



प्रथम दीक्षांत समारोह

First Convocation

26 March 2015, Bhopal

निदेशक प्रतिवेदन
Director's Report



योजना एवं वास्तुकला विद्यालय, भोपाल

School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal



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Distinguished Chief Guest and Hon'ble Member of NITI Aayog, Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswatji; Chairperson, Board of Governors, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal Mrs. Sunita Kohli; Members of the Board of Governors and Senate of School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal; distinguished invitees; faculty members and staff of School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal and IISER, Bhopal; Dear Graduands and other students; media persons, and ladies and gentlemen. It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome each one of you to the first Convocation of School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal. We are very privileged to have Dr. V. K. Saraswat as our Chief Guest today and we whole heartedly thank him for coming to Bhopal. He has very kindly accepted our invitation to grace this occasion and deliver the Convocation address. On this occasion, I would like to thank our Chairperson Mrs. Sunita Kohli for her support and leadership. She has always emphasized on enhancing the teaching and learning of architecture and planning by providing best possible exposure and hands-on experience of the craft of architecture.

I would like to make a special mention of the grand support given by all members of the Board of Governors and Senate, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh and all other members of School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal community in developing School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal as leader of architecture and planning education. It is now my duty and privilege to present a comprehensive report on the progress that



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School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal has made in last six and a half years.

School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal and one more School of Planning and Architecture at Vijayawada were established in 2008 by the Union Government to promote architecture and planning education in the country. These institutions were created to foster research of high order in the area of architecture and planning to take up the challenges of physical and socio-environmental development of global standards. School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal following its charter strives for social sustenance through universal design, cultural sustenance through conservation and environmental sustenance through the disciplines of architecture, planning and design. The institute aims to be a nodal centre for mentoring other architecture and planning institutions in the central region of India.

We currently offer eight degree programmes in the discipline of architecture and planning. Two under-graduate programmes of B.Arch. and B.Plan. were started in 2008, whereas, post graduate programmes and doctoral programme in architecture and planning were introduced in July, 2010. Three more programmes at post graduate level in conservation, landscape architecture and environmental planning were introduced in 2013 making them to eight. Our degree programmes are competitive to enter, challenging to go through, and cutting-edge on relevance and rigour. Our responses to changes in the society around us are research and evidence based. Together with design, studies in technology, humanities, professional practice and social sciences form a model of integrated education in architecture and planning at our institute. The institute has given due emphasis on creating research environment and developed a rigorous doctoral programme. Today we have 27 students enrolled in the Ph.D. programme. As on date, we

have a total of 630 students on our rolls at undergraduate and post-graduate level and 280 graduands aspiring to get their degrees today. School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal attracts a large number of girl students for both under graduate and post graduate programmes. At present a ratio of girls and boys at post graduate level is 2:1 in favour of girls and at under graduate level percentage of girls reaches upto 35%.

The craft of architecture education requires critical and imaginative reflection. At School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal we not only teach design principles that explore form and compositions through the design of possible buildings, we teach students to ask the right questions, to challenge their own assumptions and to position themselves intellectually in relation to various physical and cultural world context.

School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal following its charter and objectives have tried to create intense academic environment at the institute and taken many initiatives as below:

1. Induction of research at the under graduate level in the form of seminars. Students are encouraged to research about cultural milieu of a particular project, research about history of the region, research about the users, research about the materials to be used and even about craft and design traditions of the region, where the project is located.
2. Inclusion of social science and humanities at early levels of architecture and planning education to cultivate innovative thinking.
3. Development and running of 'Knowledge Exchange Series' where



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many learned scholars are invited to interact with students and faculty. Institute has organized more than thirty special lectures in last few years by National and International experts.

4. Launch of an internationally refereed research journal called 'SPANDREL' to promote new dimensions in research of environments for living. We have continuously published this biannual journal for last four years covering various themes of urban development. The journal has received wide acclaim for special issues devoted on Social Sustenance, Historic Urban Landscape, Urban Design, Sacred Architecture and Vernacular traditions.
5. Setting up a publishing platform within institution called 'SPA PRESS'. This PRESS recognized by NISCAIR, MHRD publishes all in-house SPA publications including informative calendars, SPA journals and monographs with research output of faculty and students' work. 'Uniting Differences', the first monograph was published with help of UNESCO and ASI. Many more publications are on editing desk and will disseminate the concerns of the field.
6. Initiation of a new idea of teaching called 'Integral Studio' in which all students of all programmes at School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal work on a single exercise rigorously for one to two weeks. This intense multilevel interdisciplinary studio enables extremely fruitful interaction amongst students of first year to fourth year and across disciplines.
7. In 2010, our institute started a unique practice of organizing a National Students Design Competition in which students of architecture, planning and design school of the entire country

are invited to take part on a chosen exercise based on schools' objectives. The shortlisted students are then invited to school and it becomes a congregation of students of best schools of architecture and planning. The national competition ends with a rigorous jury, workshop and a public exhibition. We have organized four such national competitions and it is eagerly awaited in the community.

8. Due to our emphasis on Equal Access and Universal Design, Ministry of Social Justice has awarded the Institute for 2012 and 2013 with MPhasis Award of Universal Design. Ministry of Social Justice, Govt. of India later entrusted the Institute to develop concept note for National Institute of Inclusive and Universal Design to be established by Government of India.
9. The institute has developed many online virtual platform of discussion and have ties with the best institutions of the world. The Institute has signed MoUs with many institutions of Nation and World. We have worked on many academic projects with Berkeley University, Georgia Tech, USA, NTNU, Norway, Welsh School of Architecture, Queens University, Belfast and Institutions in Japan.
10. The Institute's emphasis on outcome based education has been recognized by MHRD by nominating Institute as member of Working Group of Planning Commission for Technical Education, EC member of National Board of Accreditation and member of AICTE's All India Board of Architectural Education.



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11. Institute started a unique initiative of offering Summer Internship to trainee students of Architecture and Planning. In this programme the interns from our Institute and other institutions worked on ongoing research works of the Institute, helped in compiling works for SPA Press publications and learnt new techniques of documentation through modern tools. Last year Summer Internship was clubbed with Ashapuri Temples research project and international experts were invited.

Our school's location in the heart of the India gives us advantage to draw from cultural context of Malwa, Mahakaushal, Vidarbha, Gopakshetra and Bundelkhand. The communities around us provide social opportunities, inspiration and support for the study of urban and human settlements pattern. The spirit of entire curriculum at School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal creates architects and planners who can affect global architectural culture. We will continue to strive for quality in higher education with our newly acquired status of 'Institution of National Importance'.

Faculty Activities

The Institute's dynamic faculty members are passionate about architectural education coming from various parts of the country, and are recipients of many scholarly awards. School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal constantly encourages their faculty members to take part in national and international conferences, workshops, symposiums. The Institute offers a Cumulative Professional Development Allowance and faculty has been immensely benefitted through this provision. Approximately 25 faculty members have visited various universities of the world either on the invitation or to participate in international events. United Nations Universities and other bodies of

United Nations has sponsored training programmes and other visits of faculty members. Few notable amongst them are –

1. Nomination of Prof. Ajay Khare on India-Yale Leadership Programme held at Yale University of USA and Fulbright Fellowship to visit twenty universities of the USA.
2. Nomination of Prof. Rachna Khare by Union Government for UN-ESCAP programme in three countries sponsored by United Nations.
3. Dr. Tapas Mitra and Ms. Sheuli Mitra presented two research papers at the 49th ISOCARP congress, held at Brisbane, Australia.
4. Ar. Piyush Hajela presented a paper on 'Urban Cultures and Public Open Spaces in Indian Cities' at the International Conference held in Skithos Island, Greece.
5. Dr. Anand Wadwekar and Mr. Karna Sengupta presented a research paper in the fourth International Conference on Urban and Extra Urban Studies-Spaces and Flows organized at the University of Amsterdam.
6. Dr. Kshama Puntambekar attended the Asia Pacific Integrated Model (AIM) started National Institute for Environmental Research (NIES), Japan.
7. Ar. Saurabh Tewari visited Doha in Qatar and presented his work about design culture in India.
8. Mr. Ashfaque Alam was sponsored by Queens University, Belfast to visit Northern Ireland and understand about the regional



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development strategy. Later, doctoral scholars of Queens University, Belfast visited our Institute for five weeks. Faculty members are also encouraged to apply for various fellowships offered by the international universities. Prof. Ajay Khare was offered Berkeley Teaching Fellowship in 2013 with a topic to cover in the design studio emphasizing architecture as a social art. The Institute hosted this fellowship on a topic 'Universal Design for Cultural Interface in the Sacred Site of Ujjain'. The teaching fellowship focused on equal access for all at a cultural site like Ujjain Sinhastha. The educational process and outcome in the universal design teaching is being compiled in form of a book. Dr. Vishakha Kawathekar received Nehru Fellowship to visit U.K. and present her work at Victoria and Albert Museum. Mr. N. K. Paulose achieved Common-Wealth Fellowship at U.K. for post graduate programme in Sustainable Transportation. The academic and research environment of the Institute results into large number of publications by the faculty members. Starting in 2009-10 with six publications, the number of publications by faculty members in 2013-14 reached upto fifty in national and international publications. The SPA community is invited in any event being held in the country and our teachers have made their mark on National platforms of ITPI, IIA, CoA, etc.

Workshops, Seminars & Training Programmes

Since its inception School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal has been very active in creating platforms for interaction through workshops, seminars and training programmes.

1. The School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal organised a workshop on 'Integrating Stone Crafts in Architecture' from 17th

to 19th September, 2010 in collaboration with DRONAH, Gurgaon, Directorate of Archaeology, Archives and Museums, Government of Madhya Pradesh and Archaeological Survey of India, Bhopal. The aim of the workshop was to give an overview of techniques and use of stone crafts in traditional and contemporary architecture and to realise the traditional principles of translating design into stone through an interaction with stone craftsmen.

2. Geographical Information System (GIS) and its allied technologies are playing vital role in the field of planning by catering to the growing demands of the modern world. With the increasing importance of GIS in the field of planning, there is a felt-need to expose the students to these technologies. For this purpose, The School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal has organized a workshop on 'Principles and Application of GIS' from 27th to 28th September, 2010.

3. The three day Universal Design Workshop was organised as a culmination of the National Student Design Competition for 'Design for All/Universal Design' on 3rd, 4th & 5th March 2011. During the three days of workshop the students were enlightened by the lectures and presentations by the experts in the field of Universal Design. Three such workshops were organized in 2011, 2012, 2014 with international experts.

4. A Short Term (Five Day) Training Programme on 'Remote Sensing and GIS Applications in Planning' was organized during 20-24 June 2011 at SPA Bhopal, for faculty and professionals. The objective of the programme was to provide exposure to the participants in the latest and advanced applications of geo informatics.



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5. For Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action. A Global studio was conducted in School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal in collaboration with United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board for 21 days from 17th May 2012 to 31st May 2012. Fifty students, twelve in-house faculty members, experts from all across the country participated.

6. A two-day international workshop was organized in collaboration United Nations University – Institute for Advance Studies, Yokohama, Japan, Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research, Japan and United Nations University – Institute for Sustainability and Peace, Tokyo, Japan during 2-3 December 2013. The workshop saw researchers from all the partner institutes and other national and international organisations presenting their works in the two sub-themes of ‘co-benefits in urban areas’ and ‘sound material society’ with discussions and recommendations for ‘sustainable future options for cities’.

7. A one-day national workshop of planning schools on revision of UDPFI Guidelines was held on 30th January, 2014 organised by the three SPA’s of Bhopal, Delhi and Vijaywada. The workshop was divided into five sub-themes of Inclusive planning and legislation, urban transport, climate change and energy efficiency, governance architecture and resource mobilisation, urban form and fabric. Eminent experts, scholars and senior professionals from across the country participated in the deliberations.

The school has also co-partnered with many leading academic institutions and research organizations and co-hosted symposiums, seminars and workshops in other institutes.

Research & Development

School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal has been initiating research and consultancy works for last four years. Research initiatives in the fields of sustainable planning, traditional knowledge systems and universal design have emerged as the key research domains of the institute. The main focus of the school has been to initiate research projects. Consultancy projects have been taken up only as exemplary cases. Some of the main research initiatives from 2011 till date are enlisted below.

Domain: Climate Change & Sustainable Development

1. Forming a Recycle-Based Low Carbon Society in India (United Nations University – Institute for Sustainability and Peace, Tokyo, Japan)
2. Global Environmental Partnership Project, Country Status Report: India (United Nations University – Institute for Sustainability and Peace, Tokyo, Japan)
3. Low Carbon Society scenario for Bhopal, India. (National Institute for Environmental Studies, Tsukuba, Japan and Mizuho Information and Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan)
4. Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (LBSAP) Bhopal 2012. (United Nations University – Institute for Advance Studies, Yokohama, Japan). Funded by Madhya Pradesh State Bio-diversity Board.
5. Advancing locally based green practices to realise establishment of sound material societies in Asian cities. (United Nations University – Institute for Sustainability and Peace, Tokyo, Japan) Funded by Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research, Japan.
6. Urban Development with co-benefits approach: a case of waste



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management in Surat. (United Nations University – Institute for Advance Studies, Yokohama, Japan)

7. Collaborating for Climate. UK-India faculty, curriculum and network development project for Climate and Carbon Management. (A collaborative project with Queens University, Belfast UK, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India.) Funded by the British Council.
8. Optimization of Photovoltaic Solar Panel installation Using Remote Sensing Techniques (DST Govt. of India)

Domain: Conservation & Traditional Knowledge Systems

1. Heritage Impact Assessment for Khajuraho World Heritage Site (Archaeological Survey of India, Bhopal Circle)
2. Tentative List Document for the proposed Chambal Rivers and Ravines as proposed World Heritage Site in Natural Category Phase I (Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Development Board)
3. Research, Documentation and preparation of feasibility report (Phase I) for group of temples at Ashapuri, Madhya Pradesh (Cardiff University) funded by World Monument Fund.
4. Mahakaal Van and Gopal Kshetra IRMA Consultancy. Ujjain (Ujjain Municipal Corporation)
5. Restoration of Gauhar Mahal, Phase-II Bhopal (MP Hasthshilp Evam Hathkargha Vikas Nigam Bhopal)

Domain: Universal Design

1. Universal Access at City Palace Complex, Udaipur, A Research and Design Development Project (Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation)
2. Design of toilets for schools in M.P. Under “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” of Govt. of India, low maintenance and cost effective

prototype design of toilets as per universal design principles
(Rajya Shiksha Kendra, MP)

3. Design of Disabled friendly Aanganwadi centre as per Universal Design principles (Bhopal Development Authority and Aarushi, funded by UNICEF)
4. Inclusive Park Design called Tatyia Tope Park in Kanpur for Kanpur Development Authority.

Research Centre

A multidisciplinary Centre for Human Centric Research (CHCR) is formed at SPA-Bhopal. Objectives of this research and design development centre are:

- Bring awareness amongst budding architects and planners to respond to the needs of diverse human population otherwise marginalized in the past design practices, for collective socio-economic-cultural development in the country.
- Build a research based body of knowledge with all realms of the ethnographic, qualitative and quantitative experimental paradigms, to support human centered design process.

The centre functions in four major areas, 'identification of research priority areas and networking', 'education & training', 'research & design development' and 'dissemination'.

The Centre has conducted workshops, undertaken socially relevant projects and brought out publications with the intention of disseminating knowledge on universal design principles. The activities of the centre received wide acclaim by Ministry of Social Justice, Govt. of India.



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International Consultancy Project

An international consultancy project for the Department of Human Settlement Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, Royal Government of Bhutan was undertaken by SPA, Bhopal, for “Review and Preparation of Urban Development Plan for Samdrupjongkhar Thromde, Bhutan” in January to June 2013.

The project is exemplary in its approach in integrating and dovetailing a consultancy work with the academic curriculum of the Urban Planning studio of the B. Plan programme. Extensive use of the institute’s resources, both manpower and technology was made and a specialised multidisciplinary team of faculty across disciplines, technical staff and students worked in tandem with extensive application of the GIS systems and software.

Students Activities and Achievements

The student community of School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal reflects wide diversity of cultural background and various bodies have been very active in organising various events. Students of Planning annually participate and win trophies in the NOSPlan (National Association of Students of Planning) convention. In the NOSPlan Conventions, including winning the formal trophies. SPA Bhopal stood 2nd in the year 2013 and this year it has won the Overall Trophy. In December, 2014, SPA Bhopal organised and hosted the XVI NOSplan Convention which was attended by 630 students across the country.

Students of Architecture participate in NASA (National Association of Students of Architecture). After three years of being an observer at Annual NASA (National Association of Students of Architecture)

Convention, SPA Bhopal became a participating member in 2011. From there it has won prizes and special mentions in Rubens, Nari Gandhi and Writing Architecture Trophies in last three years. Students of B.Arch have been selected for the final round of Student category World Architecture Festival for the last three consecutive years now.

The school has been organising the Annual Photography Exhibition 'Perception' where various selected entries from the school and other institutions are displayed at the prominent cultural hub of the city like the State Museum and Rabindra Bhawan.

The Literary Club of the school initiated the organisation of the literary week last year. With this it has been organising debates on various occasions like National Students Day, National Education Day and National Good Governance Day.

From the last year, Quiz Club has organised three intra-institution architectural quizzes to shortlist for National Architecture Quiz like Archumen.

Annual Cultural Festival named 'Synergy' (integrating students in groups across the courses and classes) and Freshers Welcome 'Kalrav' have been regular events at the school since its inception. The events witness the high energy competitions and events. With batches graduating, farewell events 'SPAdios' have been organised thrice. In these events the Dance and Music Societies of the school display their forte. The open musical band 'Eclectica' has its origin at SPA Bhopal, where primarily the students collaborated with other local musicians to come up with musical songs of different genres and their musical



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videos. These students later composed official anthem and song of SPA Bhopal.

The school has been hosting SPIC MACAY programmes. It has hosted Shri Roze Khan Manganiyar Group, Sushri Kalapini Komakali (Hindustani Classical), Dr. Jayanti Kumaresh (Veena) and Choliattam Dance Group and many more.

The Sports Society of the School has been organising Sportsfest annually. Last Year, it hosted a four days long event at the Bhauri campus which started on National Unity Day. It witnessed sports events of Cricket, Football, Volleyball, Kabbaddi, Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess and Athletics. Basketball was hosted at IISER campus. The Rotaract club, which participates in socially relevant activities, has been a regular unit in reaching out needy people. With this, the school proposes to have a NSS centre soon.

The recent graduates too have brought laurels to the school. Navjeet Gaurav was among the winners of A+D Creative Thesis Awards for the year 2013. Azra Khan was winner of ITPI best Thesis award in PG thesis and in 2013 and Kanad Pankaj Jha for Graduate Thesis in 2014. Architecture graduates Nayan Shrivastava and Manas Ranjan won the Silver Medal at the Blue Awards for Sustainable Architecture by Vienna Technological University for their thesis work on Varanasi-Place Alchemy.

Nipun Prabhakar and Sukruti Gupta were the runners-up in the prestigious Berkeley Prize Essay Competition 2014. In 2013; Alankrita Sarkar was awarded Srijan Technosearch Award for the Best Research paper. Liju Mathews paper on Non-motorized transport was awarded

best paper in the Urban Mobility Conference.

For last three years our students are scoring very high rank of GATE examination. In year 2014 All India Rank 1 and All India Rank 2 were achieved by School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal students.

Infrastructure Development

In 2008, the institute began functioning at the Sports Complex building of MANIT (Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology), Bhopal as an interim arrangement. In addition to above, it has rented space at AVM School, Nehru Nagar and at Ratibad road to run hostel facilities for its girl and boy students respectively.

In January, 2015 all the functions of the Institute has been shifted to its new campus at Bhauri.

The state government of MP has allotted a parcel of land measuring approximately 20.21 hectares at village Bhauri, Bhopal, Khasra no.13/1/1 on Neelbad road off the Indore bypass road. The allotted land has been acquired and secured by constructing a boundary wall in 2010. An Institute Works Department was established in August, 2009 for carrying out all the required development activities for the proposed permanent campus at Bhauri as well as the interim facilities at MANIT.

A Master Plan for the institute was prepared by IWD and the same has been approved by the TCPO Bhopal. The campus has been planned with integrated approach to create conducive educational environment with required on campus residential facilities for students, faculty and administrative staff.

The site allotted for development of campus of SPA Bhopal posed a



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great challenge as it was filled with black cotton soil to a varying depth of 2-3 metres across its entire footprint. Accessibility within the site was considered as the first challenge to begin with and major portion of the site was cleared of the black cotton soil. Construction of almost all internal road networks with WBM finish (Water Bound Macadam) including culverts and retaining walls etc. has been completed providing vehicular accessibility to most parts of the site. Work order for construction of concrete top with trenches at sides for cable-work (power and communication) and erecting posts for street lighting and high mast lighting at elect locations has been issued by CPWD, the agency entrusted for the purpose. The latter work has already begun in March 2015 with placing of cross-pipes below and is expected to be complete in June, 2015.

Two Boys Hostels and one Girls Hostel were proposed as part of the Master plan of the campus and the architectural design schemes were prepared by the IWD. All the hostels were conceptually designed with doubly-loaded corridors and rooms arranged around open court. All the three hostels have dining facilities; mess with industrial kitchen equipments and common areas for indoor games, laundry facilities leisure activities, etc. lifts and ramps at entrance provide barrier free environment in the hostels. Both Boys hostel I and Girls hostel are fitted with CCTV and Wi-Fi facilities.

IWD has prepared designs for residential quarters for different categories of employees in the form of detached units, semi-detached units and departments as part of the Master Plan. All the designs are based on the CPWD norms of living area to be provided for each category. Accordingly, six categories of residential quarters have been proposed other than a Director's detached bungalow. Works for some

of these are already complete while works for some are about to be completed.

A Student Amenities Center Comprises of two blocks and has been designed in-house by IWD itself. The main purpose of building is to provide amenities like Gym, Canteen, Post Office, Bank, etc. Presently, this building is being used for housing all the academic activities, labs, library and offices of the Registrar and other administrative staff. The building is fitted with CCTV, LAN and Wi-Fi facilities.

A separate building to house the activities of the Quality Improvement Programme of the Institute has been designed at IWD, SPA Bhopal. In future, this building will accommodate research and study centre for various collaborative academic programmes with India and international universities, short term training programmes and act as resource center for various research activities, extended learning and capacity building programmes, etc.

For electricity requirement of the campus a temporary 33kV connection has been taken. Work for a main Substation [33KV/0.433] and two subsidiary sub-stations are in full swing. The Main entrance Gate complex has been designed in-house at IWD, SPA Bhopal. Security office and a bank branch office is designed to be part of the complex.

Through a National level Design Competition, Chelsea West Architect, New Delhi was selected as consultant for designing the main Academic complex building of the Institute. The proposed building complex is designed to have 30000 SQM of floor space. Work has been entrusted



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with CPWD and tendering work is complete, while construction work is expected to begin in May 2015.

Concluding remarks

In this Convocation a total of 280 degrees will be awarded. These graduands have completed the requirements of their respective degrees in the year 2012, 2013 and 2014. I am proud to say that many of these students are working in the various parts of the world pursuing their higher education and contributing for the development of nation. With pride, I would like to say that these graduands are not job seekers but they are job providers and will generate spiral effect on our economy, specially with so much emphasis being laid on sustainable urban development.

Dear graduands, on this occasion of first Convocation of School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal I extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to each one of you. 'To graduate' is literally 'to take a step' and you are stepping into a new world from today. I also take this opportunity to congratulate your parents and pay my respects to them who have provided you with best opportunity to pursue your career. My sincere good wishes for your further aspirations in your life.



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