

Executive summary and recommendations of the International Conference & Expo on "Raja Bhoj's contribution on Architecture, Planning and its relevance today" organized by Vibha Madhya Bharat and Madhya Pradesh Bhoj Open University at Bhopal

Vigyan Bharti Madhya Bharat and Madhya Pradesh Bhoj Open University jointly organized three days international conference & expo on "Raja Bhoj's contribution on Architecture, Planning and its relevance today" from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Academy of Administration, near Manisha Market, Bhopal. Apart from these MANIT, NITTR, MP Tourism Development.

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The inaugural session of the conference on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 was graced by Shri Jayant ji Sahasrabudhe Rastriya Sangathan Mantri Vigyan Bharti, Shri Alok ji Sharma Mayor Municipal Corporation Bhopal, Dr. Ravindra ji Kanhare V.C. Bhoj Open University, Shri Prabhakar ji Apte Renowned researcher from Pune, Retired Judge Shri Ashok ji Pandey Ex Chairman MPPSC and Shri Amogh ji Gupta architect and Chairman SPA Delhi.

Track one on 'Historical and technical developments during the reign of Raja Bhoj – Parmara' was chaired by Dr. Umesh Trivedi senior journalist and four presentations were given by Shri Prabhakar Apte from Pune, Dr. D.K. Hari and Hema Hari from Chennai, Shri Jayprakash N from Bangalore and Pooja Saxena from Bhopal. Speakers discussed and deliberated on Ashtanga Sthapatya, 85 Chapters of Samarangan Sutradhara, various technologies introduced by the Raja Bhoj in his era like elevators, vimana, robots etc., Vastupursha, subtle energies in built environment, creation of water bodies and much more. In the concluding talk Dr. Umesh Trivedi emphasised on including works of Raja Bhoj's contribution as a polymath in history subject at school level.

Track two on 'Contribution of Raja Bhoj in the subjects related to Engineering and Technology' is chaired by Dr. Ashutosh Sharma Professor MANIT Bhopal. Dr. Jayashri Deshpande from Pune talked about relevance to explore and synchronize the knowledge systems which existed during the times of Raja Bhoj, with the contemporary architecture and planning practices. Eminent archaeologist Shri Rahman Ali presented story of gradual evolution Hindu Temples in North India while discussing its different types from 600 BC till 20<sup>th</sup> Century AD. Architect Sangeet S Pillai from Bangalore deliberated on relevance of Vastu purush in larger as well as at micro level grids concerning the house hold owner and displayed the possibilities of integrating the traditional principles with modern disciplines of science like cognitive sciences. He also showcased that Raja Bhoj during his regime not only patronised Shiva Temples but sincere efforts were also given to patronise religious structures of all the religions.



In track three on 'traditional knowledge systems and its relevance in contemporary science' Dr. Shashi kala Anant from Channai emphasized the integration of Mantra, Tantra and Yantra for construction and also discussed about its rhythmic and cosmic linkages. Dr. Ashok Nene from Nagpur elaborated and explained various attributes mentioned in Samarangan Sutradhara like construction of different types of castles and forts, building material specifications, rules and regulations for the use of armours and other war equipment's, thereby highlighting the versatility and expertise of Raja Bhoj. Professor Vinay Mohan Das from MANIT Bhopal provided an enriching experience by presenting different tools and techniques from Samarangan Sutradhara and showed their contemporary applications. He also interpreted the importance and use of scales in the contemporary applications those used in past texts. He also emphasised that ancient Indian architecture includes multi-dimensional aspects which is much larger and complex than what we study today as a part of Five Year B. Arch Degree course. Through content analysis he explained that the vastu prevalent in present market only consists of about only about 20% of the contents of Samarangana Sutradhara. Subsequent speaker, a senior archaeologist Dr. O. P. Mishra shared the efforts made by government to bring Ashapuri temples to the World Heritage List. During long talk by Chairman of the session Dr. Vijay Manohar Tiwari in his concluding remarks emphasised the importance of including contents of Samarangana Sutradhara in B. Arch and M. Arch curriculum.

Track four was chaired by Dr. S. N. Yadav Ex. V.C. APS University Rewa and Dr. Santosh Chaubey Chancellor AISECT University on 'Proportions, arts, aesthetics and geometry in ancient Indian Architecture'. In this track learned scholar Dr. Kailash Rao discussed proportions and geometry of temples and issues for carrying out the documentation of existing remains or even the whole temples to appropriate scale with application of modern technologies like the use of software's and drones for the digital documentation leading to visual interpretation for formulating conservation policy to conserve Proportions, arts and aesthetics of temples. Another speaker Dr. Alok Sharma from MITS Gwalior threw light on the structures of North Indian temples of Parmar regime and conveyed the importance of the Mitawali Region near Bhind-Moreana. In his presentation he talked about details related to proportions, aesthetics and geometry of Chausath Yogini temple. He concluded his talk with insight that Chausath Yogini temple is most probably the inspiration for concept formulation of Indian Parliament House. Dr. S. N. Yadav in his concluding remark emphasised on human centric designs rather than based on British or American standards. He also talked about the miserable state of Boodhi Mandu where thousands of temples lying unattended.

The last track on 'Ancient Indian Temple Architecture and city planning' was chaired by Dr. Manoj shrivastava IAS Principal Secretary Government of Madhya Pradesh. In this session Dr. Vaishali. from Pune discussed about the Bhumija style temples in an around Maharashtra and high lighted that these structures were still not under the

jurisdiction of ASI and are thus vulnerable. She discussed the construction technology of these structures and special features like motifs and decorative lintel used in these structures. Academician Prof. Ramesh Bhole from Bhopal discussed about various construction techniques adopted in Ashapuri temple and discussed about the original construction techniques as well as the techniques adopted while carrying out the conservation and preservation tasks. Third speaker Mr. Ashok Bhargav from Bhopal discussed about the Bhumija temple styles present in around the city of Ujjain. He also highlighted the tasks carried out to conserve important sites of Ujjain during the Khumbh Mela and discussed the position of Ujjain Mahakaal with respect to the Bhojpur temple and its significance. He also discussed the importance of OM valley in historical and technical perspective. In the concluding remarks Dr. Manoj Shrivastava deliberated on the planning aspects of cities and towns in ancient texts including Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Valedictory function of the conference on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017 was graced by Shri Alok ji Sanjar Member of Parliament, Shri Tapan ji Bhaumik Chairman MP Tourism, Shri Jayant ji Sahasra buddhe Rastriya Sangathan Mantri Vigyan Bharti, Dr. Ravindra ji Kanhare V.C. Bhoj Open University, Dr. Jai Prakash ji Shukla Principal Scientist AMPRI, Dr. Naveen ji Chandra Director AMPRI, Shri Amogh ji Gupta architect and Chairman SPA Delhi and Dr. N.P. Shukla ji Chairman Vigyan Bharti Madhya Bharat. In the ceremony MP Shri Alok ji Sanjar highlighted the usefulness of this subject and emphasised that name of the capital city of Bhopal is not distortion of word 'Bhupal' meaning ruler of land as its believed by some, but is actually derived from 'Bhojpal' based on legendry King of Parmar dynasty Raja Bhoj. Hence to give tribute to the legendry king initiative should be taken to change the name of 'Bhopal' city to 'Bhojpal'. Shri Tapan ji Bhowmik described the limited capabilities of the Western world in the present time with reference to our ancient Indian texts and theories. Summarising the



conference Shri Amog ji Gupta presented a summary of various different sessions and recommendation of the three-day conference.

*Following are the recommendations of the conference:*

1. *The traditional knowledge systems of our country have been long forgotten. This is resulting into loss of all the ancient and traditional knowledge repositories and sources, thus making them all extinct. Hence it is expected from the government that they should intend to revive the traditional knowledge systems in India by taking help of researchers and the academia.*
2. *The personality of Raja Bhoj is often associated only with Malwa, Bhoj, or Bhojpur. But he had a broad exposure and expertise in several different and diverse disciplines of life. His influence cannot be just associated in with Malwa Region. Instead, his influence, particularly through the Sthapatya can be seen and felt across the length and breadth of the country. Not giving due cognizance and credit to a vast and vivid personality as Raja Bhoj in the school curriculums will devoid the future generations from making them aware about his glorious achievements. Hence it is expected that due action will be taken in this regard.*
3. *A lot of reminiscent in the forms of old heritage structures, which stand as a proud testimony of Raja Bhoj's glorious legacy in Sthapatya traditions, are currently overlooked/neglected/ignored. They are scattered over large areas in the state. For example, thousands of such remains are currently lying overlooked at Boodhi Mandu region (also known as Old Mandu), near Mandu. This requires urgent and appropriate conservation measures for preserving them. It is thus sincerely request to the State Government that all these heritage structures should be immediately considered for their conservation and restoration.*
4. *Raja Bhoj has contributed significantly in the domains of Sthapatya and Architecture. There is a pressing need today to acknowledge his contribution and explore its relevance in contemporary architecture. Hence it is expected that the central government bodies concerned with the curriculum design and implementation like the AICTE, ITPI and COA include and integrate these topics in their graduate level courses.*
5. *Because of the lack of knowledge and expertise in market related to these domains, the general public is usually ignorant and confused on topics which are related to heritage, Sthapatya etc. Hence not only the dedicated Study and Research Centres should be proposed in the educational institutions but post-graduate courses should also be proposed, designed and implemented such as M. Arch. (Vastushastra) / M. Arch (Sthapatya) / M. Arch (Ancient Indian Architecture) etc.*
6. *The name of the capital city of Bhopal is not a distortion of the word 'Bhopal' as it is believed by some, but is actually an abbreviation from 'Bhojpal' based on legendary King Raja Bhoj. It is expected that the Urban Local Body and the State Government take up the initiative to change the name from the existing 'Bhopal' to 'Bhojpal'.*