

Changing Urban Skyline

The Structure & Architecture Conference on theme “Changing Urban Skyline” aims to integrate various fraternities in the urban development spectrum to analyse matters of change and technology.



Presented by Indian Architect & Builder (IA&B) Forum, the 2nd Edition of the Structure & Architecture conference on theme *Changing Urban Skyline* was held at Delhi on 2nd December 2016. With an aim to bridge the gap between all the industries involved in the ecosystem of Urban Development, which includes Structural Engineering, Architecture and Construction. The conference focus on various aspects of urban design, planning development and infrastructure, the theme aspires to address issues, solutions and potential outcomes of an ever-changing and dynamic built environment. The Inaugural Session consisted of a Welcome Address by Mr Hemant Shetty, CEO Jasubhai Media followed by the Opening Note by Shri Mahendra Raj of Mahendra Raj Consultants. Other speakers in this session included Mr Moyukh Bhaduri, CMD, Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, and Mr Yatinder Pal Singh Suri, MD, Outokumpu who gave the closing remarks. The Guest of Honour- Dr Aruna Sharma, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Steel, spoke on the significance of steel structures and the necessity for development of rural areas. The conference distinguished three tracks: *Architecture & Design, Engineering, and Construction and Quality Control*, with opening notes by Balbir Verma (Balbir Verma & Associates), Prof Mahesh Tandon (Tandon Consultants and President-IASE), and Niranjan Sinha (EVP and Head-Residential Buildings and Factories SBG, L&T), respectively.



The first session tackled issues like *Redefining Physical Planning in Changing Urban Skyline; Choices, Change and Challenges in Urbanism and Architecture*; and Sustainability in the Urban context, bringing together panellists like Charanjit Singh Shah, Jasbir Sawhney and Apporv Vij.





The second session focused on the engineering aspects and addressed questions of infrastructure development and sustainability under topics like *Changed Structural Design Requirements of Tall Buildings as per New Indian Codes*; *Best Practices for an Earthquake Resistant Design of Structures*; and *Sustainable Dimension for Bridges & Flyovers in Urban Environment*. The speakers included the likes of Subhash Mehrotra, Sangeeta Wij and Prof Mahesh Tandon.

The last session was concerned with problems of quality control and management of large scale projects in an urban context. The presentations by B R Parthasarathy, Amitabha Ghoshal and Stephen Jones focused on *Project Construction Management*; *Role of Steel in Changing Urban Skyline*; and *Sustainable Infrastructure*.

The final panel discussion attempted to unfold the nuances of vertical and horizontal growth of cities. Recognising the restrictions of vertical growth in an urban Indian social context, the conclusion leaned towards a middle path. The panel members included Shri Mahendra Raj, Architect K T Ravindran, Architect Vinod Gupta and moderated by V Suresh, director, HIRCO.

Our special thanks to Shri Mahendra Raj, Chairman- Advisory Board for his guidance and Sub Committee members: Prof Mahesh Tandon, Architect Balbir Verma, Architect Jasbir Sawhney, Ms Sayona Phillip for their inputs.

We thank all our industry partners- Tata Structura, Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd, Outokumpu for their support in this initiative. ■