka</td><td>CA/2015/070031</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Sl. No.	Name of Architect	State/City	Registration Number	1	MR. ANIL CHANDRAKANT MADKAIKAR	Maharashtra	CA/1990/013089	2	MR. UDIT RAI KAPOOR	Haryana	CA/1998/023272	3	MS. PREETHI S.	Karnataka	CA/1999/024526	4	MRS. SAHER SHOAIB SHAH	Jammu & Kashmir	CA/1999/025459	5	MS. SANCHITA R.	Tamil Nadu	CA/2003/032271	6	MR. HARISH DNYANDEO AUTI	Maharashtra	CA/2003/032528	7	MR. SHABU P. JOSEPH	Kerala	CA/2007/039459	8	MS. SHEELA REDDY JANGOM	Telangana	CA/2009/046306	9	MS. RUCHIKA THAKUR	Delhi	CA/2010/046976	10	MR. MUTHU KUMARAN T.	Tamil Nadu	CA/2010/047466	11	MR. MUKESH KUMAR SONDHI	Delhi	CA/2010/047791	12	MS. MUNCHOORI PAULINIE M.	Tamil Nadu	CA/2010/049090	13	MS. KIRTI AHLUWALIA	Uttarakhand	CA/2011/051931	14	MS. NEHA RISHI	Uttar Pradesh	CA/2010/050943	15	MS. SAKSHI VIJAYKUMAR NARESH SOOD	Gujarat	CA/2013/061472	16	MS. ARSHI SABA RAUSHAN	Uttar Pradesh	CA/2015/072518	17	MS. SUPRIYA MAHLAN	Haryana	CA/2015/073466	18	MS. ISHWARI M NAINGLI	Karnataka	CA/2019/109714	19	MS. SNEHA AJEESH	Kerala	CA/2020/124120	20	MR. AAKASH BIMALKUMAR AMIN	Gujarat	CA/2021/127939	21	MS. ARCHIE SANTOSH PATEL	Gujarat	CA/2021/140250	22	MR. AHSAN ABDUL NIZAR	Kerala	CA/2024/176889	23	MR. SHANKAR ROSHAN VALIATHAN	Karnataka	CA/2015/070031
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	26	MR. MANISH M NAIR	Delhi	CA/2019/115030																																																												
	27	MS. RHEA SETHI	Delhi	CA/2021/132634																																																												
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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.:578 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>REGISTRATION NO.</th><th>NAME</th><th>STATE/ CITY</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>CA/1975/00410</td><td>MR. VIJAY SHANKARRAO GULWADI</td><td>Maharashtra</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>CA/1975/00431</td><td>MR. SYAMAL KUMAR DE SARKAR</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>CA/1975/00819</td><td>MR. BIJAN KUMAR CHAKROBORTY</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>CA/1975/00884</td><td>MR. ASOKE KUMAR BARAT</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>CA/1975/01261</td><td>MR. ROHINILAL MUNICHAKRABARTI</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr><tr><td>6.</td><td>CA/1975/01355</td><td>MR. UTPAL BASU</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr><tr><td>7.</td><td>CA/1975/01368</td><td>MR. SAMARESH MUKERJI</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr><tr><td>8.</td><td>CA/1975/01674</td><td>MR. KALYAN KUMAR BISWAS</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr><tr><td>9.</td><td>CA/1976/02407</td><td>MR. RATNA ROY</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr><tr><td>10.</td><td>CA/1976/02792</td><td>MS. SIKHA DATTA</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr><tr><td>11.</td><td>CA/1976/03040</td><td>MR. SANTANU SEN</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr><tr><td>12.</td><td>CA/1977/03765</td><td>MR. BIJITKUMAR DATTA</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr><tr><td>13.</td><td>CA/1977/04000</td><td>MR. SOMNATH SANYAL</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr><tr><td>14.</td><td>CA/1977/04134</td><td>MR. JAYAPRAKASH MANOHAR RANDIVE</td><td>Maharashtra</td></tr></table>					Sl. No.	REGISTRATION NO.	NAME	STATE/ CITY	1.	CA/1975/00410	MR. VIJAY SHANKARRAO GULWADI	Maharashtra	2.	CA/1975/00431	MR. SYAMAL KUMAR DE SARKAR	West Bengal	3.	CA/1975/00819	MR. BIJAN KUMAR CHAKROBORTY	West Bengal	4.	CA/1975/00884	MR. ASOKE KUMAR BARAT	West Bengal	5.	CA/1975/01261	MR. ROHINILAL MUNICHAKRABARTI	West Bengal	6.	CA/1975/01355	MR. UTPAL BASU	West Bengal	7.	CA/1975/01368	MR. SAMARESH MUKERJI	West Bengal	8.	CA/1975/01674	MR. KALYAN KUMAR BISWAS	West Bengal	9.	CA/1976/02407	MR. RATNA ROY	West Bengal	10.	CA/1976/02792	MS. SIKHA DATTA	West Bengal	11.	CA/1976/03040	MR. SANTANU SEN	West Bengal	12.	CA/1977/03765	MR. BIJITKUMAR DATTA	West Bengal	13.	CA/1977/04000	MR. SOMNATH SANYAL	West Bengal	14.	CA/1977/04134	MR. JAYAPRAKASH MANOHAR RANDIVE	Maharashtra
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	17.	CA/1981/06415	MR. BIMALCHAND DATTA	West Bengal
	18.	CA/1984/08585	MR. DEBAPRASAD MAITRA	West Bengal
	19.	CA/1987/10487	MR. SUGATA CHAKRABARTI	West Bengal
	20.	CA/1987/10720	MR. DEBADITYA MAITRA	West Bengal
	21.	CA/1987/10788	MS. MANJU HALDAR	West Bengal
	22.	CA/1987/10873	MR. BISWAJIT MUKHOPADHYAY	West Bengal
	23.	CA/1987/10960	MR. KSHITINDRANATH PATHAK	West Bengal
	24.	CA/1991/14020	MR. MANIDIP CHATTOPADHYAY	West Bengal
	25.	CA/1993/15606	MR. SUTANU UPADHYAY	West Bengal
	26.	CA/1994/17013	MR. DIPANKAR BHATTACHARYA	West Bengal
	27.	CA/1997/21479	MR. SUBRAT SHRIVASTAVA	Chhattisgarh
	28.	CA/2003/30641	MR. DEV KUMAR SINGH	Chhattisgarh
	29.	CA/2007/39639	MR. VIGHNESH PRAKASH VICHARE	Maharashtra
	30.	CA/2012/57797	MR. RAHUL SAI	Chhattisgarh
	31.	CA/2017/81830	MR. ONKAR NATH PATEL	Chhattisgarh
	32.	CA/1976/02642	MR. RAVIRALA BUCHI RAJU	Hyderabad
	33.	CA/1976/03342	MR. CHRISTOPHER C. BENNINGER	Maharashtra
	34.	CA/1982/07155	MR. BIPIN DUNGERSHEE SHAH	Maharashtra
	35.	CA/2005/36860	MR. RATAN NAVAL TATA	Maharashtra
	36.	CA/1993/16099	Mr. KENTO ESHI	Arunachal Pradesh
	37.	CA/1975/00455	Mr. SURAJ PRAKASH SUBHERWAL	Delhi
	38.	CA/1975/00259	Mr. SUNIL KUMAR GHOSE	West Bengal
	Some members suggested that the Council should prepare an SOP for intimation of death of an architect to the Council for reporting the death cases to Council. The President concurred with the proposal and decided to constitute a committee comprising Ar. Nilesh Chavan and Ar. K. Senthil to prepare the SOP.			
05	APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY AUDITOR OF COUNCIL TO AUDIT THE BOOKS OF ACCOUNTS OF COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-2025.			
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that in terms of the provisions of Section 13(4) of the Architects Act, 1972, the Council is required to appoint an Auditor to audit the annual accounts of the Council.			

	He further informed that M/s B. C. Jain & Company, was appointed as Statutory Auditors of CoA for the year 2023-2024 on a fixed annual audit fees of Rs.40,000/- plus GST, as applicable per annum. He stated that the books of accounts of the Council for the financial year 2024-25 is to be audited. The Council after deliberations in the matter decided to continue with the existing Auditor M/s. B. C. Jain & Company for auditing the books of accounts of the Council for the financial year 2024-2025 and accordingly passed the following resolution: Resolution No.579 Resolved that : 1. M/s. B. C. Jain & Company is appointed as Statutory Auditor for auditing the books of Accounts of Council for the financial year 2024-2025; and 2. The Auditor be paid an audit fee of Rs.40,000/- plus GST, as applicable for the financial year 2024-2025.
06	TO CONSIDER REPORT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR OF THE COUNCIL FOR QUARTER-1 AND 2 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-2025.
	The Council perused the Audit report of the Internal Auditor of the Council, M/s. J.K.S.S. & Associates for the Quarter-1 and Quarter-2 and after deliberations desired that the observations and recommendations made by the Internal Auditor be complied with.
07	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE ORDER RECEIVED FROM THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT REGARDING REFUND OF TDS.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that a refund application was filed in Income Tax Return filed by the Council for the Assessment Year: 2015-16 but the same was not granted due to late filing of Form-10B due to some technical issues {i.e. for accumulations of Rs.4,68,69,012/- in 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 2,19,78,300/-. 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. A sum of Rs.2,06,07,703/- has been credited to Savings Bank Account of the Council on 14.12.2024. The Hon'ble Members appreciated the efforts made in the matter.

08	TO CONSIDER SEVERAL LETTERS/NOTICES FROM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF GST INTELLIGENCE (DGGI), MEERUT ZONAL UNIT (MEZU) MEERUT-250001, SEEKING DOCUMENTS/INFORMATION FOR INVESTIGATION REGARDING PAYMENT OF GST BY COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE ON FEES/ INCOME RECEIVED BY THE COA
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the office of the Council has received several letters/notices from the Deputy Director, Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Meerut Zonal Unit (MeZU) Meerut-250001, seeking documents / information for investigation regarding payment of Goods and Service Tax (GST) by Council of Architecture on fees/ Income received by the COA during the period from 01.07.2017 to 31.03.2022. The Council supplied all the relevant documents to the said authority in the matter. Based on the documents submitted, a Show Cause Notice (SCN) Ref. No.06/2024-25 dated 08.05.2024 was issued by the Joint Director, Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Meerut Zonal Unit (MeZU) Meerut-250001 to the Council, asking the Council to supply all documentary evidence upon which COA has relied, to defend the demand of Rs.18,97,54,288/- and interest thereon raised by the GST Department on fees/ Income received by the COA during the period from 01.07.2017 to 31.03.2022. The copy of said SCN was forwarded by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Meerut Zonal to the Additional/ Joint Commissioner, CGST Commissionerate Delhi East, New Delhi for adjudication along-with the copies of the relied upon documents. The Additional Commissioner, East Delhi had started the adjudication in the matter by issuing another Show Cause Notice bearing no. ZD070824010632M dated 03.08.2024. It may be pertinent to mention that the Council had earlier approached Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT), Principal Bench, New Delhi against demand of Service Tax, Education Cess & HSEC besides interest and penalty u/s 75,76,77 & 78 of The Finance Act, 1994 on various fee received by the Council during the period from 01.07.2012 to 30.06.2017. The appeals were allowed by the CESTAT vide its order dated 19.07.2024. The Tribunal held that the Council is registered under Section 12 AA of the IT Act which provides that non-profit organizations are entitled for service tax exemption. The Council has submitted its detailed response to the GST Department, Delhi vide reply dated 03.08.2024. The matter is presently under adjudication with the GST Department. The Council after deliberations in the matter advised that the matter be taken up with the concerned authorities with the assistance of tax expert(s).
09	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE RE-CONSTITUTION OF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Central Government has re-constituted the Disciplinary Committee of the Council of Architecture by issuing notification dated 20.11.2024 for amendment in Council of Architecture Rules, 1973. The members of Disciplinary Committee are as under: 1. Ar. Naveen Kanithi – Elected by Council of Architecture from amongst its members. 2. Ar. Pushkar Murlidhar Kanwinde– Representing All India Council for Technical Education. 3. Ar. Ajay Keshav, Chief Architect, Central Public Works Department – Representing Ministries of Central Government. It was also informed that the Committee has unanimously elected Ar. Naveen Kanithi as Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee. The President, Vice-President and Hon'ble Members congratulated the Chairman and Members of the Disciplinary Committee.
10	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. : 580 Resolved that : 1. CA/DC/586 – With regard to complaint filed by Mr. Mohd. Safi Shaikh against Ar. Dharmesh Vallabhabhai Bhalani, the Council that the Complaint of the Complainant is that he purchased a flat no.303 from Shahpur Infrastructure Development Company Ltd. On 01.01.2015. The Respondent Architect submitted progress reports of works completed at site during the construction for availing financial assistance from the Bank. The final report was submitted by the Respondent on 03.06.2014, stating that all the work has been completed under his supervision of the buildings as per approved plan. However, after a gap of 6-7 years building/ flat developed cracks/ structural issues. The Respondent is responsible for the same. The Respondent Architect in his defence submitted that the Complaint is false frivolous, vexatious. The Complaint suffers from suppression/

	concealment of material facts and circumstances. The Complainant has falsely mentioned that the housing loan has been disbursed by the banks and financial institutions based on the documents provided by the builder and the Architect. The commencement certificate and development permission for the aforesaid building project was obtained by the builders and developers of the building project on 03.02.2012. The Developers of the aforesaid building project constructed and completed the said building project as per the plans duly approved and obtained the completion certificate from gram panchayat on 30.06.20214. No documents shown the requirement of architect's certificate for disbursement of any loan amount. The Complainant has made several complaints about construction defect but his society has not made any complaint against developer/ builder. The Respondent as Architect performed all duties as rules and Regulations and ensured that work completed as per approved plans. The Council after deliberations in the matter and opined that the Complaint is made against the Respondent Architect about the cracks and structural issues in the building after lapse of 6-7 years. The Respondent Architect cannot be held liable for the same. No document shown by the complainant suggesting such liability on account. 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 procedures.
	2. CA/DC/588 – With regard to complaint made by Mr. Sunil Babanrao Padwal against Ar. Atit Admulwar, the Council noted that the Complaint against the Respondent Architect is that the Respondent Architects was appointed for comprehensive Architecture services for the project from designing, necessary plan sanction, revisions, etc. to till obtaining Completion Certificate. The sanctioned proposal consisted of total plot layout showing area under widening, internal approach road, amenity space, open space with club house, residential complex, building plans of Building A with parking +10 stories, B with parking +12 stories, plan of building amenity space and a club house in open space. However, the building proposed and sanctioned on Amenity space, does not seem to be complying with building bye-laws, as staircase does not have light and ventilation, no toilets shown in building, no firefighting provisions have been made in floor plans. The area limits of PMC were increased on 04.10.2017 and the same day Completion certificate was obtained from PMC.

	The sanctioned plan or commencement certificate number and date mentioned on the completion certificate is of the first sanctioned order dated 12/12/2014. The actual building on the amenity space was under construction and not complete. The outward number of completion certificate is same as that of Revision sanction certificate by PMRDA dated 28.10.2016. The lifts installed are less than those are in sanctioned plan and final completion certificate is not processed. The Respondent Architect in his defence submitted that as per the instructions of his client Mr. Umesh Vithal Harpale partner of Venkateshwara properties, Phursungi, Pune, he obtained NA order from Additional District collector Pune under No. PMH/NA/SR/168/2013 dated 12.12.2014. Further, he prepared the plan put the file for completion Certificate. Once the Authorized person of the concerned sanctioned authority visits and inspects the construction, the authority shall issue a completion Certificate. As the height of building on Amenity space is not above 15 Mtrs and also the floor plate of the building is less than 500 sq. mtrs hence, the firefighting provision was not applicable. The PMC didn't take any objection and /or demanded the same. Their dispute is with the Developer and unnecessarily dragged the Respondent in the matter by filing a false complaint against him. The Council after deliberations in the matter opined that there is prima facie case against the Respondent Architect as allegations are about proposed and sanctioned Amenity space not complying with building bye-laws, as staircase does not have light and ventilation, no toilets shown in building, no firefighting provisions made in floor plans. Thus, the matter requires detailed investigation. The Council, therefore, referred the matter to Disciplinary Committee for detailed investigations as per the Council of Architecture Rules, 1973 on the allegations made by the Complainant. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 3. CA/DC/589 – With regard to complaint filed by Ar. Rajiv Kumar Dwivedi against Ar. Mohit Gupta, the Council noted that the complaint is that the Bank of India, Hardoi Zone invited tenders from Architects for Architectural services for Fatehgarh Branch Farkkhabad. Detailed scope of work was described in the tender document and Ar. Mohit Gupta from his firm M/S Mohit & Associates has quoted his rates at 0.50% of completed work. Respondent Architect has violated Regulations 2(1)(i), (iv), (x), (xi), (xii) and (xiv) of Architects (Professional conduct) Regulations 1989. The Respondent Architect in his defence submitted that he is a panel Architect in Bank of India since 13.06.2023. The Respondent mentioned had quoted @0.50 % in the tender invited by Bank of
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	India, in question, the other quotation of Bharat & Associates also quoted @ 0.64% in the same tender. The complainant Ar. Rajiv Kumar Dwivedi has some personal problem with respondent hence he made this complaint with ulterior motive to harass the respondent. The numerous registered Architects are submitting quotation at lowest rates below 1% of the work. The Respondent has not committed any wrong in submitting the quotation in question and the respondent has not damaged any public image of architects at large. The Council after deliberations in the matter opined that there is prima facie case against the Respondent Architect as allegations are that he quoted fees much below the fees prescribed by the Council for various types of projects just to grab the project. The Council, therefore, referred the matter to Disciplinary Committee for detailed investigations as per the Council of Architecture Rules, 1973 on the allegations made by the Complainant. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 4. CA/DC/590 – With regard to complaint filed by Mr. S. Raja against Ar. K. Jamal Mohideen, the Council noted that the complaint against the Respondent Architect is that he committed irregularities and deviated from Sanctioned Plans. The project originally certified under CMDA planning permit no. 11193 on 05.02.2018, was to include a foundation, two basement floors, one ground floor, and five upper floors. Construction began based on this plan. According to the project-quarterly progress report dated 31.12.2019 prepared by the Respondent Architect and submitted by the promoter the foundation, Basement -2, and basement-1 of the building were fully constructed in compliance with CMDA planning permit No. 11193 dated 05.02.2018. In 2021 the promoter obtained the revised sanctioned CMDA planning permit no. 13254 dated 04.02.2021, which implausibly included an additional Basement-3 resulting in a structure comprising a foundation, Basement-3, Basement-2, Basement-1, a ground floor, and fifteen upper floors. The inclusion of Basement-3 was structurally and practically impossible given the pre-existing construction. Consequently, the details regarding Basement-3 were deliberately omitted from all project-quarterly progress report by the Respondent Architect. As per CMDA PP No. 11193, the project's building foundation is designed to support only eight floors. However, the promoter has erected a massive structure more than twice the planned height on this foundation, compromising structural integrity of the building and endangering the lives if stake holders, staffs and over 1,50,000 daily walk-in customers. The Respondent Architect has not rectified his
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	Professional misconduct despite the issuance of a legal notice by the complainant. The Respondent Architect in his defence submitted that he is in practice as an Architect for the last 40 years and gained immense reputation and goodwill in the field of Architecture. M/s. SPR Constructions Private limited is one of clients in the aforesaid company and they are involved in the Development of an integrated Township in the name and style of SPR city, comprised of residential, a commercial market called Market of India (Project) and villa etc. He rendered Professional service to SPR that by itself does not create any relationship under the law between the complainant and him. Therefore, the Complainant does not have any locus to speak about his Professional work and to file the present complaint before the Hon'ble Council. The complainant has made false and misleading accusations about him without knowing the arrangement or agreement between the company and SPR. The Quarterly progress Report dated 31.12.2019 was not prepared and signed by him, it was an internal document of SPR, prepared and uploaded by them on RERA. Without knowing the facts, the complainant had filed the present complaint only to harass him. There is no deviation by SPR in the present real estate project from the sanctioned plan as granted by the competent authority. The Complainant himself admitted that in 2018 plan, there were 2 basements, 1 ground floor and 5 upper floors, subsequently in the 2021 plan 3 basements, 1 ground floor, and 15 upper floors. The SPR has added additional floors only after adding the necessary extra basements to make the project structurally viable. The Council after deliberations in the matter and opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect as Quarterly progress Report dated 31.12.2019 was not prepared and signed by him and additional floors have been added by the Developer after taking necessary precautions. The Council, therefore, dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 5. CA/DC/591 - With regard to the complaint filed by Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mahapatra against Ar. Acharya Suvalaxmi Pattajoshi, the Council noted that the complaint against the Respondent Architect is that the Complainant approached the Respondent for design of residential building. They discussed G+3 storied building for fees Rs.30,000/- to be paid in three phases i.e. Rs.10,000/- for document uploading for scrutiny, Rs.15,000/- after approval of drawings and Rs.5,000/- final fees. The Respondent Architect without informing Complainant uploaded G+2 drawing with false signature of mother of complainant. On
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	enquiry architect was replying very rudely. The complainant wanted his money back from the Respondent Architect but she refused. The Respondent Architect in her defence submitted that after taking instruction & requirement of complainant, preliminary discussion made for G+3 floor over plot size 223.0 sqm abutted by 30'0" wide road. As plot is less than 500 sqm the building shall be LR type with maximum height 10m & FAR2. For G+3 building height will be more than 10m. so we advised for S+3 floor/G+2. The planning was done as per requirement and confirmation for each floor built up area 173.75 sqm from the complainant without any deviation. While designing for S+3 design it was found that FAR exceeded the limit. As client was insisting for getting drawings approved at the earliest, the Respondent's staff uploaded the drawing of S+2 to get scrutiny fees challan. The Complainant was explained before submitting the drawing that the drawing can be changed and uploaded as many times as long as the security fees is not deposited. In some documents signature of owner was required and as owner was not coming to Respondent's office but insisting for uploaded the drawing for approval scanned signature of his mother/owner were put for uploading drawing for scrutiny. The Respondent refused to pay Rs.10,000/- because it was her fees for the time and energy invested in the design. The Council after deliberations in the matter opined that there is prima facie case against the Respondent Architect as allegations are that she was supposed to submit drawings/ plans for statutory approval with G+ 3 story. She used scanned signatures of owner for uploading drawings for scrutiny. The Council, therefore, referred the matter to Disciplinary Committee for detailed investigations as per the Council of Architecture Rules, 1973 on the allegations made by the Complainant. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 6. CA/DC/592 - With regard to the complaint filed by Mr. Abdul Azeez Shaikh against Ar. Suyog G Padwal, the Council noted that the parties have settled the disputes among themselves. The Council therefore, the dismissed the Complaint as withdrawn. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 7. CA/DC/593 - With regard to the complaint filed by Ar. Rajiv Kumar Dwivedi against Ar. Rahul Choudhary, the Council noted that as per the Complaint Punjab National Bank, Etawah Circle invited tenders from Architects for Architectural services for interior work of KSGA Branch, Shikohabad & Mohallaganj branch Firozabad.
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	Detailed scope of Work was described in the tender document and the Respondent Architect from his firm M/s Vastu Vikalp has quoted his rates at 0.72% fees of KSGA Shikohabad & 0.99% fees of Mohallaganj branch Firozabad of completed work. These both branches site is more than 350Kms away from his office at Meerut and this fee includes five mandatory visits including all expanses. The Respondent Architect has violated Regulations 2(1) (i), (iv), (x), (xi), (xii) and (xiv) of the Architects (Professional Conduct) Regulations 1989. The Respondent in his defence denied all the allegations made by the complainant and highlighted the following in his favor. He stated that the NIT document of PNB technical bid para 15 talk about non acceptance of lowest bid(L1) and reserves the right to reject L1 without assigning any reason. Acceptance or rejection of lowest bids falls in the jurisdiction of PNB. The Respondent also worked for other banks on varied fees based on the consideration of place and the works. The reduced fees for works of Shikohabad and Mohallaganj was quoted as it would be supervised by the person in his local network. Keeping in view work and size of the branch the Respondent would visit 2 to 3 times on site. All the facts narrated in the complainant are not established at all. The Council after deliberations in the matter opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect as the Tender was for providing consultancy services for furnishing electrical work at BO: KSGA Shikohabad (Rs.4,17,000) and Mohallaganj Branch Firozabad for approximate cost of Rs.9,50,000/- each. As per Conditions of Engagement and Scale of Charges of Council the fees for the project costing upto Rs.15,00,000/- (15 Lakhs) is negotiable between the Architect and the Client. Thus, no violation of the COA Regulations is made out. The Council, therefore, dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 8. CA/DC/594- With regard to the complaint filed by Mr. Sudip Pandey against Ar. Vijay Pathak the Council noted that the as per the Complaint, the complainant bought 2 flats from Today Global Developers who lied about the site of the project in Kharghar having pin code of the project site as 410210. The brochure, website, Bill Boards displayed on project site and various places in Navi Mumbai as part Khargar and Upper Khargar. But the project site was actually in Taloja having actual pin code as 410208. The respondent architect always used wrong pin code 410210 of Kharghar in every certificate issued by him which is uploaded on Maha Rera's official website. The Respondent is an accomplice in this fraudulent activity and due to this, the developers
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	have cheated the Complainant and sold the property/flats in Taloja by saying that the project is in Kharghar at premium price. The Respondent in his defence stated that before the purchase of the subject project/flat the complainant visited the project and vicinity of the project/site location. The Complainant was well versed the project and its location. The Respondent relied on the information uploaded on MahaRERA for preparing the documents. The Architect certificate provided in the complaint is not related to the project for which the complaint is made. The Developers appointed the Architect for design, plan, supervision, ensuring a balance of vision and practicality, creating drawings and estimating costs, collaborating with contractors and adhere to relevant regulations. Respondent was not authorised to sell flats. The Council after deliberations in the matter opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect has not violated any of the Regulations prescribed by the Council. The Council, therefore, dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 8. CA/DC/595 - With regard to the complaint filed by Mr. Uday Tukaram Kondvilkar against Ar. Sameer V Kulkarni, the Council noted that as per the Complaint. The Slum Rehabilitation Authority has issued notice to the Developer (Gauri Developers) to stop the ongoing construction of unauthorised floors via notice no. SRA/ENG/DESK/RS/2024/40646. The SRA vide letter dated 20.06.2024 had asked for clarification from the developer. The Respondent Architect and Developer have replied via letter dated 27.06.2024 that they are ready to pay applicable penalty to SRA post which the clarification sought was called as not satisfactory. The Respondent's willingness to pay penalty for the unauthorised construction work proves his encouragement to do unauthorised floor work at Sale building no. 3 i.e Gauri Excellency A and B at plot number 470(pt) and 471 Babrekar Nagar, Kandivali West Mumbai - 400067. The Respondent in his Defence stated that the Complainant is not the client of the Respondent. The Complainant does not have any rights in the said society/slum scheme and the Developer of the said society/slum scheme. The Developer do not have any such complaints or Grievances against the Respondent. The Complaint seems to be made out of personal Grudge. The Complainant has filed this complaint with an intention to blackmail the Respondent and/or the Developer for his personal gains. The Respondent was appointed as Liaisoning Architect for the
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	redevelopment of a slum scheme of one Parishram SRA CHS Ltd. (Society) and was acting as consultant to guide the Developers and obtain various permissions and approvals that may be required. The Respondent has not breeched and /or violated any code of conduct nor committed any professional misconduct nor done any act, deed, things or matter causing negligence in the services being offered by the Respondent. The complaint is baseless, void and without any demur. The Council after deliberations in the matter opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect as he was acting only as a liaison architect and additional floors were constructed by developer and architect has no role in such construction work. The Respondent Architect is merely assisting the Developer in getting statutory approvals. The Council, therefore, dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures.
	9. CA/DC/596 - With regard to the complaint filed by Mr. Shankar Damji Gaikwad against Ar. Mahesh Ramesh Jagtap the Council noted that as per the Complaint when the Complainant visited the site and got the documents under RTI from all Government Departments the complainant found that there are serious lapses in getting CC of Neelam CHSL re-development project. The Complainant brought to Notice of all concerned authorities to rectify before and after Plinth but is complaint was ignored and work kept continued. The Respondent have not received his complaint letters to rectify CC via postdated 29-05-2024 & 01-06-2024 AND also not accepted personal hand delivery on 03-06-2024 & 04-06-2024 which is unprofessional act when he has been engaged by our society dated 23-03-2021 and 30-12-20221 (Development agreement is on 21-06-2022). The Respondent Architect has not checked, while applying On line to Ambernath Nagar parishad, authenticity of appointment letter by Om Sai Infra who do not hold 7/12 or PR card or any Resolution to authorize to appoint Architect on 23-03-2021 or any development agreement (Development agreement is dated 21-06-2022 and make survey of Land of Neelam CHSL on 22-03-2021 with unauthorized appointment by developer on 23-03-2021& No survey of Krinamilan CHSL or Joint survey. No single affidavit is submitted by Neelam society as applicant with Resolution or affidavit by Architect stating that information is correct and with permission of Asst Registrar Co Op dept and Payment to Type -2 to type-1 conversion is not paid from Society contribution is not checked by architect for 142 sq. mtr Commercial Area which Architect Plan for 3 Floor commercial area ignoring collector payment for 142 sq. mtr land and also not made plan for additional 15 % FSI area and 35% share area in Plan and area kept plan hidden from

	member society and also not taken Plinth certificate with Road Survey as per Record and made 2 shops extra and 2 floor for commercial against our resolution which is ignored by architect & benefited developer and Loss to member. The Respondent Architect obtained CC based on misleading documents and without checking or verification of documents for benefitting the developer illegally. The Respondent Architect in his defence submitted that he was engaged as an Architect by the Developer M/s Om Sai Infra who has executed the memorandum of understanding followed by the Registered Redevelopment Agreement and Registered Power of attorney executed between all the members of the Neelam Society. After Execution of Memorandum and agreement the Developer shall have authority to appoint their own Architects, RCC consultants, Civil Contractors and other contracts necessary for the construction work of New Building. As per resolution passed in the special general body meeting of the Society the society members unanimously decided to cancel Membership of Smt. Shalini Shankar Gaikwad due to their inappropriate behavior and malicious intent to torture all the members. As per the Guidelines of Unified control and promotion Regulations for Maharashtra State (UDCPR), the Developer need not take any NOC from society member. As per clause no.22 of redevelopment agreement executed with Neelam CHS Ltd. Wherein Complainant is one of the executors, it is mentioned that Developer shall have right to amalgamate the property with its adjacent property/ plot and construct new building in full amalgamated are and no one from the society members shall object. All society members except the Complainant are satisfied and have no complaint. The Council after deliberations in the matter opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect as has not violated any of the Regulations prescribed by the Council. The Complainant may have dispute Developer but architect cannot be dragged into the same. The Council, therefore, dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 10. CA/DC/597 - With regard to the complaint filed by Ms. Veena Gupta against Ar. Manpreet Kaur Viridi the Council noted that the complainant is President of M/s Vijay CGHS Ltd., Dwarka, New Delhi which is a Group Housing Society and Occupied by the members/residents. The Complaint alleges that the Respondent Architect was illegally appointed along with some other professionals/ firms by eight
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	residents of society to show part of the old illegal structures of their respective flats as newly constructed and then get them regularized. The Respondent Architect prepared and filed fake and illegal reports, documents, certifications etc. and succeeded to obtain the regularization of those flats which was barred under law. There has been a complete misuse and abuse of her profession of Architect and she has brought down the name and fame of the prestigious regulatory body. The issue is very serious involving risk of life and property of society residents due to mal practices, illegal practices and unethical conduct, legal notice to MCD has been issued by society and also complaint with police for registration of FIR, seizure of records and arrest of the conspirators already filed. Further, MCD Anti-Corruption cell, Vigilance and other authorities have also been approached. There is a complete open, willful and intentional violation and abuse of Architects (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 1989 on part of Respondent architect. The Respondent Architect in her Defence submitted that all the allegations as completely vague and baseless. She was legally appointed as an Architect by the then managing Committee to administer the minor alterations on 09th and 10th floor of the building/tower while analyzing the structural stability of the building and to further obtain permissions and licenses from the competent authorities along with the managing committee of the society. The present managing committee of Vijay CGHS Ltd. in vendetta with their opposition party, the then managing committee with malafide intention is trying to sabotage the Respondent's career by filing present frivolous complaints and petitions before the present commission and different tribunals. The Annual General Body meeting wherein the issue of Regularization of the FAR of the two floors (9th and 10th) were considered and passed was held on 14.03.2021 and in the AGBM it was additionally discussed that the construction on the 9th floor and the 10th floor will be taken up in phase-1 and subsequent construction and addition for all the other flats will be taken afterwards in the 2nd phase. The present contesting managing committee accusing of illegal work practice did not object in the above AGBM and never challenged the present AGBM minutes of meeting before the managing committee or any appropriate tribunal. It is only after becoming office bearers of the society and to fulfil their agenda of working against then managing committee; the members challenged the said AGBM and legality of the construction on the 9th and 10th floor of the building after 3 years of the present a GBM meeting and consequently filling the present complaint against the respondent.
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	The 9th and 10th floor were constructed after getting completion certificate from DDA and NOC from DUAC. The additional construction was regularized from MCD. The Council after deliberations in the matter opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect as Respondent Architect has not violated any of the Regulations prescribed by the Council. The Complainant may have dispute with the previous Society Members/ Officer Bears about additional construction which is approved by all bodies but Respondent Architect cannot be dragged into the same. The Council, therefore, dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 11.CA/DC/598- With regard to the complaint filed by filed by Mr. Prabhu Ramdas Kosale against Ar. Pallavi Tukaram Malpure, the Council noted that complainant stated that the Government of Maharashtra had issued orders of redevelopment of the building belonging to co-operative housing societies and Government building resolution No. SA. Gru. Yo-2018/Pra.Kra. 85/14-sa dated 04th July 2019. As per the resolution the Secretary Managing Committee has called special General meeting to take a Preliminary Decision of regarding redevelopment of the building and passed a resolution by the majority of members. The Complainant further stated that the managing Committee of the society were not aware of the above Government resolution, hence before convening such meeting, they have not invited the quotations from minimum 3 Architects registered with Council of Architecture. The Developer appointed the respondent Architect and she has presented a combined building plans to Municipal Corporation. The building plans of redevelopment project have been sanctioned by the competent authority. No records available providing that the Architect entered into agreement with Developer defining here scope of work responsibilities, functions, fees and mode of payment. This is the violation of Regulation 2 (1) (xxiv) of Architects (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 1989. The Respondent in her defence stated that the present complaint is devoid of any merits as the contentions raised therein and allegations made therein are solely against the managing Committee of the Society and not against the Respondent. Shree Shubhanand Cooperative Housing Society Ltd. Possess of non-agricultural land in village Ambarnath. The Society executed registered power of attorney in favour of M/s. Marathe Enterprises. M/s Marathe Enterprises appointed the Respondent Architect to prepare the proposed buildings plans and applying for grant of building permissions.
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	Ambernath Municipal Council vide letter dated 15.06.21 sanctioned building plans of New Building and granted commencement certificate. The complaint is filed with sole malafide intention to exert pressure upon her to knock out premium from her. The complainant is guilty of misrepresentation as the contentions made in the complainant are clearly indicative of default on the part of Complainant himself and concerned society. The Respondent has no privity of contract with the Complainant or the society. Therefore, the present complaint deserves to be dismissed. The Council after deliberations in the matter opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect as Complainant failed to establish the case of professional misconduct against Respondent Architect. The Respondent Architect was appointed by M/s Marathe Enterprises and she had carried out her professional responsibilities as assigned to her. The Council, therefore, dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 12.CA/DC/600- With regard to the complaint filed by Mr. Mohan Bal Mirgal against Ar. Samir Dinkar Gokhale the Council noted that the Complainant is a Cooperative Society bank. The Complainant decided to construct the building of its Head office along with Branch Office. After following due procedure, the Respondent was appointed vide letter dated 11.02.2022 for providing comprehensive architectural services. The Respondent shortlisted 3 contractors for construction but stated that all three are not satisfactory. Not satisfied with the appointment procedure of contractors, the Complainant bank informed the Respondent vide letter dated 21.10.22 that it is cancelling his appointment for the project. The Society obtained NOC from the Respondent Architect and appointed another architect. When actual construction started it was revealed that new building cannot be constructed as approved plan got sanctioned in the name of Respondent. The Complainant had to submit new plans and estimates through new architect and had to incur huge cost of obtaining re-approval of the new plans and estimates. The Respondent deceived the Complainant by getting false plans and estimates approved and it became impossible to construct the proposed building physically. The Complaint also alleges deficiency of service. The Respondent in his Statement of Defence submitted that all the allegations, made in the complaint are totally false incorrect and baseless. He designed the building according to the requirements & CTS Map given by the bank and as per the instructions of the complainant. The Respondent revised the plans twice at the instance of complainant. As per instructions and changed informed by the Complainant third and final plan was submitted to them. The same
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	was approved and communicated vide letter dated 22.03.2022 and as directed the same was submitted for sanction of Chiplun Municipal Corporation. After getting building permission from the Municipal Council the Respondent has started the tender process. On 29.04.2022 the Respondent presented the Complainant building plans and estimates for their information. After accepting the pre-qualification report on 23.08.22 the bank again wrote for comparative report of tender norms and compliance and several other communications were exchanged and finally on 21.10.2022. The bank terminated the appointment of Respondent. Till issuing of NOC, the Complainant had no grievance and after laps of 7 and half months raised grievance about the drawings of Respondent. After appointment of new Architect and sanction of revised buildings plans, all changes, modifications, additions/ alterations, have to be done by new Architect and not Respondent. All the liabilities of building and construction process will be of the new Architect, new Structural Designer only. The Council after deliberations in the matter opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect as the Complainant as well as the Respondent have issued NOCs to each other and no further duty/ liability have been attached on the Respondent Architect. The Council, therefore, dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures.
	13. CA/DC/602- With regard to the complaint filed by Mr. Vipin Kumar K.P. against Ar. Sebastian Jose and Ar. Ajay Thomas the Council noted that as per the Complaint on 20.01.2024 an agent representing M/s. Silpi Architects attempted to submit a building plan application to the Kochi Corporation office on behalf of the Lions Club of Cochin East for the reconstruction of the building. Mr. Jolly Mathew, Project Management consultant was the past President of the lion's club of Cochin East (Term July 2022 to June 2023). Mr. Jolly Mathew fraudulently signed the application on 20.01.2024 and then attempted to submit to the Kochi corporation by Silpi Architects. The building application identifies the land as wetland which prohibit any construction as per Municipal Regulations. Despite this knowledge, the architectural firm mislead the client by preparing and submitting a plan for a site that would never receive approval for construction, thus wasting valuable resources. The Application form was incomplete and name of owner mentioned in the plan was incorrect. The person who signed the application Mr. Jolly Mathew was both a club member and employee of the Silpi

	Architects Pvt. Ltd. Even after repeated communications Mr. Sebastian Jose has not responded to the Club raising suspicion of conspiracy involving firm's actions. Thus, Respondent Architect committed professional misconduct. The Respondent Architect in his defence submitted that that neither Respondent nor his firm nor any employee on behalf of the firm nor on behalf of the respondent has received or demanded any consideration for the draft plan prepared by the firm. A draft plan was prepared on the basis of a request from the then President of Lions Club, Mr. Jolly Mathew, but the same was not handed over to the club. The 1st Respondent being a member of the club and former officer bearer has agreed to draw the plan as a free service and did not receive or demand any remuneration for the same. Therefore, the drawing made by the respondent firm cannot be considered as service within the ambit of Professional duties and thus cannot incur any Professional liability as well. At the time of receiving the request the respondent was under the bonafide belief that the property was not a wetland. Tax receipts shown by the club office bearers prior to the request to draw plan, described the land in question as dry land where construction was permissible. The drawing that is attached with the complaint is a draft drawing which was never finalized as the work was not handed over since the club didn't express further interest in going forward with the plan. The complaint is not maintainable and that the allegations contained in it are totally false and malicious. The Council after deliberations in the matter opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architects as the Respondent Architects had prepared only a draft plan and did not charge any fees from the Club. No contrary proofs were attached with the Complaint. The Respondents denied submitting the draft plan for approval of local bodies. Thus, no violation of the Architects Professional Conduct Regulations is made out. The Council, therefore, dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 14. CA/DC/603- With regard to the complaint filed by Mr. Nitish Agarwal against Ar. Suvarna Agrawal, the Council noted that the Complainant is the Director of Limited liability Partnership firm i.e. M/s. Shiv Ganga Plumbing Works LLP. The Respondent is the other partner at the same firm. The Complaint alleges that the Respondent being one of the Director at firm and had rights to online Banking with OTP facility to her number and the registered email address misused this online service and allegedly Transferred an amount of Rs. 15,12,382 in
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	four different accounts via online transfer to her relatives/fathers account, during the time period of December 2021 to February 2024. The respondent bought shares worth Rs.60,00,000/- from Zerodha the respondent also with the help of her Relatives/ Father in Varanasi, issued False GST Bills of Lacs, without generating any E-way Bills and also no E-invoicing has been done. The Respondent not only transferred money from firms account and also sold shares but also stole/ siphoned off cash Rs.14,60,000/- from the firm's office safe on the 07/02.2024 at around 05:30 in the evening. The Respondent, also mislead many Junior Architects and Designers working in the firm as employees and has siphoned of money in their name as cash advances to the Employees. The respondent also misleads firms, advertising agency which took part in Digital advertising on Facebook and Instagram and did photoshoots for their completed projects by not paying them whereas the cash vouchers of the same had been sign by the Respondent assuring that the payments have been duly done. The same issue has been filed in the Court under Section 156/3 CRPC, of which the Court ordered police station to Register an FIR against the Respondent and Relatives/Father who were part of this scam. The Respondent committed Professional Misconduct by Transferring/ siphoning off firms' money and stealing of cash and disbursing cash to Relatives/Father, family members from the firm's cash ledger. The Respondent Architect in her statement of Defence denied all the charges leveled against her. She submitted that the claims made by the Complainant are strategically fabricated to endanger the Respondent's personal and Professional future. The online services were not misused, and the amount was transferred on grounds of purchase of building materials with GST paid bills. The Complainant had created false bills and submitted and filed a false FIR. The material purchased from Agrawal Aluminums and Décor India have been paid through online transfers. An amount of Rs 300000 was transferred to Décor India on 7th Feb 2024 as part of advance for materials but as the order was cancelled due to matrimonial discord and the same amount was reversed by Décor India on 25th April 2024 and it was then Nitish Agarwal transferred the amount of Rs.3,00,000/- and any excess balance amount of Rs.3,05,000/- to A/C no. xx4731, which is his personal saving account on 25th April 2024 through mobile transfer. The Complainant made false claim over shares bought by the LLP whereas the shares were purchased by the respondent from her saving bank accounts in HDFC bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank & Axis
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	bank personal savings account on her pan no. BWTPA8177J through Zerodha DEMAT account. The original bills along with E-waybill copies shows all the material bought from Agrawal Aluminums has been shipped to 7/160, Swaroop Nagar, Kanpur and shipping address shown in Décor India Bills in Varanasi was that of respondent house as the petitioner being son in law got the material dispatched locally and arranged for the transfer of material on his own. The GST was paid by both the parties as seen in their GSTR-I Document and reflected in GSTR -2 A of shiv ganga plumbing works. The respondent had filed an FIR before the mentioned CCTV photos were taken and only show respondent and her family when in reality the respondent and her family were accompanied by 3 police officers from Swaroop Nagar police station. Cases filed in civil court of Varanasi pertaining Domestic Violence and sec 406 and IT Acts, sec 125. From November 2021 to Feb 2024 the firm hired 2 junior architects, 3 interior Design Interns and 1 civil engineering intern. All salaries were paid through online banking. One ex-junior architect of the firm gave a statement in support of no misconduct. No marketing agency was hired to handle Digital marketing of the firm. The vouchers in question were forged by the petitioner himself to pressurize the respondent to make false payments. FIRs have been filed against the Complainant. The Council after deliberations in the matter observed that that this matter is not related to professional conduct of the Respondent Architect but carrying out the business of the LLP. All the issue raised in the complaint are related to financial transactions of the LLP and hence do not fall under the purview of the Council. The Council, therefore, opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect and accordingly dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 15. CA/DC/604 - With regard to the complaint filed by Mr. Chandrashekhar M. Waghmare against Ar. Paritosh Prakash Raut the Council noted that the complainant wanted to construct residence on his portion of land. The Complainant and the Respondent had entered into an agreement for construction and development of residence on 04.03.2024, whereby both the parties agreed on the terms of work and payment schedule. As per the agreement the Respondent agreed to carry out the construction work in accordance with the sanctioned map. But the Respondent has done the construction work as per his whims and caprices which was contrary to the agreement. When the
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	complainant visited the site, he observed that the respondent has laid down the beams and columns of the said construction works. When the Complainant appointed another Architect for inspection then the Respondent accepted the mistake done by him in the construction work and gave affirmation to compensate for the losses incurred by the complainant. The Complainant carried out the inspection from Er. Sumit K Jaldya, Government approved Surveyor and he observed the following defects in the construction works done by the Respondent: (i) Plinth beam level is not same there is difference of beam level on the west side level is 100.806 & East side level 100.202=604 mm. This is level different on existing site. (ii) Centre line of column is not same on site there is centre line difference from one column to another column & also difference in plinth alignment. (iii) Lap joint provided in this construction is not safe there is only 200 mm length of a Lap joint provided on site that not safe as per IS code. (iv) There is difference in plinth beam level because of that UDL (uniform distributed load) load does not happen not transferring load of column to foundation that causes of structure failure. The complainant submitted that the respondent is responsible for providing utterly deficient services to the complainant and the acts of the Respondent is squarely covered within the scope of the definition of the word "Deficiency" The Respondent Architect in his defence stated that the matter is under the consumer Court. The building plan was not sanctioned by him. On the request and as per complainant's requirements the schematic plans were developed for construction. The Respondent was not even paid for any Architectural professional fees. The contract was for full Civil construction, hence being a contractor there is no role of any Architect defined. The schematic estimate was made by him for bank loan for the complainant. The estimate and work method could be changed while construction as it is also mentioned in contract. Respondent was not aware which building plans complainant has submitted to bank. The work on site was being observed by complainant's wife and she was reporting to her husband, hence the complainant was totally aware of methodology going on at site. The work on site was stopped at incomplete stage. The Respondent were not even allowed to reach the plinth level. The Council after deliberations in the matter observed that Complainant's concerns are about the quality of construction carried out by the Respondent Architect and not for Architectural Services
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	provided by him. The Council further noted that the matter is also sub-judice under the Consumer Forum. No case for violation of Architects (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 1989 is made out. The Council, therefore, opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect and accordingly dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 16. CA/DC/605- With regard to the complaint filed by Mrs. S. Swathi against Ar. K. Jamal Mohideen, the Council noted that as per Complaint under CMDA PP No. 11193 the Respondent Architect prepared and signed an approved plan on 05.02.2018. Construction commenced under his supervision, which included a foundation, two basements, one ground and five upper floors. As per Quarterly Progress reports dated 31.12.19 it is confirmed that construction had reached the ground floor level by the date. The promoter subsequently obtained approval for a revised plan, also prepared by the Respondent. The revised plan proposed an impractical addition of third basement increasing the structure to three basements, one ground floor, and fifteen upper floors. This modification which directly conflicted with the project Engineer's stability certificate, was endorsed by the Respondent, compromising the building's structural stability and safety. The building's foundation, approved under CMDA was originally designed to support a maximum of eight floors. However, the Respondent later endorsed a revised sanctioned plan authorizing 15 floors on an insufficient foundation. The respondent knowingly authorized construction in violation of engineering constraints acting irresponsibly and aligning with the promoter's interests for financial gain. The Respondent's approval of a 15-storey structure on a foundation rated for only eight floors reflects blatant professional misconduct. The decision shows a disregard for safety, influenced by financial interests, which jeopardizes the integrity of the profession and calls for stringent disciplinary action. The Respondent in his defence denied all the allegations in the complaint. He stated that he is practicing Architect for the last 40 years and gained immense reputation and goodwill in the field of Architecture. M/s. SPR Constructions Private limited is one of clients in the aforesaid company and they are involved in the Development of an integrated Township in the name and style of SPR city, comprised of residential, a commercial market called Market of India ("Project") and villa etc. The Respondent stated that he was not aware of the manner of allotment of the properties to all allottees by SPR. In such circumstances, he has no nexus or privity with the Complainant. He
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	is rendering Professional service to SPR that by itself does not create any relationship under the law between the complainant and Respondent. Therefore, the Complainant does not have any locus to speak about my Professional work and to file the present complaint before the Hon'ble Council. The complainant made false and misleading accusations about Respondent without knowing the arrangement or agreement between the parties. The alleged Quarterly progress Report dated 31.12.2019 was not prepared and signed by him, it's an internal document of SPR, prepared and uploaded by them on RERA. Without knowing the facts, the complainant had filed the present complaint only to harass him and his reputation. There is no deviation by SPR in the present real estate project from the sanctioned plan as granted by the competent authority. The allegations regarding safety and legality are nothing but the Complainant's presumption and assumption. The Complainant himself admitted that in 2018 plan, there were 2 basements, 1 ground floor and 5 upper floors, subsequently in the 2021 plan 3 basements, 1 ground floor, and 15 upper floors. The SPR has added additional floors only after adding the necessary extra basements to make the project structurally viable. The allegation regarding the structural stability of the project is fraudulently devised only for the purpose of the present complaint. The Complainant has booked a shop in the project. Without even considering the facts and relationship between SPR and the company, the complainant has resorted to filing this present complaint only with the malafide intention to harass him. The Council after deliberations in the matter and opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect as Quarterly progress Report dated 31.12.2019 was not prepared and signed by him and additional floors have been added by the Developer after taking necessary precautions. The Council, therefore, dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures. 17. CA/DC/607- With regard to the complaint filed by Mr. Michael Makasare against Ar. Mohd Bilal Shirazali Shakira Manekia, the Council noted that as per the Complaint, on 18th September 2024 the Respondent come to the Hotel Marine Plaza with other people namely one Sarfaraz Charania, Shabnam and other unidentified persons. The respondent architect forcefully tried to enter into the staff entrance, Banquet Hall and Restaurant Kitchen and upon being
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	questioned, the Respondent architect started abusing the hotel staff and insulting the Complainant in front of our esteemed guests. The Respondent Architect was also shouting loudly and scaring the guests nearby eating their meals. The Respondent Architect tried to push and damage some part of the premises of the Hotel which is apparent from the video. Under the grab of carrying out some purported inspection, the Respondent Architect who did not have any authority pushed Complainant shoved us and used criminal force on them thereby causing hurt to the complainant. Their staff at the reception being terrorized by these acts, the complainant tried to calm the Respondent architect down however respondent refused to do so. The Respondent Architect with others once again started threatening, shouting and demanding that they be granted access to the Hotel Kitchen at around 6.15 pm on 18.09.2024. Due to such acts the complainant was compelled to call to police after which the police ultimately at around 7:00PM came to the Hotel premises. The Complainant lodged a police complaint against the Respondent on 19.09.2024. The Respondent Architect in his defence denied all the allegations and stated that the complaint is false and frivolous and fabricated. The complainant has no locus standi to file the present complaint. The complaint refers to false instances during the inspection of Dar Ul Habib building owned and possessed by Habib Trusts and the inspection was carried out at their request only. He was engaged by Habib Group of Trusts on various instances to inspect and provide reports for their various properties. There are 8 residential buildings owned by Habib Trust in South Mumbai wherein it has about 395 Tenants. On several occasions the Respondent had undertaken surveys of these buildings. The Habib Group of Trust informed him for conducting the business of hotel, they had appointed a contractor whose term has expired. However, the said contractor has indulged into multiple illegal constructions and extensions. Therefore, he requested Habib trust representatives to accompany him at all times during his visit/ inspection. The inspection was Scheduled on 18th September, 2024 and he was accompanied at the said property, at all the times, by Mr. Sarfarz Charania, Trustee of Habib Group of Trusts and few trust employees. As soon as the Respondent moved towards the rear side of the compound where major illegal additions and constructions have been done, the complainant along with 4-5 bouncers physically heckled, assaulted and obstructed him. The trustee of Habib Group of Trusts Mr. Sarfaraz intervened and directed them that their actions are illegal and unlawful since even as per the conducting agreement dated 05.03.1992 wherein Habib trust appointed the conductor, Habib Trust has retained the physical and juridical possession of the entire property and also retained the
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	right to visit and access all portions of the said property including the Hotel. The Respondent further stated that the complainant and the bouncers suddenly and without any provocation slammed the door on his feet in order to assault him. The Door hit his foot severely and he was injured. Therefore, he immediately suspended the inspection and called upon the local police to take action against the complainant. The Respondent submits that the allegations made by the complainant are nothing but a fable with the stole intention and purpose of harassing and causing undue hardship to him. The Council after deliberations in the matter and opined that there is no prima facie case against the Respondent Architect as the Respondent was assigned the task of survey of properties by his client. As regards the allegations of physicals altercations between both the side the Council is not appropriate forum. Even otherwise both the parties claimed to have filed FIRs with local police. The Council, therefore, dismissed the Complaint. The decision of the Council be communicated to the concerned parties as per procedures.
11	TO CONSIDER THE REPORT/ RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO IT.
	The Council perused the report of the Disciplinary Committee in respect of complaints referred to the Committee for investigation as per Council of Architecture Rules, 1973. The Council after deliberations decided as under: 1. CA/DC/547 – With regard to complaint filed by Shri Lalit Sachdeva against Ar. Anupama Bajaj, the Council noted that that matter was referred to Disciplinary Committee for detailed investigation in its 80th Meeting held on 2nd September, 2023. This decision was informed to the parties on 16.11.2023. On 12.02.2024 the Council received an email from the Complainant that the issue between the Respondent Architect and Complainant has been resolved and he did not wish to pursue this complaint further. Accordingly, the Disciplinary Committee recommended that the Complaint be dismissed as withdrawn. The Council concurred with the report/recommendations of the Disciplinary Committee and ordered that the Complaint is dismissed as withdrawn. The decision of the Council be communicated to both the Complainant and Respondent Architect.

	The Council also decided to publish details of selected Disciplinary cases in a separate publication for the benefit of Architecture students and constituted a Committee of Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty, Ar. Binumul Tom, Ar. Manish Chakraborti and Ar. Namita Mohapatra for shortlisting the cases and to finalize the publication.
12	TO TAKE NOTE OF VACANCIES IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that Executive Committee of the Council consists of five elected members and President and Vice-President as ex-officio Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The term of all elected members of the Executive Committee has ended consequent to cessation of their membership of the Council. The Council has informed the vacancies to the Central Government and Ministry of Education, Govt. of India vide notifications dated 01.10.2024 and 30.10.2024 has notified five vacancies in the membership of the Executive Committee. In order to discharge the functions of the Executive Committee effectively, the Chairman, Executive Committee, had co-opted the following five members from the Council as a Member of the Executive Committee in terms of Regulation 20(5) of Council of Architecture Regulations 1982 until the next meeting of the Council or till the members of the Executive Committee are duly elected in terms of the Provisions of the Architects Act, 1972 and Rules framed there under, whichever is earlier, as under: 1. Ar. Kiran S. Mahajani 2. Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty 3. Ar. Harinder Arora 4. Ar. Milind Kollegal 5. Ar. Bapilu Chai In addition, two vacancies of membership under Section 3(3) of the Architects Act, 1972 have also occurred following cessation of membership of Ar. Radhika Nagpal and Ar. Milind Kollegal. Following cessation of membership, Ar. Milind Kollegal is no longer the Co-opted member of the Executive Committee. The Ministry of Education, Govt. of India vide notifications dated 01.10.2024 and 20.11.2024 has notified two vacancies for membership under Section 3(3) of the Architects Act, 1972 for remainder of the term. The Council after deliberations in the matter approved co-option of above members for the Executive Committee and desired that the Ministry be requested to conduct elections of the five members of the Executive Committee and also for two vacancies under the Heads of Architectural Institutions at the earliest.
13	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE PROGRESS MADE ON THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS FOR TWO VACANCIES OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER HEADS OF INSTITUTION AND ALSO FIVE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

	As required by the Ministry, the Council of Architecture provided a list of up-to-date Heads of Institutions vide letter dated 07.11.2024, following which Ministry has raised certain queries/clarifications which have been replied by the Council. The Ministry of Education vide notification dated 20.12.2024 has issued notice for election of heads of architectural institutions in India imparting full time instructions for recognised qualifications among themselves, against vacancies of members under Section 3(3) of the Architects Act, 1972 for remainder of the term, inviting any questions as to whether a person is eligible to vote/ stand for the election from the institutions. The Council vide its letter dated 14th January, 2025 has sought status of elections from the Ministry, response from the Ministry is awaited. The Hon'ble members noted the above information.
14	TO CONSIDER LEGAL OPINION OBTAINED BY THE COUNCIL UPON COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM FEW COUNCIL MEMBERS W.R.T. AMENDMENTS MADE IN COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE RULES 1973 REGARDING NOMINATION OF AN ARCHITECT UNDER SECTION 3(3)(F) OF THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972, IN COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER DATED 08.02.2023 OF THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA.
	The President informed the Members that the Council has received letters from some of its members about the notifications issued by the Central Government and advising to challenge the same before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The matter was placed before the Executive Committee of the Council, which considered the matter and after detailed deliberations decided to seek legal opinion on the matter. Accordingly, the Council requested Shri V.N. Raghupathy Advocate, Supreme Court vide Letter dated 18.10.2024 for his Legal opinion: 1) Whether the order dated 08.02.2023 of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has taken away the discretion vested in the State Govt. /UTs under Section 3(3)(f) of the Architects Act, 1972 for nomination of its nominee on Council? 2) Whether the amendments in the Council of Architecture Rules 1973 by the Ministry of Education, Government of India are in accordance with the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972? Do these amendments take away the discretion in the vested in the State Govts. /UTs under Section 3(3)(f) of the Architects Act, 1972 for nomination of its nominee on Council? 3) Whether the Council can file an appeal against the order dated 08.02.2023 of Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka before the Supreme Court of India based on the above facts and suggestion made by Council member(s)? 4) Whether the Council has any locus standi to challenge the amendments made by the Central Government in Council of Architecture Rules 1973? 5) Whether the Council can act on the suggestions of the Hon'ble Member and inform the Ministry of Education that Council will not execute the amendments made by it in the Council of Architecture Rules 1973?

	6) Any other views/opinion relevant in the context of the present facts and circumstances which you feel appropriate for Council to act in the matter. The President informed the Members that Advocate has advised that the Order of Karnataka High Court dated 08.02.2023 and amendment made in Rules by gazette notifications cannot be challenged by the Council at this stage due to delay and latches and even otherwise the Council is not the affected party. The Rules were framed by the Ministry in consultation with the Council. The Members deliberated at length in the matter and discussed that in the notification dated 24.08.2023 assigning the task of inviting nominations to the Department handling of Technical or Higher Education has created certain confusions at the State Government level, since it is assumed that it would be only the responsibility of the Technical or Higher Education Department, creating unrest in the Architects working in the other Government Departments. The Council after deliberations in the matter decided that a request be sent to the Ministry for looking into the matter and for amending the Rules authorizing the Chief Secretary of the concerned State/ UTs to take appropriate action on the nominations to be made to the Council, as per the prevalent practice.
15	TO CONSIDER LETTERS RECEIVED FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF INDIA, FOR RECONSIDERATION OF CASES REJECTED BY THE COUNCIL FOR RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL QUALIFICATIONS UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Ministry of Education vide its letter dated 01.05.2024 had requested the Council to reconsider the applications rejected by the Council for recognition foreign architectural qualifications under Section 15 of the Architects Act, 1972, in terms of the National Education Policy of the Central Government. The Council vide its letter dated 14.08.2024 replied to the Ministry that the Council is in the process of revising and finalizing the Minimum Standards of Architectural Education in light of the recommendations of the NEP Policy. The same shall be submitted to the Ministry for its consideration and necessary action. The Council subsequently received similar letters from the Ministry in respect of cases rejected by the Council for their re-consideration in light of NEP. The Council perused the communications exchanged in the matter and noted that a Committee of Council is working on suggesting ways and means for implementing NEP in Architecture Education. In order to implement NEP, the Regulations made by the Council would require amendments with approval of the Central Government. The Council would take appropriate action as per the recommendations of the concerned Committee.

16	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 Council had received references from the Ministry about the requests received from candidates for recognition of their architectural qualifications awarded by foreign authorities under Section 15 of the Architects Act, 1972. The Committee on Recognition of Foreign Qualifications considered these cases on its meeting held on 02.01.2025 recommended as under as under: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl.</th><th>Name</th><th>Qualification</th><th>Recommendations of the Committee</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td><td>Ms. Sujita Kumari</td><td>Bachelor's degree in Architecture awarded by Saint Petersburg State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Russia</td><td>Clarification to be sought.</td></tr> <tr> <td>2.</td><td>Ms. Prativa Sharma</td><td>Bachelor of Architecture, awarded by Purbanchal University, Biratnagar, Nepal</td><td>Recommended for recognition.</td></tr> <tr> <td>3.</td><td>Mr. Mobin Asgharnejadtehrani</td><td>Bachelor's Degree in Architectural Technology Engineering and Associate Degree awarded by Islamic Azad University in Tehran, Iran.</td><td>Clarification to be sought.</td></tr> <tr> <td>4.</td><td>Mr. Karan Gupta</td><td>Bachelor of Architecture awarded by IE School of Architecture & Design, IE University, Spain.</td><td>Not recommended for recognition.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> The Council after deliberations in the matter accepted the recommendations of the Committee and resolved to recommend to the Central Government as under: Resolution No:581 Resolved that : 1. To recognise the Bachelor of Architecture, awarded by Purbanchal University, Biratnagar, Nepal under Section 15 of the Architects Act, 1972, as the same meets minimum standards prescribed by the Council for imparting recognized architectural qualifications in India. 2. Not to recognise the Bachelor of Architecture awarded by IE School of Architecture & Design, IE University, Spain as it does not meet requirements of minimum standards prescribed by the Council for imparting recognized architectural qualifications in India.			Sl.	Name	Qualification	Recommendations of the Committee	1.	Ms. Sujita Kumari	Bachelor's degree in Architecture awarded by Saint Petersburg State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Russia	Clarification to be sought.	2.	Ms. Prativa Sharma	Bachelor of Architecture, awarded by Purbanchal University, Biratnagar, Nepal	Recommended for recognition.	3.	Mr. Mobin Asgharnejadtehrani	Bachelor's Degree in Architectural Technology Engineering and Associate Degree awarded by Islamic Azad University in Tehran, Iran.	Clarification to be sought.	4.	Mr. Karan Gupta	Bachelor of Architecture awarded by IE School of Architecture & Design, IE University, Spain.	Not recommended for recognition.
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	3. The report of the Committee along with relevant documents be sent to the Ministry. The Council further directed that the relevant information as required by the Committee be sought from Ms. Sujita Kumari and Mr. Mobin Asgharnejad Tehrani with the regard to the qualifications possessed by them.
17	TO CONSIDER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972.
	The President informed the Members that issue of amendments to the Architects Act, 1972 is very important and also urgent therefore, the same should be discussed and deliberated by the Hon'ble members. He informed that the Architects Act, 1972 requires comprehensive amendments to protect the interests of general public, rationalized regulation of practice of architecture in India, in order to make all persons engaged in providing architecture services statutorily accountable, allowing corporate practice in India and limiting the liabilities of professionals, and aligning the processes of registration and renewal of Architects in India with international standards/ practices. He also stressed for implementation of NEP amendments are required in the Act as well as in the relevant Regulations. The President informed the Members that the draft proposal was shared with Indian Institute of Architects and Institution of Engineers India so as to receive their views and suggestions if any on the same. The Council has received the feedback/ views/ suggestions from the Indian Institute of Architects. he Institution of Engineers (India) vide their letter Ref. No. SDG/SECTT/COA dated 01.12.2023 informed that they disagree with the proposal of the Council. The proposal was also shared with former Presidents of the Council to seek their views/ suggestions on the same. Ar. Habeeb Khan, Former President, COA has sent his views to the Council. Thereafter, the proposal of Act Amendment was discussed by the Full Council clause by clause. Only definition of "Architectural Services" was finalized on the first day of the meeting and it was decided to continue with the discussions on the Second day of the meeting.

The First day meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. to be convened next day at 11:00 a.m.

[SECOND DAY MEETING – 22nd JANUARY, 2025 FROM 12:00 P.M. ONWARDS]

PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS :

1.	Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty	16.	Ar. Sanjeev Kumar
2.	Ar. B. R. Mohan	17.	Ar. Vidur Mehta
3.	Ar. Nilesh D. Chavan	18.	Ar. Harinder Arora
4.	Ar. Sanjeev Bumb	19.	Ar. K. Udaya
5.	Ar. K. K. Asthana	20.	Ar. Yogesh Kumar Garg
6.	Ar. Pushkar M. Kanwinde	21.	Ar. Rajiv Rampher Mishra
7.	Ar. Binumol Tom	22.	Ar. Benjusingh Nongthomban
8.	Ar. K. Senthil Kumar	23.	Ar. Aldrina K. Marak
9.	Ar. Ajay Keshav	24.	Ar. Namita K. Mohapatra
10.	Ar. Naveen Kanithi	25.	Ar. N. Mayil
11.	Ar. Bapilu Chai Tawsik	26.	Ar. Tarun Garg
12.	Ar. Anil Kumar	27.	Ar. T. Loganathan
13.	Ar. Marwin C. Gomes	28.	Ar. Ravi Kumar R.
14.	Ar. Vishal Arun Kumar Vyas	29.	Ar. Manish Chakraborti
15.	Ar. Atonu Baruah		

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

The following members were granted leave of absence:

1.	Ms. Saumya Gupta	2.	Ar. Kiran S. Majahani
3.	Ar. Rajesh Pradhan	4.	Ar. P. S Rajeev
5.	Ar. Vandana Sehgal	6.	Ar. Sanjiban Dutta
7.	Ar. Nadisha V. M.	8.	Ar. Ritu Singh
9.	Ar. Sandeep L. Bangde	10.	Ar. Rajiv Kumar
11.	Ar. Kevisino Angami	12.	Er. Sandip K. Deb
13.	Er. Mahavir B. Chopda	14.	Dr. G. S. India
15.	Ar. Vijay Garg		

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

1.	Ar. Kulbhushan Jain	2.	Ar. George Lalzuia
3.	Ar. Shashi M. Srivastava	4.	Ar. R. Kamala Devi

The President welcomed the Members for the second day meeting and informed that the meeting got delayed due to visit of Hon'ble Members to the proposed site of Council's Centre of Excellence building, in the campus of Bengaluru University.

17	TO CONSIDER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972.
	The Members continued with the discussions on the proposal on Amendments to the Architects Act, 1972 clause by clause and after suggesting necessary changes, the Council approved the proposal. The members were of unanimous view that the Profession of Architecture has to be practiced only by Architects who are trained and qualified to provide architectural services. The Members suggested that the proposal be got legally vetted appropriately. The Council authorized the President to submit the proposal with the Central Government and to take further necessary action in the matter in the interest of architectural education and profession and to ensure that general public is served by qualified and competent persons. The President thanked all the Members for wholeheartedly participating in the discussions on Amendments to the Architects Act and assured that he will not leave any stone unturned to take the mandate further.
18	FELICITATION OF OUTGOING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
	The President informed the Members that the Council has received nomination of new members from the respective states, union territories and other institutional bodies on the Council and few members left the Council on completion of their terms. The IIA has also elected its 5 members on the Council. The President further stated that the Council would like to put on record its appreciation for the contribution and support extended by its outgoing member as part of various Committees, as inspectors for inspection of institutions, as evaluators, as guides and mentors for running the affairs of the Council smoothly and for betterment of the architectural fraternity. Accordingly, following members were felicitated : 1. Ar. Kapil Setia 2. Ar. Nilazo Metha 3. Ar. Ashutosh Kumar Agarwal 4. Ar. Mahendra Pratap 5. Ar. Radhika Nagpal
19	TO LAUNCH THE BOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE COUNCIL
(a)	Publication of compilation of works of Ar. Raj Rewal

	The Council has published a distinguished compilation of books highlighting the remarkable works of renowned architect Ar. Raj Rewal. A visionary in the field, Ar. Rewal has significantly influenced Indian architecture by seamlessly integrating traditional values with modern aesthetics. The compilation features the following exemplary projects, which underscore his profound understanding of architectural heritage and his commitment to celebrating India's cultural identity: 1. Freedom Struggle Memorial Punjab, India 2. State University of Performing & Visual Arts Rohtak, India 3. Lisbon Ismaili Centre Lisbon, Portugal 4. Asian Games Village and National Institute of Immunology New Delhi The President informed the Members that the compilation of works shall be formally launched during the COA Awards Declaration Function to be held on January 22, 2025 at the Dayanand Sagar College of Architecture scheduled in the evening, in recognition and celebration of the legacy and outstanding contributions of Ar. Raj Rewal to the field of architecture. Ar. Raj Rewal has been also invited at the event as a Guest of Honor.
(b)	Publication of series of works titled “Materials of Interior Designing” by Er. Harish Malpani
	The Council has published an acclaimed series, <i>Materials of Interior Designing</i>, authored by Er. Harish Malpani, a distinguished expert with over 40 years of experience in the building, construction, wood, and interior design industries. The series includes following titles: 1. <i>Trees and Timbers</i> 2. <i>Plywood</i> 3. <i>Laminates</i> 4. <i>Glass</i> 5. <i>Decorative Wood Veneer</i> Er. Malpani's extensive expertise, coupled with the Council's endorsement, ensures that this book is an invaluable resource for understanding the transformative role of wood in interior spaces. The President informed the Members that the Book series shall be formally launched during the COA Awards Declaration Function to be held on January 22, 2025 at the Dayanand Sagar College of Architecture scheduled in the evening.
20	TO CONSIDER REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON THE DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR IMPARTING RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS PROPOSED IN LINE WITH NEP.
	The President informed the Members that the Council had constituted a Board of Architectural Education for Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Diploma courses, to prepare draft Regulations for the Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Diploma courses in line with National Education Policy

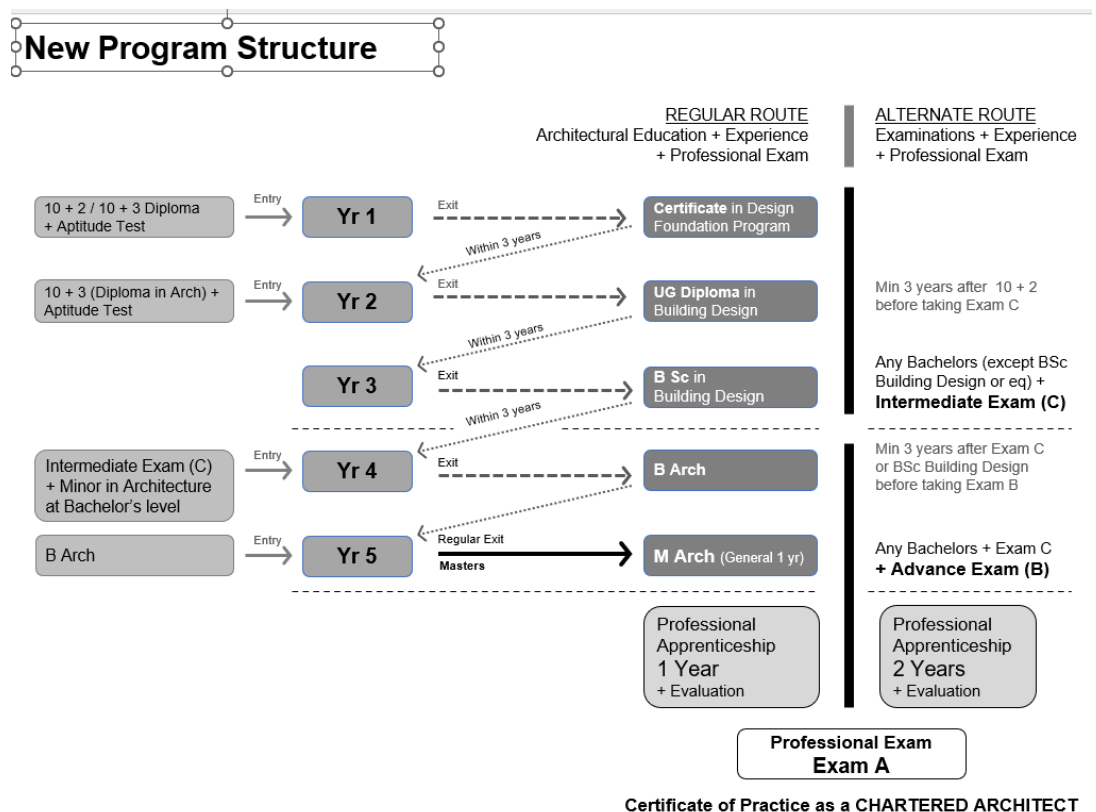
(NEP) and proposed amendments in the Architects Act, 1972 and work out steps and guidelines to align with the NEP.

Considering the progressive ideas of National Education Policy 2020 as a significant step and opportunity to improve architectural education, the Board has proposed a major restructuring of architectural education with an objective to provide quality education, support student in their learning paths, provide flexibility in pursuing their interests, and reinforce the relationship between professional education and practice.

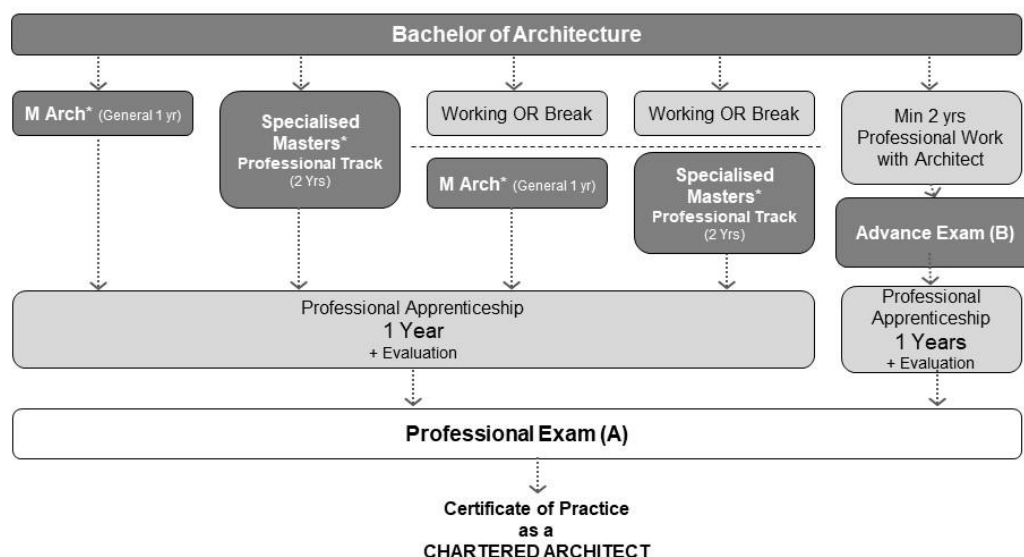
The Board of Architectural Education, after having conducted a series of meetings, has prepared a Report on “**Proposed measures for implementation of NEP in Architectural Education 2024**”.

The report explains how the restructuring meets and integrates key NEP principles. The key ideas include offering a multidisciplinary four-year undergraduate education, developing students’ creative potential and making education students-centric by offering a choice-based curriculum and flexibility in pursuing education goals. Multiple entries and exits have become a key pathway to achieve this. It will not overburden the students but help them manage their workloads and, in the process, create time and opportunities for pursuing multiple interests.

The President requested Prof. Pushkar Kanwinde, Member, to explain the report of the Committee. Prof. Kanwinde shared the following diagrams :



Routes for B.Arch Graduates



Prof. Kanwinde briefed about multi-entry and exits options as per following table:

Level	Entry Requirement	Entry to Year of Study	Exit Option	Additional work if any for exit
4.5	10+2 exam/ 10+3 diploma with 45% marks in aggregate and passing of aptitude test.	First Year	UG Certificate in Building design	
5	Passing of First year OR 10+3 diploma in Architecture stream* (Recognised by CoA) with 45% marks in aggregate	Second Year	UG Diploma in Building Design	
5.5	Passing of Second year	Third Year	B. Sc. (Building Design)	
6	Passing of Third year OR bachelor's degree (120 credits) + passing of Intermediate Examination (Exam C) of alternate route	Fourth Year	Bachelor's Degree in Architecture (B.Arch.)	Mandatory exit except for those registered for integrated M. Arch
6.5	Passing Fourth Year (for students in Integrated Master's Degree) OR	Fifth Year	Integrated Master's Degree in Architecture (M.Arch.) Or	Mandatory exit

		Bachelor's Degree in Architecture		1 Yr Master's Degree in Architecture (General)	
6.5		<i>Bachelor's Degree in Architecture OR Passing of Advance Examination (Exam B) of alternate route</i>	<i>First Year of two year Master's (Professional Track)</i>	<i>PG Diploma in Architecture</i>	<i>4 week internship as prescribed</i>
7			<i>Second Year Master's (Professional Track)</i>	Master's degree in Architecture or field of specialisation	<i>Mandatory exit</i>
*Diploma in Architecture stream include diplomas in Architecture, Architectural Assistantship, Interior Design, Interior Design and Decoration, Architecture and Interior Design, etc. that are recognised/ approved by Council of Architecture.					
Prof. Kanwinde further explained the various proposed routes for registration as Architect / Chartered Architect with the Council as under : Regular/ Formal Route : 5-year Integrated M. Arch + 1-year Apprenticeship + Exam A = Chartered Architect 4-year B. Arch + 1-year M. Arch (Gen) OR 2-year Specialised M. Arch (Professional Track) + 1-year Apprenticeship + Exam A = Chartered Architect. Professional experience route for B. Arch graduates : 4-year B. Arch + 2-year practical experience under a Chartered architect + Advance Examination (Exam B) + 1-year Apprenticeship + Exam A = Chartered Architect Alternate Route (Option 1) - Bachelor's Degree in any field + Intermediate Examination (Exam C) + 3 years practical experience under a Chartered Architect + Advance Examination (Exam B) + 2 Years Apprenticeship + Professional Examination (Exam A) = Chartered Architect (Option 2) - Bachelor's Degree in any field + Intermediate Examination (Exam C) + to be admitted to 4th year of architecture stream					

	+ M. Arch (Gen) + 1 Year Apprenticeship + Professional Examination (Exam A)= Chartered Architect (Option 3) - B. Sc. (Building Design) + 3 years practical experience under a Chartered Architect + Advance Examination (Exam B) + 2 Years Apprenticeship + Professional Examination (Exam A) = Chartered Architect The report of Board of Education was perused and accepted by the Council. The President directed the Registrar-Secretary to circulate the report to the Hon'ble Members and requested the Hon'ble members to go through the detailed scheme for implementation of NEP and send their views/suggestions within 15 days so as to refine the report for further necessary action in the matter.
21	TO TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:
i.	STATUS OF REGISTRATION AND RENEWAL OF ARCHITECTS WITH THE COUNCIL.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council during the year 2024, has registered 14,009 qualified persons as new Architects. With this a total of 1,82,396 Architects have been registered as architects with the Council as on 01.01.2025. Further, as on 02.01.2025, a total 93,165 architects hold valid registration as Architects with the Council of Architecture all over the country. Between July 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, a total of 7,741 architects renewed their registrations (Annual Renewal). Additionally, 2,097 architects opted for the One Time Payment of Renewal Fee and another 1,339 architects had their certificates of registration endorsed by the Council for another ten years after previously opting for One-Time Payment option. The Hon'ble Members noted the information.
ii.	STATUS OF APPROVAL OF ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2024-25.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council received applications from various architectural institutions seeking approval for imparting 5-year B.Arch. degree/2-year M. Arch. Degree/3-year Diploma programmes in Architecture/ Architectural Assistantship/Interior Design for the academic session 2024-2025. The Council received 271 applications for extension of approval for 5- year B.Arch./2-year M.Arch. degree programmes, 12 applications for introduction of 3-year Diploma Programmes, 09 applications for introduction of B.Arch. programme, 3 application for additional Intake in the existing B.Arch. programme and 11 applications for introduction of M. Arch. Programme.

	The Executive Committee based on the application form furnished by institutions and/or assessment report of the Inspection Committees has granted approval, as under: <u>B.Arch./M.Arch. programmes:</u> 1. Institutions granted extension of approval for B.Arch. Programme: 263 2. Institutions granted approval for additional Intake in B.Arch. Programme: 03 3. New Institutions granted approval for B. Arch Programme: 05 4. Institutions granted extension of approval for M.Arch. Programmes: 58 (67 PG programmes) 5. New Institutions granted approval for M.Arch. Programmes: 07 (09 programmes) 6. Institutions under closure : 8 <u>Diploma programmes:</u> 1. Diploma Institutions granted extension of approval for imparting Diploma Programmes: 91 2. Diploma Institutions granted approval for Introduction of Diploma Programmes: 10 (12 programmes) 3. Existing B.Arch. Institutions granted extension of approval for imparting Diploma Programme: 34 4. Existing B.Arch. Institutions granted approval for introduction of Diploma Programmes: 22 (24 programmes) The Hon'ble Members noted the information.
iii.	CONDUCT OF NATA 2024 AND PGETA 2024.
	NATA 2024: The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council successfully conducted NATA-2024 for the purposes of admission into 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. degree Programme for the academic session 2024-2025. The NATA 2024 was conducted from the month of April 2024 to August, 2024 at national level on every Saturday and Sunday in two shifts. The Test was conducted on 36 days in 72 sessions (two shifts) at about 210 Test centres selected by Council all over the country and select international centres. The Test was in two parts Part – A (Drawing and Composition) in offline mode and Part - B MCQ Test in online mode. A total of 23461 unique candidates registered for the NATA 2024 and a total number of 19888 unique candidates appeared in the test. Out of the candidates appeared for NATA 2024, 19585 unique candidates qualified the Test. The Hon'ble Members noted the information. PGETA 2024: The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council successfully conducted its first Postgraduate Entrance Test in Architecture 2024 (PGETA) examination at National Level on July 28, 2024, and August 04, 2024, as a

	computer-based test (CBT) at 90 test centers in the country, for admission to the Postgraduate programme being imparted at the Architectural Institutions approved by the Council for the academic session 2024-2025. A total of 1289 unique candidates registered for the PGETA-2024 and a total number of 1151 unique candidates appeared in the test. The results of these candidates were published in terms of Percentile. The Council has also decided to grant scholarships to top 50 ranked candidates who qualify PGETA 2024 for taking admission into 1st year of Post Graduate programmes in Architecture approved by the Council for the academic session 2024-2025. These candidates shall be granted scholarship of Rs.50,000/- in two years of the duration of the programme (Rs.25,000/- per annum). The Hon'ble Members noted the information.
iv.	PREPARATION OF MANUAL ON UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY AND PROGRAMMES ORGANISED WITH THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Committee on the Preparation of the Manual on Universal Accessibility, constituted by the Council, has convened 27 meetings till date. As a result, Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 have been finalized, while work on Volume 6 is nearing completion. The Council of Architecture (CoA), in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, organized specialized training programs focused on Universal Accessibility. The Phase 1 Training Program on Universal Accessibility was held on March 11–12, 2024 at the Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, with the objective of training Master Trainers. A total of 25 trainees successfully completed the program. The Certificates of participation was awarded by the Secretary, DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, and the President, CoA. Phase 2 of the program was conducted on July 4–5, 2024 at the same venue, also focused on training Master Trainers and was attended by 6 resource persons and 12 participants. The Certificates of Training was awarded by the Secretary, DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, and the Vice-President, CoA. The Hon'ble Members deliberated in the matter and desired that the Manual be completed at the earliest so that Registration and Training of Universal Accessibility Auditors can be initiated at the earliest.
v.	CONDUCT OF SINGLE WINDOW EXAMINATION BY UGC BY CONSOLIDATING MAJOR ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL COURSES.

	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the University Grants Commission, vide its letter dated 21.05.2024, has constituted a Joint Committee to explore the feasibility of establishing a single-window examination process by consolidating the major entrance exams including JEE, CUET, CAT, NATA etc., which will involve evaluating the synergies across exams, consultation with stakeholders and roll out of exam on the lines of SAT. The Joint Committee comprises eminent experts from IITs, Universities, AICTE, IIM etc. including the President, Council of Architecture & Director General, NTA, New Delhi and has already held one meeting on 18.09.2024 towards fulfilling its mandate. Further, the Council also received a letter dated 25.09.2024 from the Ministry of Education, addressed to Director General, National Testing Agency, and copy endorsed to the Council, requesting him to move forward towards a single entrance exam for admission to architecture education from the next year and comply with the directions of Secretary (HE) in a time-bound manner. An action taken report was also requested to be shared with the Ministry. The Council received another letter dated 30.09.2024 from NTA in the subject matter requesting the President, Council to attend the next JEE Apex Board meeting as special Invitee for implementing the direction from the Ministry. The Council vide letters dated 04.10.2024 & 07.10.2024 has sent its reply to the Ministry and NTA respectively, informing about the constitution of Joint Committee by UGC. Further, the President, Vice-President along with Registrar, COA held meeting with Joint Secretary (TE), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, on 17.12.2024 wherein it was suggested by the Ministry that Council must engage in discussion with NTA so as to explore the possibility of conducting NATA through NTA, irrespective of the initiative of UGC. The Hon'ble Members held detailed discussion in the matter, and decided that the Council should explore options for conducting NATA through the NTA on its behalf, based on the examination pattern and syllabus as prescribed by the Council from time to time, as NATA is an aptitude test and the spirit of the same needs to be upheld.
vi.	INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE COUNCIL TO UGC FOR FORMULATION OF A ROADMAP FOR TRANSITION OF PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS AS PROFESSIONAL STANDARD SETTING BODIES (PSSBS) UNDER HECI.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council had received communication from UGC seeking information from Council of Architecture on roadmap for transition of existing Councils to Professional Standard Setting Bodies under HECI, in light of the recommendations of the National Education Policy, in their standard format. The Council vide its letter 26.09.2024, had submitted the requisite information to UGC.

	The Hon'ble Members noted the information.
vii.	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ENTERED INTO WITH CDCP (THE CONFEDERATION OF DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION PRACTITIONERS)
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Confederation of Digital Construction Practitioners (CDCP) to foster collaboration in the area of digital technologies and practices within the construction and architectural domains and to facilitate the Indian Architectural fraternity to adopt Digital technologies & processes and enhance their competitiveness to be future -ready. This MoU signifies a strategic step by the CoA to advance the integration of digital innovations within the architectural profession, ensuring its members remain competitive and well-equipped to address contemporary challenges. The Hon'ble Members noted the information.
viii.	PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION OF THE COUNCIL WITH AICTE.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has been exploring 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. 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, 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. Since the last meeting of the Council, the Council have had some fruitful interactions with AICTE though the Memorandum of Cooperation is yet to be signed. However, 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. Further, the Council has also requested the AICTE to consider grant of approval to existing architectural institutions approved by the Council to offer programmes in emerging areas i.e. Artificial Intelligence (AI), Civil Engineering, Building Construction Management, Infrastructure Technology and Computer Science etc. The Hon'ble Members noted the information.
ix.	APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECT INTERNS IN THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE TO WORK ON VARIOUS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council had invited applications for internship positions with the Council to work on various activities related to Architectural Education and Research. The Council conducted an online examination for eligible candidates on August 25, 2024, followed by interviews for 68 qualified candidates. After conducting online examination and interviews, following Trainee Professional Interns have been appointed so far as below: Ar. Nidhi Vinod, Chhattisgarh – Council of Architecture (New Delhi) Ar. Saee Pawar, Maharashtra – TRC Pune Ar. Akanksha Singh, Noida – Council of Architecture (New Delhi) Ar. Sanika Panchal, Maharashtra – Council of Architecture (New Delhi) The process of appointment of more Interns is in progress at Delhi, Pune, Bhopal and Bengaluru. The Hon'ble Members noted the information.
x.	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “TRANSFORMATION 2025” BEING ORGANIZED BY THE COUNCIL AT D.Y. PATIL SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, NAVI MUMBAI, DURING JULY 2025.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that after successfully hosting the International Conference 2024 on <i>Architecture Education in the Changing World: Reviewing and Rethinking the Way Forward</i> during February 2024 at VIT Campus, School of Architecture, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, the Council is organizing an International Conference titled

	“TRANSFORMATIONS 2025: Co-scripting Change with Disruptive Technologies in Architecture, Design and Urbanism”, scheduled to be held in July, 2025 at D. Y. Patil School of Architecture, Navi Mumbai. The conference aims to explore the profound impact of disruptive technologies on the fields of architecture, design and urbanism, focusing on the collaborative efforts required to navigate and harness these transformations effectively. TRANSFORMATIONS 2025 will not only serve as a platform for knowledge exchange but also as a catalyst for collaborative and interdisciplinary research and partnerships, aiming to foster a global network of professionals committed to co-scripting a sustainable and technologically advanced future for architecture, design and urbanism. The Council had extended invitations to UGC, AICTE and NCVET to participate as Knowledge Partner in the Council of Architecture’s International Conference. UGC and AICTE have consented to become Knowledge Partners of the International Conference. The Council has also invited Hon’ble Union Minister of Education, Government of India to be the Chief Guest. The confirmation of the same is awaited. The Council has also published a <i>Compilation of Proceedings</i> of the COA International Conference 2024 from Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group), encompassing the collective knowledge and expertise shared at the conference, providing a comprehensive overview of its outcomes and circulated a complimentary copy of the same to all the Hon’ble Members of the Council and architectural institutions. The Hon’ble Members noted the information.
xi.	CONDUCT OF NATIONAL APTITUDE TEST IN ARCHITECTURE (NATA 2025) FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2025-2026.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that NATA 2025 will be conducted as a comprehensive aptitude test consisting of Part - A (Drawing and Composition) as an offline test and Part B as (NCQ and MCQ) to be conducted as an ADAPTIVE computer-based test, at the centers allotted by the Council in identified cities across the country and abroad. NATA 2025 is proposed to be conducted in two Parts i.e., Part - A (Drawing and Composition) (90 minutes) to be conducted as an offline test and Part - B as (NCQ and MCQ) to be conducted as an ADAPTIVE computer-based test. The test shall be conducted on Friday & Saturdays from March 2025 to June 2025. The Council has constituted NATA Coordination Committee to oversee, monitor and lay down various modalities for the conduct of NATA 2025 to be held for the year 2025, comprising the Ar. Gajanand Ram as Convenor, Ar. Binumol Tom as Member and Ar. Kavita Daryani N. Rao, Ar. Milind Kollegal, Ar. Milind Keshavrao Gujarkar and Ar. P. Vaitianadin as Special Invitees. The Council had issued a Tender for conduct of NATA 2025 inviting interested Service Providers to submit their technical and financial bids for the same. After assessment and evaluation of bids received by the Council,

	the Council has awarded the work to conduct NATA 2025 to the successful bidder. NATA Coordination Committee has finalized the pattern and syllabus for NATA 2025 and is in the process of preparing NATA 2025 Brochure and question bank and monitoring various activities related to NATA. The Hon'ble Members noted the information.
xii.	CONDUCT OF POST GRADUATE ENTRANCE TEST IN ARCHITECTURE (PGETA) FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2025-2026.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has constituted of a 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 with various specializations for 2025-2026 (PGETA) in October, 2024 comprising Ar. T. Loganathan, Convenor, Ar. Binumol Tom, Co-Convenor, Ar. Anupama Sharma, Member, Ar. Abhijit Sadashiv Natu, Member and Ar. Anand Achari, Member. The Sub-Committee is required to finalize brochure and other modalities for the conduct of the PGETA; to lay down criteria and preparation of questions, identifying question setters, supervision of evaluators, moderation of evaluation etc. and to monitor the entire evaluation process; to oversee the results declaration process to decide the timeframe and policy/guidelines for the conduct of PGETA Test; and to carry out any other work related to PGETA as may be required or assigned by the Council. The Sub-Committee is in the process of finalization of syllabus, brochure and other modalities for the conduct of the PGETA-2025. The Hon'ble Members noted the information.
xiii.	PRINTING/ PUBLICATION OF BOOKS/ JOURNALS BY THE COUNCIL.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has been publishing high quality, peer reviewed journals for several years under the name JCOA – Journal of Council of Architecture. The Council envisions to publish journals regularly on a quarterly basis under the following themes: • Architecture • Urban Design • Landscape • Sustainability The Council, vide its letter has written a letter to the Chairman, UGC, requesting the permission of UGC to publish COA Journals and include them in UGC CARE List. President along with Registrar, COA had a meeting with the Hon'ble Chairman UGC, wherein he advised that the Council may publish the COA journals on its own as they may not be accorded approval to be published

	under UGC CARE Listing, since UGC Care is being considered for discontinuation. The Executive Committee at its 266th meeting considered the matter and decided that the Council may start publishing the COA journals on themes of Architecture, Urban Design, Landscape and Sustainability on its own to promote excellence and research. The Hon'ble Members noted the information and appreciated the initiative.																																			
xiv.	TRAINING PROGRAMME AND OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AT TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRES OF THE COUNCIL.																																			
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the COA Training and Research Center of Council at Pune has conducted following activities and programme since 01.07.2024 to till date: <table><tr><th>Sr. No</th><th>Title of the TTP Program</th><th>Dates of the Program</th><th>Name of the Program Coordinator</th><th>Total Participants</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>Inclusive Architecture</td><td>1st July 2024 to 5th July 2024</td><td>Dr. Madhugandha A. Mithari</td><td>42</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>Emerging Technologies In Sustainable Building Design</td><td>8th July 2024 to 12th July 2024</td><td>Prof. Bandana Jain</td><td>60</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>Teaching And Applying Architecture Through Humanities</td><td>22nd July 2024 to 26th July 2024</td><td>Ar. Fatema Kabir</td><td>70</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>Electives As A Tool Of Transcending Disciplines</td><td>29th July 2024 to 2nd August 2024</td><td>Prof. Pradnya Patki</td><td>58</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>Roof Over Our Heads - Working In Informal Habitats And Developing Climate Resiliency</td><td>5th August 2024 to 9th August 2024</td><td>Aditya Sawant</td><td>74</td></tr><tr><td>6.</td><td>Integrated Design Strategies For Large And Complex Buildings: Focus On It Parks</td><td>5th August 2024 to 9th August 2024</td><td>Dr. KS Anantha Krishna</td><td>35</td></tr></table>	Sr. No	Title of the TTP Program	Dates of the Program	Name of the Program Coordinator	Total Participants	1.	Inclusive Architecture	1st July 2024 to 5th July 2024	Dr. Madhugandha A. Mithari	42	2.	Emerging Technologies In Sustainable Building Design	8th July 2024 to 12th July 2024	Prof. Bandana Jain	60	3.	Teaching And Applying Architecture Through Humanities	22nd July 2024 to 26th July 2024	Ar. Fatema Kabir	70	4.	Electives As A Tool Of Transcending Disciplines	29th July 2024 to 2nd August 2024	Prof. Pradnya Patki	58	5.	Roof Over Our Heads - Working In Informal Habitats And Developing Climate Resiliency	5th August 2024 to 9th August 2024	Aditya Sawant	74	6.	Integrated Design Strategies For Large And Complex Buildings: Focus On It Parks	5th August 2024 to 9th August 2024	Dr. KS Anantha Krishna	35
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	7.	Outcome Based Education: Setting Up Of Program Outcomes And Course Outcomes In Architectural Curriculum	19th August - 23rd August 2024	Dr. Mamatha P. Raj	56
	8.	Urban Development Enhancing Built And Cultural Heritage Lessons From Theory And Practice	2nd September 2024 to 6th September 2024	Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar	60
	9.	Architecture And Building Services	7th Oct 2024 to 11th Oct 2024	Ar. Mrinmayee Tiwari	42
	10.	Institutional Strengthening for Funded Research Projects and Publications	21st October 2024 to 25th October 2024	Prof. Aruna Bhardwaj	25
	11.	Fire Safety In Built Environment - Role Of An Architect	14th October 2024 to 18th October 2024	Dr. Meera Shirolkar	42
	12.	AI And Architecture: Adapting And Implementation	14th October to 18th October 2024	Dr. Kaiwan Mehta	84
	13.	Renewable Energy Integration In Buildings	21st October 2024 to 25th October 2024	Prof. Sudhakar J.	30
	14.	Towards Carbon Neutrality in Construction Strategies and Solutions	25th November 2024 to 29th November 2024	Dr. M. N. Chandrashekar	54
	15.	Housing And Livability	2nd Dec 2024 to 6th Dec 2024	Ar. Pradnya Chauhan	50
	16.	Redefining Role Of Electives In Architectural Education	9th December 2024 to 13th December 2024	Prof. Rakhi Begampure	56

	17.	Archpatent: Innovate,Protect And Research Ethically	16th December 2024 to 20th December 2024	Ar. Suvarna Thakare	42
	18.	Application Of Technology In Architectural Education	16th December 2024 to 20th December 2024	Prof. Jyoti Luthra	53
	19.	Artificial Intelligence (Ai) And Architecture: Crafting Future Designers And Educators	6th January 2025 to 10th January 2025	Dr. Aparna Parate	64
	20.	Design Studio Teaching Methodologies: Journey From Foundation Studio To Thesis	6th January 2025 to 10th January 2025	Ar. Vineetha P. S.	64
The Hon’ble members noted the information.					
xv.	PROGRESS MADE ON THE PROJECT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE BUILDING AT BENGALURU.				
The President informed the members that Executive Committee of the Council at its 265th meeting had considered a comprehensive presentation from Prof. Subramani Prabakaran, OSD, Council of Architecture, on a detailed progress report on the establishment of proposed Council of Architecture’s Centre of Excellence (COA-COE) at Bengaluru. The objective of COA-COEB is to empower professionals, supervisors, and laborers through skill development programs, fostering a future where everyone has the opportunity to unlock their potential and contribute to nation-building. COA-COEB aims to provide accessible, high-quality skill development programs (SDPs) that cater to diverse needs and aspirations and to collaborate with industry leaders to ensure our programs align with the demands of the job market. It was decided that considering the proposed built-up space, COA-COE can accommodate 12 state-of-the-art labs to facilitate innovation and research. The Executive Committee, after detailed deliberations, decided that the COA-COE should be able to accommodate at least 15 such labs to promote research. The Executive Committee decided that the report on Centre of Excellence at Bengaluru be amended to accommodate 15 Labs and other related requirements and the Architect appointed by the Council be informed for					

	revision of plans to accommodate the additional labs as per requirement of the Council. The proposed labs are listed as under: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1. Digital Fabrication Lab</td><td>2. Code Lab</td></tr> <tr> <td>3. Immersive Lab</td><td>4. CADD Lab</td></tr> <tr> <td>5. Building Science Lab</td><td>6. Self Assembly Lab</td></tr> <tr> <td>7. Climatology Lab</td><td>8. Sustainability Lab</td></tr> <tr> <td>9. Energy Simulation Lab</td><td>10. Neuro Design Lab</td></tr> <tr> <td>11. A.I. Lab</td><td>12. Bio-AT Lab</td></tr> <tr> <td>13. G.I.S. Lab</td><td>14. Wood Working Lab</td></tr> <tr> <td>15. Advanced Material Lab</td><td></td></tr> </table> The project Architect - Mr. Biju Kuriakose made a detailed presentation of the revised plans of COA-COE before the Council and explained the details of the proposed space planning and materials to be used in construction. Further, Ar. Subramani Prabakaran also made a presentation on the proposed set up of Centre of Excellence along with details of labs, etc. The Hon'ble members discussed the details of COA-COE and desired that necessary action regarding commencement of the Centre of Excellence may be initiated.	1. Digital Fabrication Lab	2. Code Lab	3. Immersive Lab	4. CADD Lab	5. Building Science Lab	6. Self Assembly Lab	7. Climatology Lab	8. Sustainability Lab	9. Energy Simulation Lab	10. Neuro Design Lab	11. A.I. Lab	12. Bio-AT Lab	13. G.I.S. Lab	14. Wood Working Lab	15. Advanced Material Lab	
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xvi.	TO TAKE NOTE OF COURT CASE FILED BY AR. MILIND KOLLEGAL CHALLENGING CESSATION OF HIS MEMBERSHIP ON ATTAINING 65 YEARS OF AGE.																
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Central Government, vide its letter dated Ministry's letter F.No.4-15/2022-TS.VI dated 14.10.2024, requested the Council to provide the latest updated list of Heads of Architectural Institutions along with names and other details for the purpose of election of members under Section 3(3)(c) of Architects Act, 1972. The Council, vide its letter dated 04.11.2024, requested the Ministry to consider and communicate its approval on the proposal of the Council for amendment in the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020 for enhancing the Retirement Age of the Head of Institution so as to enable the Council to prepare an updated list of Heads of Architectural institutions imparting full time instructions for recognized qualifications. The Council received Ministry's email dated 07.11.2024, stating therein that the proposal of the Council for amendment in the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020 has not been yet approved by the Competent Authority in the Ministry and the Council was directed to follow the existing rules and regulation till the final decision on the proposal is taken by the Ministry. During the preparation of the list of Heads of Institutions, the Council noted that following persons have attained the age of 65 and were not eligible to continue as the Heads of an institution in terms of the provisions of the Regulations, 2020:																

	1. Ar. Milind Kollegal 3. Ar. Kandarpkumar H. Bhatt 5. Ar. Khalil Razzak Shaikh 7. Ar. Pushkar Murlidhar Kanwinde 2. Ar. Qaizar Husain Kapadia 4. Ar. Utpal Kumar Sarma 6. Ar. Prasanna Desai Consequently, the Council, vide its letter dated 07.11.2024, communicated to Prof. Milind Kollegal that since he had attained the age of 65 years as on date, he is not eligible to continue in the post of Professor and consequently, Head of the Institution. As such, he has ceased to be a member of the Council of Architecture as Head of Architectural institution under Section 3(3)(c) of the Architects Act, 1972. The Council submitted an updated list of Architectural institutions approved by the Council for the academic session 2024-25 for imparting fulltime instructions for recognized qualifications to the Ministry, along with names and other details of the Heads of Institutions as on date, after removing names of persons found ineligible to continue as Head of an Institution. Further, Ar. Milind Kollegal has filed a Civil Writ Petition no. 26028 of 2024 before Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amravati regarding his eligibility to continue in post of Professor and consequently Head of Institution of AP19 - M.R.K College of Architecture after crossing 65 years of age. The Council has filed its counter affidavit reply and the matter is now listed for hearing on 09.01.2025. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xvii.	CIVIL WRIT PETITION NO. 26069 OF 2024, PUNIT SETHI V/S UNION OF INDIA & ORS. BEFORE HON'BLE PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT. The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that Ar. Punit Sethi, former member COA and 43 others have filed Writ Petition No. 26069 of 2024 before Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court, on the ground that election process was completely flawed and illegal and 5 architects were elected to Council after elections conducted by IIA in a technically flawed and illegal manner to favour a particular candidate, non-referring the disputes/ grievances, related to the elections to Council of Architecture, to the statutory Tribunal as per Section 5 of the Architects Act, 1972 and seeking direction for conduct of elections afresh through NSDL, CDSL, TCS or any authorised agency of Government of India. The Petitioners have sought stay of the gazette notification no. SO. 3609(E) dated 24.08.2024 notifying members of IIA elected as Members of the Council. The Council has filed its detailed reply in the matter and the matter is now listed for hearing on 26th March, 2025. The Hon'ble members noted the information.

xviii.	HIGH COURT ORDER DATED 24.10.2024 IN APPEAL FILED BY COUNCIL AGAINST ORDER OF SINGLE JUDGE OF HON'BLE DELHI HIGH IN AR. BELA AGARWAL CASE.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council in its 78th Meeting held on 07.11.2022, had decided to suspend the registration of Ar. Bela Godha (Aggarwal) from practice for a period of one year after she was found guilty of professional misconduct by the Council. Subsequently, Ar. Bela Aggarwal filed Writ Petition No.16402 of 2022 before Hon'ble Delhi High Court. The High Court vide its order dated 5th September, 2024 quashed the decision of the Council on the ground that the same is in violation of principles of natural justice and beyond the scope of Council. Further, as advised by the Advocate, the Council filed an Appeal against the above Order. The Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dismissed the appeal of the Council. Copies of the orders dated 05.09.2024 of Single Judge and 24.10.2024 of the Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi is attached at <u>Appendix-Z11</u>. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xix.	ORDER DATED 05.12.2024 HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA IN SPECIAL LEAVE TO APPEAL (CIVIL) NO. 8034 of 2024 IN TITLED INNAMUL HASSAN V/S. COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE & ORS.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that Innamul Hassan had filed an SLP in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India challenging the order of Division Bench Gauhati High Court dated 09.02.2024 which had earlier upheld the order of Single Judge on charging of Rs.25 Lakhs demanded by the Council as a Security Deposit from new private institutions for introduction of 5-year B.Arch. programme. It may be pertinent to mention that proposed institution Ham-Ak College of Architecture, Nagaon, Assam, had submitted an application for Introduction of 5-year full Time Bachelor of Architecture along with charges of Rs.5 lakhs for the academic session 2020-2021 but its approval was not processed since the Sponsoring Body did not deposit the security amount of Rs.25 lakhs. Due to threat of Covid-19 Pandemic and subsequent lockdown restrictions imposed by Government of India, the inspection of the institution was not conducted by the Council. During the course of arguments, the petitioner requested that the fee of Rs.5,00,000/- charged by the Council as "Evaluation Charges" be adjusted to enable it to apply for the same again for the upcoming session. On the advice of the Legal Counsel of the Council, it was proposed to refund the fee charged by the Council as "Evaluation Charges" after deduction of administrative charges. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 05.12.2024 has dismissed the SLP and further ordered as under:-

	<i>“However, Mr. Naveen R. Nath, learned senior counsel appearing for the Respondent Nos. 1 and 3 fairly states that out of Rs. 5,00,000/- deposited by the petitioner, the respondent(s) after deducting Rs.1,00,000/- which is an amount incurred towards the expenditure etc., the balance amount of Rs. 4,00,000/- would be refunded to the Petitioner”.</i> No relief was granted to the petitioner by the Hon’ble Supreme Court on the decision of the Council to charge Rs.25 Lakhs as a Security Deposit from new private institutions seeking introduction of 5-year B.Arch. degree programme. The Hon’ble members noted the information.
xx.	FILING OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AGAINST MS. RASEEL GUJRAL ANSAL UNDER SECTION 39 OF THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972, FOR VIOLATING THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council of Architecture had received a complaint from Mr. Fateh Singh Alok, Director, Mahaseer Hotels and Resorts Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, against Ms. Raseel Gujral Ansal for misrepresentation/misuse of title and style of “Architect”. Section 39 of the Architects Act, 1972 provides for taking cognizance of any offence punishable under the Architects Act, 1972 upon complaint made by Order of the Council or a person authorized in this behalf by the Council before a Presidency Magistrate or the Magistrate of first class for trying the offence. As authorized by the Council vide resolution No.577, passed through circulation of papers, the Registrar has filed a complaint under Section 39 of the Architects Act, 1972 before competent court for taking cognizance of offences under Section 36 and 37 of the Architects Act, 1972 Further, the Registrar, CoA has also filed a suit for injunction restraining Ms. Raseel Gujaral Ansal from using the title and style of Architect in violation of the Architects Act, 1972. The Hon’ble members noted the information.
xxi.	FILING OF WRIT PETITION BEFORE HON’BLE KARNATAKA HIGH COURT FOR CHALLENGING THE PROVISIONS OF KARNATAKA PROFESSIONAL CIVIL ENGINEERS ACT, 2024 BY COUNCIL.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Government of Karnataka has enacted the Karnataka Professional Civil Engineers Act, 2024. The relevant provisions of the said Act are as under : (a) “Certificate of Practice” means a certificate issued under section 22 by the Council established under section 3 of the Act; (b) “Certificate of Registration” means a certificate issued to the Civil Engineer whose name is entered into the register maintained under this Act; (c) “Civil Engineer” means a person who has obtained a Diploma in Civil Engineering or Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering /

Master's Degree in any discipline of Civil Engineering as defined in National Building Code – 2016(NBC-2016);

(d)“**Council**” means the **Karnataka Council of Professional Civil Engineers** established under section 3;

(e)“**Engineering Designs**” means Civil, Structural, Geo-technical, Environmental Engineering Designs/Drawings and also **encompassing Conceptual Plans, Master Plans, Layout Plans, other design & drawings etc., for buildings & infrastructure;**

(f) “**Professional Civil Engineer**” means a registered civil engineer who has obtained a Certificate of Practice from the Karnataka Council of Professional Civil Engineers (KCPCE);

(g)“**Recognised Engineering Institution**” means any college/institution/university established by law in India or other institution in India or outside India which imparts education in civil engineering and confers a degree or diploma in civil engineering;

(h)“**Register**” means the register of Professional Civil Engineers maintained under section 23;

(i) “**Registered Civil Engineer**” means a person who has enrolled with the Karnataka Council of Professional Civil Engineers;

Qualification for Registration. –

(1)**Any person having a Diploma or Bachelor or Master degree in a Civil Engineering discipline from a recognised engineering institution or university shall be eligible to have his name entered in the register.**

Preparation and maintenance of register. –

(1) The Council shall, upon its constitution, cause to prepare a register of Professional Civil Engineers in the State and maintain the same in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

36. Unqualified persons not to certify engineering designs or drawing.-

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, after the expiry of two years from the commencement of this Act, **only persons competent, as defined in National Building Code-2016, and a Professional Civil Engineer registered with Council,** shall supervise or execute or certify any Engineering design or drawing or construction of:

.....

39. Authority not to permit construction unless engineering design is certified by Professional Civil Engineer. -

Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, after the expiry of two years from the commencement of this Act, the State Government or any of its officers or a Local Authority or any of its officers or an Area Development Authority or Urban Area Development Authority constituted under the Karnataka Town Planning and Urban Development Act, 1976 or any of its officers **shall not permit construction of a building falling under any of the clauses (a) to (d) of sub-section (1) of section 36 unless the design or drawing of the building is certified by a Professional Civil Engineer.**

These provisions affect the rights of Architects to carry on the profession of architecture independently of Civil Engineers.

	Accordingly, the Council decided to file a Writ petition against the State of Karnataka before Hon'ble Karnataka High Court in the matter as advised by its Advocate. In view of the above, a Civil Writ Petition No. 31166 of 2024 in the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru was filed by the Council. The Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has issued notices to the respondents. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xxii.	ORDER DATED 29.08.2024 IN LETTERS PATENT APPEAL NO. 841 OF 2024 IN WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 4100/2023 IN THE MATTER OF COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE VS. DOBARIYA MOHIT RAMNIKAL & ANR.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that Mr. Dobariya Mohit Ramnikal filed Writ Petition No.4100 of 2023 before Hon'ble Delhi High Court challenging the recommendations made by Council to Central Government not to recognise his Master's Degree in Architecture awarded by University of Maryland under Section 15 of the Architects Act, 1972. The Single Judge of Hon'ble High Court quashed the letter dated 13.07.2021 issued by the Ministry and declared that the Petitioner is entitled to recognition of M.Arch. Degree awarded to him by University of Maryland, USA. The order of Single Judge was challenged by the Council before the Division Bench of Hon'ble Delhi High Court. The Division Bench vide dated order dated 29.08.2024 stayed the order dated 01.07.2024 of the Single Judge. The matter is now listed for hearing on 07.04.2025. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xxiii.	WRIT PETITION NO (CIVIL) NO. 12448 OF 2024, IN THE MATTER OF SIDDHARTHA THOMAS VS. COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE & ANR BEFORE HON'BLE DELHI HIGH COURT.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that Mr. Siddhartha Thomas filed a Writ Petition (C) No.12448 of 2024 against the Council of Architecture and Ministry of Education challenging the recommendations of the Council made to Ministry not to recognise the Master of Arts (Honours) in Architecture awarded by University of Edinburgh, UK, as the duration of the same is 4 years and practical training/ internship is not part of the course curriculum. The qualification was found to be equivalent to only RIBA part 1 which is not considered for granting registration as an Architect in UK. The Council has filed its detailed counter affidavit in the matter and the matter is listed for hearing on 15th March, 2025. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xxiv.	CIVIL WRIT PETITION NO. 17136 OF 2024 IN THE MATTER OF VAMIKA YADAV V/S. COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE & ANR BEFORE HON'BLE DELHI HIGH COURT.

	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that Ms. Vamika Yadav filed a Writ Petition no.17136 of 2024 regarding rejection of her registration as an Architect by the Council based on “Degree of Master of Arts” degree Awarded by the University of Edinburgh, UK. The issue regarding recognition of Master of Arts Degree awarded by the university of Edinburg, UK is already sub judice in W. P No. (Civil) No. 12448 of 2024 filed by Siddhartha Thomas before Hon’ble Delhi High Court. Further the larger related issue is pending before Division Bench in L.P.A No. 841 OF 2024 In Writ Petition (Civil) No. 4100/2023 Council of Architecture V/s Dobariya Mohit Ramnikal & Anr. before Hon’ble Delhi High Court. The case is listed for hearing on 15 March, 2025. The Hon’ble members noted the information.
xxv.	ORDER DATED 19.09.2024 IN W.P. [C]. NO. 7411 & 7412 OF 2007, IN THE MATTERS OF K. GOPALA KRISHNA BHAT AND MADAN LAL VS COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE, BEFORE HON’BLE HIGH COURT OF DELHI.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the above writ petitions were filed by Shri K. Gopala Krishna Bhat, Former Deputy Registrar, COA and Shri Madan Lal, Former Principal Private Secretary to President, COA, before Hon’ble Delhi High Court challenging their removal from the services of the Council and demanding reinstatement with other benefits. The Hon’ble High Court heard the matter and asked the Advocate of the Council to submit a detailed statement on the basis of the demand of the Petitioner for grant of arrears to them in salary on account of 6th pay commission while they were in the services of the Council, since the decision of removal grants the petitioners all benefits of services till the date of removal order. Accordingly, after calculations statements were submitted before the High Court stating that Rs.4,06,432/- would be payable to Shri K. Gopala Krishna Bhat and Rs.1,51,913/- to Shri Madan Lal. The matter was finally heard on 19th September, 2024 and the petitioners accepted the amount suggested by the Council and did not press their challenge to the decision of Council for removal of their services from the Council. However, Petitioners demanded that as they were entitled to receive the amount in the year 2007, so Council should pay interest for the same. Accordingly, the High Court directed as under: <i>“Respondents to release the aforementioned amounts, admittedly due to the Petitioners respectively, within a period of six weeks from the date of receipt of this order, along with interest @6% per annum from the date the amounts were due and payable and till date of actual payments.”</i>

	Accordingly, Shri K. Gopala Krishna and Shri Madan Lal were paid their dues as per the Order of the Hon'ble High Court. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xxvi.	COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR CONDUCTING TRAINING PROGRAMMES.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has approached the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) to promote and strengthen vocational education in the field of Architecture and related disciplines. This partnership is aimed at designing and implementing specialized training programs to enhance the skills and employability of individuals in architectural vocations. As part of this initiative, the Council prepared a presentation for review by NCVET. The presentation outlines the scope of the collaboration, including proposed training modules, skill development frameworks, and strategies for capacity building. The focus of these training programs is to ensure alignment with industry needs, encourage skill enhancement, and provide opportunities for professional growth in the architecture and construction sectors. The Council has so far made two presentations before NCVET for considering the Council as an awarding institution for conducting these training programs. A final presentation is expected to be made before the Chairman and Secretary, NCVET shortly by the Council. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
xxvii.	VARIOUS PROGRAMMES/MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE PRESIDENT, COA
	The President informed the members that he had attended various programs and events at various intervals with the objective of raising awareness about the field of architecture. The Hon'ble members noted the information.
22	CONDUCT OF JURY OF URBAN STUDIO RESEARCH PROJECT (USRP) AND COA AWARDS PROGRAMME 2024 FOR UG/PG THESIS AND HERITAGE AWARDS BY THE COUNCIL AT BENGALURU.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council would organizing a Jury for the Urban Studio Research Project (USRP) at R.V.College of Architecture, located at CA Site No. 1, Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th Block, Chikegowadanapalya, Bengaluru-560109 on January 21, 2025. This jury session would evaluate the Urban Studio Research Projects presented by architecture faculty, highlighting innovative approaches to urban concerns and their research contributions.

	Coinciding with the above event, the Council would also organizing the National Final Juries of the “COA Awards 2024” at Bengaluru on January 22, 2025, scheduled to be held at Dayanandasagar College of Architecture, located at Shavige Malleswara Hills, Kanakapura Road, Kumaraswamy Layout, South-end of Jayanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka, to celebrate and recognize outstanding achievements in architectural thesis and documentation by students from across the country. COA Awards 2024 includes three key Award categories: 1. AEAT 2024 - COA National Awards for Excellence in Architectural Thesis 2024 and the JK AYA Best Architecture Student of the Year Award 2024. 2. DAH 2024 - Students' Awards for Excellence in Documentation of Architectural Heritage 2024. 3. PGTA 2024 - COA National Awards for Excellence in Post Graduate Thesis in Architecture 2024. The Jury events would be held from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The Registrar-Secretary informed that the COA Awards Declaration Function has been scheduled from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, followed by a dinner at 8:30 PM onwards on January 22, 2025 at the Dayanand Sagar College of Architecture. The President, Council of Architecture invited all the Hon’ble members of the Council to grace the occasion with their esteemed presence.
23	TO TAKE NOTE OF CONSTITUTION OF FOLLOWING COMMITTEE(S) BY PRESIDENT/ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE AFTER 82ND MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the President, COA and Executive Committee have constituted/re-constituted the following Committees to carry on the functions of the Council. The details of these committees are as under: 1. Board of Architectural Education for Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Diploma courses: The Committee was reconstituted on 26th September, 2024 consisting of Ar.Kiran S Mahajani, Convenor, Prof. K.Senthil Kumar, Member, Prof. Pushkar M. Kanvinde, Member, Prof. Milind Kollegal, Special Invitee, Ar. P. Vaitianadin, Special Invitee, Ar. Nand Lal Chandel, Special Invitee, Prof. Radhika Nagpal, Special Invitee, Prof. Chirayu Bhatt, Special Invitee, Prof. Mamatha P. Raj, Special Invitee, Dr. Ajay Monga, Special Invitee, Prof. Sheetal Sharma, Special Invitee, Ar. A Srivathsan, Special Invitee, Dr. Anjali Kadam, Special Invitee, Dr. Gaurav Raheja, Special Invitee, Dr. Akshay P. Patil, Special Invitee. The Board is mandated to prepare draft regulations for the undergraduate, postgraduate, and diploma courses in line with National Education Policy (NEP) and the proposed amendments in the Architects Act, 1972, to prepare the minimum standards of Architectural Education in line with NEP as well as the proposed amendments in Architects Act, 1972 & to take up any issue/matter as may be deemed relevant by the Board.

The Board has so far conducted 21 meetings are conducted. A report from the Board is placed before the Hon'ble members as a separate item of the agenda.

2. 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 (PGETA)

The Committee was re-constituted on 04.11.2024 consisting of Ar. T. Loganathan (Convenor), Ar.Binumol Tom, Member, Ar.Anupama Sharma, Member, Ar. Abhijit Sadashiv Natu, Member, Ar. Anand Achari, Member to prepare a scheme of examination for conducting PGETA test for admission to First Year of Post-Graduation Programme in Architecture with various specializations for 2025-2026, to prepare the syllabus, brochure and other modalities for the conduct of the PGETA, to lay down criteria and preparation of questions, identifying question setters, supervision of evaluators, moderation of evaluation etc. and to monitor the entire evaluation process, to oversee the results declaration process, to decide the timeframe and policy/guidelines for the conduct of PGETA Test, to carry out any other work related to PGETA as may be required or assigned by the Council.

The Committee has conducted 2 meetings till date.

3. NATA Coordination Committee 2025

The Committee was re-constituted on 23.08.2024 consisting of Ar.Gajanand Ram, Vice-President, COA & Convenor, Ar.Binumol Tom, Member, Prof. Milind Kollegal, Member, Special Invitee, Prof. Milind Gujarkar, Special Invitee, Ar.Dr Kavita Daryani Rao, Special Invitee, Ar. P. Vaitianadin, Special Invitee.

The mandate of the NATA Coordination Committee 2025 is to prescribe the pattern and syllabus for NATA 2025; to prepare the NATA 2025 Brochure and Expression of Interest for Test Centres; to supervise and monitor activities and work awarded to the NATA Service Provider to ensure the smooth conduct of NATA 2025; to determine the time frame, policy, and guidelines for conducting NATA Tests; to establish criteria and decide on the number of test centres within India and internationally, as well as the allotment of students to these centres; to oversee the conduct of NATA at the designated test centres; to define criteria for selecting questions, appoint question setters, supervise evaluators, and moderate the evaluation process, ensuring thorough monitoring of the entire evaluation procedure: to oversee the process of result declaration for NATA 2025: and to undertake any other tasks related to NATA as required or assigned by the Council.

The Committee has so far conducted 13 meetings till date.

4. Preparation of Conditions of Engagement and Scale of Charges for Comprehensive Architectural Services

The Committee was constituted on 16.07.2024 consisting of Ar.Naveen Kanithi, Convenor, Ar.Vishal Vyas, Member, Ar.Amogh Kumar Gupta,

	Member, Ar.Jitendra Mehta, Member, Ar.Prashant Kumar, Member, Ar.Tushar Sogani, Member, to prepare a simple and abridged document on Condition of Engagement and Scale of Charges so that all Architects can follow the same and unhealthy and uncompetitive practice can be stopped. The Committee has conducted one meeting till date and will submit its report/ recommendations shortly. 5. Sub-Committee on Creation of Building Audit Tool and Accreditation of Architectural Firms The Sub-Committee was constituted on 20.09.2024 consisting of Dr. Amit Hajela, Convenor, Ar. Ashok B Lall, Member, Mr. Snehanishu Mukherjee, Member, Prof. (Dr.) Jyotirmay Mathur, Member, Ar. Prasad Suresh Vaidya, Member, Prof. (Dr.) Rajan Rawal, Member, Dr. Gaurav Raheja, Member, Mr. Gaurav Shorey, Member, Dr. Vinod Jain, Member, Mr. Pankaj Dharkar, Member, Dr. Priyanka Kochhar, Member, Dr. Shagun Agarwal, Member, Mr. Kamleshwar Shukla, Advisor, Mr. Sanjay Paul, Expert, Mr. Amit Tambi, Expert, Mr. Suneet Mahendru, Member. The Sub-Committee is entrusted with the responsibility to develop mechanism for Accreditation of Architectural Firms and develop an objective framework for evaluation of Buildings to be known as Building Audit Tool. The Committee has conducted 4 meetings till date and will soon submit its report/ recommendations to Council. Dr. Amit Hajela made a detailed presentation on the progress of work done by the Committee before the Full Council. The members appreciated the initiative. 6. Constitution of Advisory Committee (Appeals) The Advisory Committee (Appeals) was constituted on 24th December, 2024 consisting of Ar.Bapilu Chai, Convenor. Ar.Vidur Mehta, Member and Ar.Ravi Kumar for hearing appeals from applicants whose applications are rejected by the Registrar for registration u/s 25(a) of the Architects Act, 1972. The Committee convened its first meeting on January 4, 2024, during which it heard appeals of three appellants.
24	MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA:
a)	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 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.

	Further, the Council also vide its letter dated 27.04.2023 submitted a revised 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 matter is under active consideration of the Ministry. The President and Vice-President along with Registrar, COA, recently had a meeting with the officers of the Ministry in the matter. The Council vide its letter dated 07.01.2025, again sent its proposal to the Ministry regarding scheme of for grant of equivalence to foreign PG qualifications with Indian Master's degree. The Hon'ble members requested the Central Government to expedite its approval.
b)	Proposal of the Council to Central Government to amend the COA (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020, allowing for Lateral Entry For 3-year Diploma Holders into 2nd year of B.Arch. Degree programme.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that 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 was submitted by the Council vide letter dated 20.10.2023 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 President and Vice-President along with Registrar, COA, recently had a meeting with the officers of the Ministry in the matter. Subsequently, the Ministry had requested for data related to registration of B.Arch pass outs admitted on the basis of Diploma Programme, as architects with the Council during the past years. The Council, vide its letter dated 23.12.2024, has supplied the requisite information to the Ministry. The Hon'ble members requested the Central Government to expedite its approval.
c)	Proposal of the Council to Central Government for enhancement of age of superannuation for Heads of Institutions for imparting full-time instructions for recognised qualifications.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council at its 82nd meeting held on 20.07.2024 had decided to amend the Council of

	Architecture Minimum standards of Architectural Education Regulations 2020 by enhancing age of Superannuation of the Head of Architectural Institution holding the administrative post of Principal/Director/Head of Department (as the case may be) at architectural institutions imparting 5-year B.Arch. degree programme in the Country from 65 to 70 years. The decision of the Full Council was submitted to the Ministry of Education vide its letter dated 16.08.2024 for its consideration in the matter and the proposal under consideration by the Ministry. The Hon'ble members requested the Central Government to expedite its approval.
d)	Approval of enhancement of fees to be charged from architects.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council had 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 at its 82nd Meeting 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. The Council vide its letter dated 16.08.2024 requested the Ministry to consider the proposal of the Council. The Ministry vide its letter dated 27.08.2024 requested the Council to present the proposal with full facts and justification. Accordingly, the Council, vide its letter dated 10.12.2024, has submitted the revised proposal to enhance fee to be charged from the architects along with facts and justification. The Hon'ble members requested the Central Government to expedite its approval.
25	TO CONSIDER COUNCIL'S LETTER DATED 23.12.2024 TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR NOTIFYING THE LIST OF INDIAN POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME AS ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the President of the Council of Architecture had met Ms. Saumya Gupta, Joint Secretary (TE) to Government of India, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, on 17.12.2024, to address matters related to the Council of Architecture. Among the topics discussed was the notification of additional recognized

	Indian qualifications in terms of provisions of Section 28 of the Architects Act, 1972. Accordingly, it was proposed by the Council that following qualifications/ entries be made under additional recognized qualifications separately in the schedule of recognized qualifications under Section 14, appended to the Architects Act, 1972, for the purpose of entry as an additional qualification in the Register of Architects and certificate of registration: Additional Recognized Qualifications (for entry as additional qualification in the register) may be under: Any Postgraduate Degree/ Diploma in Architecture or allied areas, awarded by Indian Universities established by an Act of Central and State legislature or competent authorities recognized by the Central Government, UGC/AICTE, obtained by an Architect subsequent to acquiring a recognized qualification. Ph.D Degree in Architecture or allied areas, awarded by Indian universities established by an Act of Central and State legislatures, obtained by an architect subsequent to acquiring a recognized qualification. The additional recognized qualifications mentioned above shall be recognized only for the purpose of entry as additional qualification in the register of architects and certificate of registration, and not for seeking registration an architect under section 25 of the Act. The Hon'ble members requested the Central Government to expedite its approval.
26	TO CONSIDER MINISTRY'S LETTER DATED 03.01.2025 ON THE PROPROAL OF THE COUNCIL FOR AMENDMENT IN COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE (MINIMUM STANDARDS OF ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION) REGULATIONS, 2020 TO ALLOW FOR ADMISSION OF STUDENTS FROM ALL STREAMS INTO B.ARCH. PROGRAMME BASED ON NEP.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that in terms of the decision of the Council in its 76th Meeting held on 26.02.2022, the Council of Architecture vide its letter dated 02.03.2022 had requested the Ministry of Education for amending the eligibility for admission to 5-year B.Arch. programme on the lines of NEP, by removing requirement of PCM subjects and conduct of bridge courses by Institutions, so that 10+2 students from all streams could take admission into 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. programme in the country. The matter was followed up by the Council with Ministry multiple times during the past years. The Council is in receipt of a letter dated 03.01.2025 from the Ministry of Education stating that the competent authority of the Ministry has declined the proposal of the Council to discontinue the mandatory requirement of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics for admission to Bachelor of Architecture Degree course. The Hon'ble members noted the information in the matter.

27	TO CONSIDER LETTER DATED 12.12.2024 RECEIVED FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF TOURISM, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA REGARDING BHARAT PARV 2025.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council is in receipt of a letter dated 12.12.2024 received from Ms. Mugdha Sinha, Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India stating that the “Bharat Parv” is being organised as part of Republic Day Celebrations by Government of India and this year the Bharat Parv will be organized from 26 to 31st January, 2025 at the Lawns and Gyan Path in front of Red Fort, Delhi. In this regard, the Ministry of Tourism has allocated a space of 75 sq. mts. at Bharat Parv to Council of Architecture for the Arts to curate an exhibition on architecture and innovative initiatives. This space will be provided on gratis and Council of Architecture will be required to carry out designing and branding of the space where as the Ministry will take care of the facia and external branding. The Hon’ble members noted the information and appreciated the initiative to participate in the Bharat Parv.
28	COLLABORATION WITH URBAN VILLAGE CHARITABLE TRUST FOR VR AND AI CAPACITY BUILDING IN SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE IN INDIA.
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has collaborated with Urban Village Charitable Trust (UVCT) upon receiving proposal from Founder Director UVCT regarding Virtual Reality (VR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) capacity-building initiatives in Schools of Architecture across India. Recognizing the importance of integrating advanced technology into architectural education, the COA has extended a grant of up to ₹5 lakh for 10 institutions selected by UVCT (in first phase) for procurement of VR instruments to facilitate the program. Process for Providing VR Equipment to Participating Institutions: 1. Specifications, brand names, and quantities for the VR instruments will be provided by the UCVT. 2. The Council will invite quotations for the procurement of the specified equipment. 3. Institutions will procure the VR equipment, and the COA will release the grant to reimburse the cost. 4. Institutions will submit a utilization report for the grant to the Council. The UCVT will oversee the initiative and will be responsible for submitting a detailed report on the activity, which will be published by the Council. This initiative underscores the Council’s commitment to enhancing architectural education by equipping institutions with cutting-edge technological tools. The Hon’ble Members noted the information and appreciated the initiative.

29	ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR						
(i)	TO CONSIDER THE REPORT/ RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO IT.						
	The Council perused the report of the Disciplinary Committee in respect of complaints referred to the Committee for investigation as per Council of Architecture Rules, 1973. The Council after deliberations decided as under : <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1.</td><td> CA/DC/552 - With regards to the complaint filed by Ar. Rutuja Milind Rode against Ar. Hussain H Dolkawala, the Council perused the report of the Disciplinary Committee and noted that the Committee has found the Respondent Architect guilty of professional misconduct. The Council concurred with the report of the Disciplinary Committee and decided that the Report of the Committee be shared with the Complainant and Respondent Architect so as to provide them opportunity of hearing on the Report and taking further in terms of Section 30 of the Architects Act, 1972 in the next meeting of the Council. </td></tr> <tr> <td>2.</td><td> CA/DC/566 - With regard to the complaint filed by Ms. Kalavani Nagaraj against Ar. Johanna Rajasekaran, the Council perused the report of the Disciplinary Committee and after deliberations decided to refer back the matter to Disciplinary Committee for further detailed investigation and submission of report to Council. </td></tr> <tr> <td>3.</td><td> CA/DC/561- With regard to complaint filed by Shri Alok Bhauraoji Bele against Ar. Dhananjay Bhaisare, the Council perused the report of Disciplinary Committee and noted that Disciplinary Committee did not find the Respondent Architect guilty of professional misconduct. The Council referred the observation of the Disciplinary Committee that the main complaint of the complainant is regarding violation of the copyright of the design which does not fall into the preview of disciplinary committee. The Complainant could not produce any document which could prove that the Respondent was aware that the complainant was previously working on the said project. The design submitted by the complainant for approval of local body was offline and the respondent Architect submitted the designs for approval of local body online. The complainant's only concern was regarding recovery of his fees and he does not intend to seek any penal action against the Respondent Architect. The Council after deliberations concurred with the report of the Disciplinary Committee and ordered that no case of professional misconduct is made out against the </td></tr> </table>	1.	CA/DC/552 - With regards to the complaint filed by Ar. Rutuja Milind Rode against Ar. Hussain H Dolkawala, the Council perused the report of the Disciplinary Committee and noted that the Committee has found the Respondent Architect guilty of professional misconduct. The Council concurred with the report of the Disciplinary Committee and decided that the Report of the Committee be shared with the Complainant and Respondent Architect so as to provide them opportunity of hearing on the Report and taking further in terms of Section 30 of the Architects Act, 1972 in the next meeting of the Council.	2.	CA/DC/566 - With regard to the complaint filed by Ms. Kalavani Nagaraj against Ar. Johanna Rajasekaran, the Council perused the report of the Disciplinary Committee and after deliberations decided to refer back the matter to Disciplinary Committee for further detailed investigation and submission of report to Council.	3.	CA/DC/561- With regard to complaint filed by Shri Alok Bhauraoji Bele against Ar. Dhananjay Bhaisare, the Council perused the report of Disciplinary Committee and noted that Disciplinary Committee did not find the Respondent Architect guilty of professional misconduct. The Council referred the observation of the Disciplinary Committee that the main complaint of the complainant is regarding violation of the copyright of the design which does not fall into the preview of disciplinary committee. The Complainant could not produce any document which could prove that the Respondent was aware that the complainant was previously working on the said project. The design submitted by the complainant for approval of local body was offline and the respondent Architect submitted the designs for approval of local body online. The complainant's only concern was regarding recovery of his fees and he does not intend to seek any penal action against the Respondent Architect. The Council after deliberations concurred with the report of the Disciplinary Committee and ordered that no case of professional misconduct is made out against the
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		Respondent Architect and accordingly dismissed the complaint.
	4.	CA/DC/562 - With regard to complaint filed by Shri K. Gurunathan against Ar. Harish Muniasamy, the Council perused the report of the Disciplinary Committee that Complainant did not wish to pursue his complaint. Accordingly, the Council dismissed the Complaint as withdrawn.
ii.	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. : 582 Resolved that : 1. CA/DC/585:- With regards to the complaint filed by Mr. Deepak Chugh against Ar. Neeti Garg the Council noted that as per complaint the Complainant filed a suit against his neighbour for damages caused to his houses due to construction work of neighbour. In order to assess the damages, the Complainant approached the Respondent Architect for assessing damages occurred. He informed his requirement to the Respondent Architect. On 17/11/2014 Respondent Architect came to the site, inspected the damages, took photos with their cameras and took a fee of Rs 5,000/- for preparing the report. Thereafter, the report was submitted in on 20/11/2014 as per court order. During the period from 13 Sep. 2022 to 25 Aug. 2023, 8 summons and 2 warrants were issued in the name of the Respondent Architects for her deposition before court about her report. Finally, on 25/08/2023 Respondent Architect Neeti Garg appeared in the Court after the warrant was issued. She lied in the court and mislead the	

court about her. The oral statements she gave in the court room are against her documentary evidence. She and her husband harassed and tried to blackmail the Complainant and his family. She colluded with neighbour of complainant. The Respondent's Registration must be cancelled so that she cannot do this to anyone else.

The Respondent Architect in her defence submitted that the complainant approached her to prepare general assessment report of the condition of the property and expenses for negotiation with the owner of adjoining property and concealed intentionally that the report will be used for legal purpose.

The complainant was specifically enquired if any matter is pending is court regarding the above property, he denied. He was also enquired of prospects of using the report in the law of the court, he clearly denied the same.

That is why it was specifically mentioned in the report dated 17.11.2014 and it was mutually agreed as per the scope of work that architects have no binding to appear in the court of law in this matter. It is crystal clear from the fact that the same has been clearly defined in writing in the scope of work at SNo. 3 page 1 of the report.

Had the Complainant informed that report would be used for legal purpose, the technical report would have been dealt with very differently with input from professional test reports and in-depth diagnostic investigation and quantitative assessment instead of general assessment report to negotiate with owner of adjoining property.

The Complainant breached the trust of Architect. The Respondent not bound to appear in the court of law in this matter. The complainant presented the undersigned as witness in the court in contrast to the Original mutual agreed terms for preparation of report. The Respondent appeared in the Court of law many times as law-abiding citizen and got recorded her statement in court.

The Council after deliberations in the matter and observed that the Complaint is made about Respondent Architect not appearing in the court and making her statement. Whereas from the records it is noted that she did appear in the Court and made her statement. Thus, no case of violation of Professional Conduct Regulations is made out against her.

The Council, therefore, 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 procedures.

2. CA/DC/601: - With regards to the complaint filed by Mr. Jasneet Singh Dua against Ar. Abdul Aziz the Council noted that as per Complaint, the Complainant appointed the Respondent for completing his interior work

of his house. The Respondent agreed for fees of Rs.5 lakhs till completion stage and for providing 2D and 3D drawings and for providing various contractors for Furniture, Paint and Ceiling making etc.

Initially a payment of Rs. 2 lakhs were made to Respondent. It was agreed that Respondent would provide 3D design and elevation of all 4 bedrooms, drawing room, kitchen and dining room, drawings for almirah, TV panel design, wall paneling design within a month.

However, the Complainant never received the drawings. The respondent was contacted many times but no response and later on he blocked the phone of Complainant. The Respondent visited the site only once.

When Respondent was asked to return amount of Rs.2 lakhs he refused. Respondent cheated the Complainant and work is closed from 4 months due to his negligence and false promises/ commitments. When contacted his previous clients, the Complainant came to know that he had cheated them also.

The Respondent in his defence stated that he was engaged to complete the residence of the Complainant which was left incomplete by two Engineers. It was agreed to provide front elevation and designs of rooms. It was agreed to complete the work on payment of Rs.5 lakhs. The Complainant even after the insistence of Respondent did not sign the agreement.

It was agreed to make full payment in 3 instalments. However, the Complainant made advance payment of Rs.2 lakhs only. The Respondent visited the site 4 days in a week and total of 25 times and also sent his civil engineer as and when required. The Complainant was also provided 2D and 3D elevation.

The Respondent have always attended the phone calls of Complainant and his son Prince Dua and about 80 calls have been made with each other. When work was 95% complete the Respondent asked for balance money, the Complainant's intentions changed and he did not want to make payment. This complaint is totally false. Respondent prayed to Council that his hard earned should be got refunded from the complainant.

The Council after deliberations in the matter and observed that the Complaint is made about Respondent Architect not providing 2D and 3D elevation and not visiting and attending the phone calls. Whereas in the statement of defence the Respondent Architect submitted the copies of 2D and 3D elevations prepared by him and sent to Complainant and also stated that he had attended all calls. The work is 95% complete and complainant wants to avoid his due payment. Thus, no case of violation of Professional Conduct Regulations is made out against the Respondent.

The Council, therefore, 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 procedures.
iii.	TO CONSIDER EMAIL DATED 08.01.2025 RECEIVED FROM AR. SENTHIL KUMAR, MEMBER PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT IN MINIMUM STANDARDS OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION REGULATIONS 2020
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that Council has received an email dated 08.01.2025 from Ar. Senthil Kumar, Member, COA, proposing an amendment in Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations 2020 regarding "Experience" for the appointment of Faculty of Architecture in Architectural Institutions. The Council perused the email from Ar. Senthil Kumar, Member, COA and noted that as per the present Regulations, the professional experience is counted from the date of registration with Council for appointment to teaching posts under core faculty, due to which a lot of senior and experienced Architects who had passed their recognised qualification prior to enforcement of the Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020 but got registered as architects much later, are not eligible for posts, owing to less experience. The Council, after detailed deliberations, decided that those candidates who had obtained their recognised qualification before 11th August 2020 (the date of enforcement of the Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020), their professional experience acquired prior to registration as an architect may include practice, teaching, and/or research in the field of Architecture. This experience must be substantiated through experience certificates specifying nature of work from the architectural institutions, details of work undertaken and/or sample drawings of projects, duly certified by an architect. The professional experience of such candidates shall be determined by a Committee constituted by the Council based on the documents submitted.
iv)	CONSTITUTION OF SUB-COMMITTEE TO SUGGEST CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE.
	The Vice-President informed the members that Bureau of Indian Standards is revising the National Building Code 2016 and he has attended some meetings on the same as representative of Council. He requested the Hon'ble to send their views/ suggestions on the NBC so that the same be compiled by the Council and send to BIS. The Council after deliberations in the matter constituted a Sub-Committee consisting of Ar. Gajanand Ram, Convenor, Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty, Member, Ar. Vidur Mehta, Member and Ar. Tarun Garg, Member, to prepare and consolidate the views of the Council on National Building Code for sending to Bureau of Indian Standards. The Sub-Committee will compile its assignment within one month.

v)	COMPILATION OF COMPLAINTS OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT AGAINST ARCHITECTS AS STUDY MATERIAL FOR STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE.
	With the permission of the Chair, some members informed the President that Council is receiving many complaints against Architects for professional misconduct in order to avoid such incidents and guide the students and young architects the Council can prepare a study material on Professional Misconduct complaints duly maintaining anonymity of the Complainant and Respondent. The President accepted the suggestion and constituted a Sub-Committee consisting of Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty, Convenor, Ar. Binumol Tom, Member, Ar. Manish Chakravarthy Member and Ar. Namita Mohapatra, member.
vi)	COMMUNICATIONS TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT ON STRENGTHENING ARCHITECTURAL CADRE IN CONCERNED STATES.
	With the permission of the Chair, some members pointed out the Architectural posts in their departments are not being filled and they are working with minimal staff. The members requested that the Guidelines of the Council on Role of Architects be again sent to all State Governments. The President assured the Hon'ble members that the Council would send its Guidelines on Role of Architects to each State Government requesting them to strengthen Architectural Cadre so that public buildings are handled by Architecture Wing/ Department in the concerned states/ UTs properly and public money in construction of buildings is spent judiciously.

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 6:50 p.m.
