

DELHI STATE CENTRE
Lecture Programme
September 23, 2011, Delhi

On the occasion of the Governing Body meeting and AGM in Delhi on September 23, Delhi State Centre organised a programme at Bikaner House with two lectures by eminent specialists. The programme was chaired by Mr. N. Nagarajan, Chairman, Delhi State Centre.

The first lecture was by Mr. V.P. Agrawal, Chairman, Airport Authority of India who is also an ISLE member since 2002. Speaking on Airport Lighting, Mr. Agrawal explained that India had the fastest growing aviation sector with 454 airports. He explained the challenges faced in the lighting of airports with examples of obstruction lights, runway and taxiway lighting with the problems of glare avoidance and security issues as well. He showed an example of Delhi airport where because of the high ceilings for the first time floodlights were used in an indoor lighting application.

Mr. Agrawal expressed the interest and involvement of AAI with energy saving and to this end top priority was being given to systems that deliver savings. In this connection he explained that they have started using LEDs in certain airport lighting applications and this will increase as will the use of solar for external lighting. He added that ECBC compliance was essential as well as the GRIHA green building norms.

The second lecture was given by another ISLE member, Dr. Rommel Mehta, faculty member and former HOD of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi since 1983. He gave a detailed and most interesting talk on the Heritage Lighting of Connaught Place.

Dr. Mehta explained that this project was extremely complicated as there was no precedent and they had only intuitive ideas about how to proceed. The historic heritage lighting in CP was not the lighting of buildings but the lighting of areas including pedestrian precincts. The earlier lighting was essentially road lighting and general area lighting. Following the natural division of CP, each circle was studied for separate treatment. Since no amount of modeling gives the actual situation, the team had to proceed slowly by trying out new ideas taking into account the corridors, shops, parking areas and signage while maintaining the architectural character at night. The problems were compounded by issues such as vandalism and pigeons.

Through slides he illustrated the challenges as well as the approach followed to put into place a lighting proposal that met the specific requirements of this historical location.

The lecture programme was followed by dinner.