

Prof. Charanjit S. Shah, Founding Principal, Creative Group opines that, professional awareness along with understanding of manifold usages of steel needs to be propagated through various professional and educational forums...



RISE OF NOVEL TRENDS IN ARCHITECTURE

Q What are the major advantages of using steel vis-à-vis conventional materials?

A When we talk about large spans rather column-free spaces, the same perhaps is not possible in conventional R.C.C. works. The steel structure can provide large span structures wherein one can create a panoramic view enveloping the building, particularly in airports, metro stations and other such public facilities.

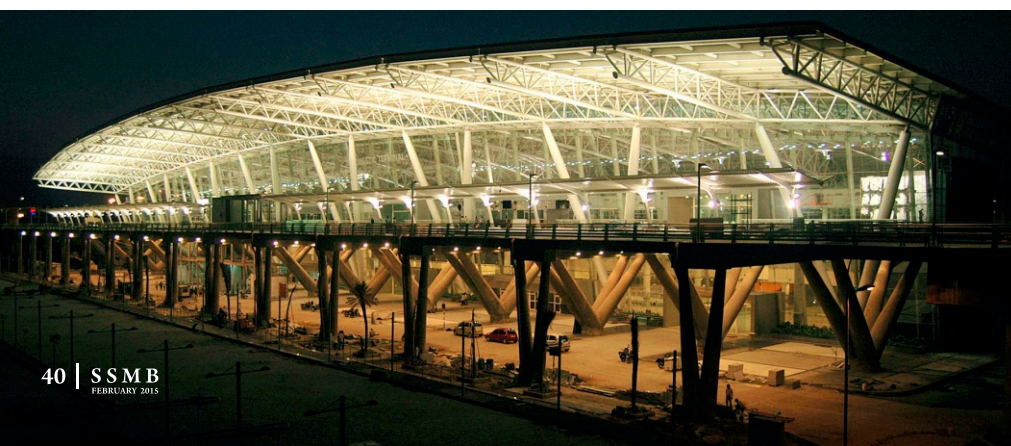
Q How structural steel can be innovatively used in construction to provide design aesthetics and at the same time offer economical solution?

A With advanced technology and construction techniques and availability of various roofing systems, very innovative forms and shapes can be created with steel, especially tubular and box steel sections, thus highly enhancing the aesthetics of the building. For large

span structures, steel is also affordable and an economically viable material. We were able to create a cantilever of 25m at Chennai Airport, the largest in any of the terminal buildings globally. The technique of bending of large cross sections of tubular pipe to a tune of 508mm diameter pipe which has been done for the first time in India, Prof. Charanjit Shah says that we are the pioneers in bringing this technology to our country.

Q What is your take on the variety of sections/grades provided by our steel producers for various demands of creativity?

A India is an open market and availability of any section/grade is not an issue. Probably, the construction technology is getting Indiaized while global technologies are getting transferred to India. We





are in the process of development of new vendors for execution of high skill steel fabrication works. Creativity and innovation that has developed recently are beyond imagination and gladly shaping new dimensions in the

architectural profile of our country. The perfection in double curve roofing at Raipur Airport was a very difficult task but could be achieved due to technology available in India.

Q What trend are we going to witness in next 5-7 years, as far as designing structures with steel is concerned?

A Steel is definitely the material for creating new trends in architecture. Besides large span steel structures like Airports, Metro and Railway stations, steel and its alloys have a bright future in innovative skyscrapers and high rise buildings, especially in prefabricated steel structures to save time, efficiency and cost while maintaining better quality as well.

Q What should be the strategy of industry in promoting structural steel construction in India?

A Apart from having a general awareness of steel construction, a professional awareness along with understanding of manifold usages of steel needs to be propagated through various professional and educational forums. The diverse quality of steel needs to be addressed wherein the professional is fully geared up with all the updates. ■