



National Seminar on Architecture: “CITIES AND CITIZENS”

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A National Seminar on Architecture “Cities & Citizens” was organised by Delhi Technical Campus at its campus at the Knowledge Park III, Greater Noida (U.P.) on the 13th and 14th March, 2015 under the auspices of the Sunshine Educational Society.

THE SEMINAR

Main thrust of the papers was intended to be The Human settlements which, from primitive to the most modern and elaborate have been built on three components: **Nature, Man, and Society** bringing with them the concepts of systems, networks and the Shell in which to live.

With a strong historical and cultural background, today's cities possess multi-layered complex systems for sanitation, utilities, land usage, housing, and transportation which run on a society of citizens with culture, administrative, legal, and historical status based on local law and experience. The aim of the National Seminar was to bring experts from all the concerned fields including Architecture, Art, Ekistics, Planning and Administration on a common platform to discuss and disseminate about the issues in cities we live in or are creating for future.

As all human habitats become permanent settlements, co-existence of various cultures and generations of citizens with ancient cities like Varanasi and Madurai and proposed smarter cities, India, like many other countries, faces a humongous challenge to managing their growth. The seminar successfully turned out to be a platform where it was proved beyond doubt that active cross sharing of existing knowledge as well as development of future design philosophies and logistics can emerge for a positive future of the citizens of the world.

The Inaugural Session started with the recital of *Saraswati Vandana* by the students of the School, the National Seminar was inaugurated by the chief guest Ms Leenu Sehgal, General Manager (Planning) Greater Noida Development Authority, by lighting the traditional lamp.



LEFT: Traditional start with *Saraswati Vandana* by the students and faculty

Formal inauguration of the National Seminar by Ms. Leenu Sehgal, GM (Planning) Greater Noida Authority, Uttar Pradesh along with Mrs Kiran Sahni, promoter Mayoor School with Mr. Vipin Sahni and Prof S.K. Khanna in the background.



The chief Guest was felicitated by the Chairman Shri Vipin Sahni along with Smt. Kiran Sahni. After which she was requested to address the gathering. Being a town planner with a huge experience, Ms. Leenu Sehgal gave an excellent impromptu speech covering most of the burning issues regarding cities and citizens today.



Shri Vipin Sahni, Chairman, Sunshine Educational & Development Society, felicitating the chief guest, Ms. Leenu Sehgal



The chief guest delivering the inaugural address

Hon’ble Justice Bhanwar Singh, the Director-General was also present to bless the School of Architecture, and spoke like a veteran architect in his well researched speech.

In his key-note address Prof. Satish Khanna touched very important issues of Human Habitats of urban India, based on his experience, both as an architect and a senior consultant to the Delhi Urban Art Commission



LEFT: Prof. Satish Khanna, Expert, Council of Architecture & Consultant to the DUAC, just before presenting the key-note address. Seated next to him is Dr. Neelam Sharma, Director of the Delhi Technical Campus

After a short tea break, the National Seminar got into a serious technical mode with the start of its Technical Sessions.



LEFT: Ms Rekha Dewani, Town-planner, Chief Architect Wave Infratech speaking on her experiences on the townships she worked on

Dr. Aruna Ramani Grover, Architect-Planner, Expert COA, consultant DUAC and professor of architecture SPA-D, presenting her paper “*Water Use In Indian Cities: Problems And Prospects*”





Prof. Ashok Grover, Principal and convener of the Seminar, presenting his paper

All the technical sessions were chaired by well-known personalities of the profession, which included:

1. Prof. S.K.Khanna, ex-SPA, New Delhi and a senior consultant to the DUAC
2. Mr Sudesh Prabhakar, Expert, Council of Architecture
3. Ms. Rekha Dewani, Chief Architect Wave Infratech and ex- NOIDA
4. Dr. Aruna Ramani Grover, professor SPA, New Delhi and member Heritage Conservation Committee



Ar. Sudesh Prabhakar, practising architect and Expert COA, (*third from left*) posing with the DTC faculty after his presentation

In the two days of presentations the seminar was packed with varied issues affecting Human Settlements.

The following list makes the wide spectrum of the discussion over the issue:

1. Prof. Avtar Singh: **Structures of Regional Architecture: BUNDI - A Forgotten Glory**
2. Dr. Aruna Ramani Grover: **Water Use In Indian Cites: Problems And Prospects**
3. Prof. Vikas Jain: **Visual Communication: Building the Gap between Heritage and the Contemporary**
4. Ar.Abhinav Garg & Ar.Charu Arora Mathur: **Environmental Clearance for Sustainable Development of Cities in India**
5. Prof. Tanushree Das: **Managing Built Heritage through Public- Private Partnership**
6. Prof. Harish Gupta & Ar.Akhil Gupta: **Conserving Our Past for a well- organized Future**
7. Ar. Sudesh Prabhakar: **Cities, Culture and Effect Of Technology on Culture**
8. Prof. Ashok Grover: **The Indian City....For Who?**
9. Ar.Tanya Gupta: **SINGAPORE: A green approach for City Development**



Participants posing for a photo during a break

As the issue is currently a hot topical matter, the Chairman, Shri Vipin Sahni, Smt. Kiran Sahni, as well as Shri Aman Sahni, Vice-Chairman remained glued to presentations for long periods during the Seminar.

The School of Architecture got a very efficient support from the offices of the Director and the Dean of DTC. As expected the hospitality team took excellent care of the Patrons, the Chief Guest, Experts and the speakers presenting their papers.

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