TECHNICAL ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT BY CENTRES

Name of Centre	Meerut Local Centre

Title of Activity:	World Habitat Day		
Activity under Divisional Board		Statutory Days	
Date:	06-10-2026	Venue:	SCRIET, CCS University, Meerut

(Insert photo)	(Insert photo)
	
Title of photo : **Dignitaries on Dais**	Title of photo: **Audience in Seminar Hall**

Brief Report :-

On 6th October 2026, the Meerut Local Centre of The Institution of Engineers (India), in association with Sir Chhotu Ram Institute of Engineering and Technology (SCRIET), CCS University, Meerut, organized a technical seminar to observe World Habitat Day. The theme for this year is “Adequate Housing for All.”

The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp (*Deep Prajwalan*) by all dignitaries, followed by the rendition of *Vande Mataram*. A warm welcome address was delivered by Er. S. C. Mittal, Chairman, Meerut Local Centre, welcoming the Chief Guest Dr. Niraj Singhal, Director, SCRIET; Guest of Honour, Ar. Meenal Agarwal, President, Meerut Architects Association and Director, USDP Architects; and other keynote speakers; and IEI members, present in the seminar.

After the welcome address, Er. Nikhil Kishore, Honorary Secretary, Meerut Local Centre, delivered a comprehensive introduction to World Habitat Day and set the technical tone for the seminar. He highlighted the foundational significance of the United Nations mandate, designated to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right of all, to, adequate shelter. Er. Kishore elaborated on the acute challenges emerging from accelerated urban migration, rising real estate costs, and infrastructural bottlenecks across tier-2 cities like Meerut. He stressed that "adequate housing" extends beyond providing mere roofs and four walls—it encompasses dignity, basic civic amenities, connectivity, along with disaster resilience, and social equity. He emphasized that the engineering and architectural fraternity bear a direct responsibility to innovate scalable, sustainable, and cost-effective construction technologies so as to bridge the urban housing divide.

The event was organized under the convenorship of Er. Prashant Sharma, Member LCC

Technical session:

The first technical session was addressed by Ar. Ishan Kumar Garg (Founder, Hablab Studios) on the topic “Not More Houses, Better Habitat.” He presented critical insights into the shortage of quality habitats globally, across India, in Uttar Pradesh, and specifically with in Meerut. He introduced the nine dimensions of housing adequacy—covering space, density, location, affordability, housing type, infrastructure, liveability, and governance. Drawing from practical precedents in Gujarat, he demonstrated how, informal settlements can be upgraded, in-situ, through slum networking, slum rehabilitation, and land pooling. He also refered to low-cost construction methodologies pioneered by Dr. B. V. Doshi.

The second technical session was conducted by Ar. Utkarsh Goel, focusing on “Meerut City: Development vs. Affordability. Addressing the trajectory of Meerut’s expansion, he raised the pertinent question of whom the city is growing for, advocating for the gradual upgrading of vulnerable communities rather than outright displacement. He underscored connected housing solutions leveraging Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) principles, mixed-use zoning, public transit integration, and proximity to employment hubs. Furthermore, he highlighted local vernacular responses to climate impacts, proposed, establishing a dedicated Centre for Affordable and Vernacular Habitat, and shared his five-point framework for future-ready living: Affordability +Inclusion + Connectivity + Local Capacity + Resilience.

The technical deliberations were followed by addresses from the dignitaries. Guest of Honour Ar. Meenal Agarwal emphasized the imperative of collaborative professional practice between architects and engineers to address ground-level urban realities. Chief Guest Dr. Niraj Singhal shared words of wisdom on the holistic design of modern human settlements, notably highlighting the relevance of traditional architectural wisdom and the role of Vastu principles in fostering healthy, functional habitats.

The Seminar concluded with the presentation of mementos to the dignitaries and speakers followed by a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Er. Nikhil Kishore, Honorary Secretary, who expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. Niraj Singhal, the SCRIET administration, coordinator Dr. Lakshmi Shanker Singh for their dedicated support. He also thanked convener Er. Prashant Sharma, the keynote speakers, and all attendees. The event drew to a close with the National Anthem.

The seminar was a commendable physical initiative by the Meerut Local Centre of IEI and SCRIET, fostering critical technical dialogue and encouraging actionable solutions toward, inclusive, resilient, and adequate housing for all.