PRE ENGINEERED STRUCTURES SOCIETY OF INDIA (PSI)

A Common Platform for Precast Construction Stake Holders

Set up by a group of consultants from Hyderabad the Pre Engineered Structures Society of India (PSI) aims at disseminating knowledge on all matters relating to the development of the precast concrete industry.

Precast is fast adopting itself within the construction sector, as skilled labour availability is diminishing day by day in India, and the construction demand is on the rise in the country. Builders and developers are looking at ways of adopting precast into the construction and achieve speed and quality. In India, precast constructions in building and industrial sector are in a nascent stage and there is a lot of scope for its expansion to meet its growing demand in India. Developers are embracing it to cut down the time period of construction, improve durability of structures and overcome the shortage of skilled labour availability as against the huge requirement of labour in the construction sector.

During March 2013, the Pre Engineered Structures Society of India (PSI) was set up by a group of consultants from Hyderabad with a view to endeavor towards disseminating knowledge by conceptualizing, executing and managing quality events, workshops, colloquium & programs for the members of the Society, professionals and the general public, on all matters relating to the maintenance, preservation and development of the precast concrete industry. It caters to all stake holders in the construction industry, viz., Developers, Builders, Architects, and Structural Consultants. The society objective is also to give information and help entrepreneurs, who want to set up precast industries in the fields of concrete, steel, and composite buildings; and guide them on scale of set up of the industry, costs involved, and technical knowledge transfer.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote the use, development, preservation, operation and maintenance of the Precast Concrete Industry in India or elsewhere, by demonstrating its advantages and benefits.
- To develop and lay down guidelines in line with the statute for Precast Concrete Industry for healthy, safe and durable construction.
- To bring together the Precast Concrete Industry, professionals, stakeholders and end-users on one platform, to promote ethical practices amongst them and to protect the interests of all by providing them with a forum for sharing their experiences and concerns relating to Precast Concrete Industry.
- To collaborate and co-operate to represent its members' views to the Central and State governments and to act as representatives of the Industry.
- To exchange data and ideas with various trade associations, chambers of commerce, boards of trade, and other organizations and individuals and to act as a clearing-house for information for its members and public at

BRIEF FACTS

Founded: 2003

Activities:

- Industry-Government Interface
- Knowledge Sharing
- professional Development
- Training & Education
- Workshops and Conferences

Flagship Event:
PEPSCON - Pre-Engineered and Pre Cast Concrete Structures

Leadership Team:

President
P Surya Prakash

Vice President
S. Mahender Reddy

Secretary
C A Prasad

Joint Secretary
K Rajkumar

Treasurer
B Dharmateja

large to accomplish the objectives.
- To network with other businesses to exchange ideas, concepts, and topics important to business development.
- To develop wider inter-state and international links for promoting the use of Precast Concrete, which lead to the growth of organisational development, various trade and investment opportunities.
- To represent and arbitrate with government and non-government agencies whether in India or elsewhere, to support members and business associations, to discuss and implement solutions towards various bottlenecks in the Precast Concrete Industry and find remedies.
- To undertake business-centric research and development (R & D) assignments to help member companies in effective decision making.

PRIMARY ACTIVITIES

- PSI conducts studies and engages in R&D to aid the Precast Concrete Industry as it is aware that it could be the primary source of research-oriented knowledge for professionals and the general public in this highly dynamic business environment.
- The society is constantly putting in efforts to update its business and professional's directory, identifying key members in businesses and the services they provide, and thus promoting networking and business development opportunities.
- PSI has raised funds from national and international, & government and non-government agencies for carrying out the activities of the society.
- It offers a wide range of direct technical assistance to members, including organizational and administrative development; training; capacity building; project resource information; project

PSI has raised funds from national and international, & government and non-government agencies for carrying out the activities of the society.

"Paving the Way for Adoption of Precast Construction Technology"

-P Surya Prakash, Founder President,
Pre-Engineered Structures' Society of India (PSI)

With over 28 years of rich experience in the civil engineering, P Surya Prakash is at the helm of Pre-Engineered Structures' Society of India (PSI) as its Founder President. He has authored a book on 'Design and Implementation of Communication Towers', published a number of papers in his area of expertise and visited top colleges as a guest faculty. He is multifaceted personality and has organized a number of workshops, conferences, and conventions all over the country. He is passionate about development of students in their professional career and guided many students for M.Tech and B.Tech. In an exclusive interview with The Masterbuilder Surya Prakash speaks about PSI, its significance and achievements and on many topics.

P Surya Prakash

Excerpts from the interview...

How has PSI done so far since its launch in March 2013?

In India, there is a lot of resistance for the acceptance of any new technology. We wanted to create an organization that will discuss and popularize precast technology by involving all the stakeholders. There is Architects' association, Structural Engineers' association or Civil engineers' association; however, there was no space where all these players can meet together. If a common platform for all of them is provided where all of them can meet to take forward the agenda of precast it would lead to greater acceptance of precast technology and materials. That was the beginning. Today PSI has over 800 members working on tirelessly to increase the awareness of precast technology. We have also come out with a novel idea that all who attend our national-level conference, PEPSCON, will automatically become members of PSI.

What are PSI's Significant Achievements?

Major government policies are being converted towards paving the way for adoption of new technologies. The media too has been very helpful for the coverage of PEPSCON to popularize precast. In Telengana and in Andhra Pradesh, precast has been accepted well by builders. There have been tenders with conditions that the whole building should be built in precast. We have been working with the Ministry of Defense and also the Central Government's 'Housing for All by 2022' scheme for the furtherance of precast. The standardization in the construction plan of the latter paves the way for precast to be used.

Based on regionwise climactic conditions in India, precast can be tailored with regionwise standardization with special regard to the joints and panels. In a Government housing project in Andhra Pradesh 12 model houses were built using various technologies including Italian, Chinese and the public feedback was interesting. It was revealed that precast concrete with wall panel and slab, was in the top two most appreciated choices. Down South standardization is happening state-wise. In fact in Telengana, standardization is made vaastu compliant too! In Kurnool District where 10,000 houses are going to be built in two years under a Government scheme. Precast technology has been almost approved because of the standardization in repeat mode with the projected significant savings in construction and gains in implementation and carpet area efficiency.

If the Government under 'Housing for All by 2022' scheme is going to build four and a half crore houses, in the next 6 years, it is better to use precast as it offers great value in these times of labour shortage and strain on resources.

What if the Government decides to go for

precast all-out? Does it not require especially skilled personnel?

The Government will have to import machinery and the goal can be achieved. The government has the means to do it. As far as skilled personnel are concerned, yes, there is a need to train engineers and builders. From our part, we have been conducting workshops for both engineers and builders in precast technology in many districts of Andhra Pradesh. A 2-day program is sufficient.

What do you feel about the Engineer's Bill being closed currently, in light of the structural failures happening in India with alarming regularity?

There have been a flurry of structural collapses in India; prominent being the Kolkata flyover collapse, which was insensitively termed as an 'Act of God' by the builders. Actually there needs to be an Act to regulate Engineers to prevent these unfortunate incidents caused due to oversights by professionals working on-site. These man-made calamities only bring forth political mileage and no corrective measures are taken to address the root cause which is poor engineering.

The National Disaster Management (NDM) is under the Home Ministry and they have initiated the National Council for Professional Engineers where professional engineers will be registered under NDM but confined to civil and structural engineers who will be accountable for their designs. This is in league with what is followed in the U.S. and other countries including Singapore and Malaysia. It is not only end-users who are affected by building or public structure collapse but also construction workers. If the Engineer's Bill is passed, engineers will be made accountable for safety and quality. The Bill in the current format will help protect the common man.

As a founding member, are you satisfied with the success of Engineers Action Group (EAG)?

It has been successful in uniting engineers working in different platforms and also addressing the professional concerns of the engineering community. We made the ECI and IEI to work together and this makes it a formidable force. Also our work in the revision of National Building Code (NBC 2016) was appreciated. Through the EAG we want to bring a consensus in bringing out the Professional Engineers certification. EAG is identified under Association of Persons since at present does not have a structure.

What is Smart Infr-Est and how does it function?

When I was counseling students in Coimbatore, a student asked me, "All other streams of engineering have placement service through colleges for campus interviews and students are absorbed by various companies, then why not for civil engineering?" This is true currently with the downslide in the performance of infra companies and equipment manufacturers. Hence 'Smart Infr-Est' came into being where we enter into a MoU with the college for placement services. Also, we wanted to ensure the right professionals are recruited by these companies as there is a manpower crunch. We also have 'Smart Incube' wherein we help incubate various start-ups. In our 'Sharp' program, we help secure internship for graduating civil engineers in various companies. The industry ultimately benefits, so we are expecting them to be sponsors to fund our activities. We have appointed National Coordinators to oversee these activities in colleges by getting in touch with college authorities. Our objective is to connect with one lakh students in 2016. We also want to sensitize students to various issues in the profession during their student years itself, so that they are better prepared to face them.

---

design; and resource development information in partnership with other state wide partners.

EVENTS

PEPSCON - (Pre-Eengineered and Pre-cast Concrete Structures Conference)

PSI's national conference called PEPSCON attracts participation from builders and developers; construction companies; architects / structural engineers /MEP engineers; engineers from govenment and semi-government bodies; construction engineers; and consulting engineers in the B2B deliberations. The convention evaluated the latest trends in the field of pre-engineered and precast structures and formulated processes to bring in cost effective and quality structures.◆

Contact:

Pre Engineered Structures Society of India
H.No.6-2-975, A-203, Kushal Towers, Khiaratabad, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh - 500004.
Phone: +91 40 3980 4646
Email: president@pessi.in, secretary@pessi.in
Web: www.pessi.in