

happy

diwali



Things to be kept in mind while constructing building in coastal areas

(Continuation from September 2015 edition)

A) PLANNING ASPECTS:

- 1) For individual buildings, a circular or polygonal plan shape is preferred over rectangular or square plans, but from the viewpoint of functional efficiency, the rectangular plan is commonly used.
- 2) A symmetrical building with a compact plan-form is more stable than an asymmetrical building with a zig-zag plan, having empty pockets, as the latter is more prone to wind/ cyclone related damage. In case of construction of group of buildings, a cluster arrangement can be followed in preference to row type.

B) ROOF ARCHITECTURE:

It is seen that roof projections beyond the walls experience high uplift. Therefore, the roof projections should be kept to a minimum, say not exceeding 500 mm, or else, the larger projections be tied down adequately. For the purpose of reducing wind forces on the roof, a hipped or pyramidal roof is preferable to the gable type roof.

C) WALL OPENINGS:

Openings in general are areas of weakness and stress concentration, but needed essentially for lighting and ventilation. The following norms are recommended in respect of openings.

- 1) Openings in load bearing walls should not be within a distance of $h/6$ from inner corner for the purpose of providing lateral support to cross walls.
- 2) Opening just below roof level be avoided except that two small vents with shutter should be provided in opposite to prevent suffocation in case room gets filled with water and people may try to climb up on lofts or

walls with pegs.

D) GLASS PANNELLING:

One of the most damaging effects of strong winds or cyclones is the extensive breakage of glass panes caused by high local wind pressure or impact of flying objects in air. The large size glass panes may shatter

because they are too thin to resist the local wind pressures. A broken glass pane on windward side opening increases internal pressures abnormally and may lead to a chain of events including a roof failure. The way to reduce this problem is to provide well designed thicker glass panes, further, recourse may be taken to reduce the panel size to smaller dimensions. Also glass panes can be strengthened by pasting thin plastic film or paper strips. This will help in holding the debris of glass panes from flying in case of breakage. It will also introduce some damping in the glass panels and reduce their vibrations.

E) FOUNDATION:

Buildings usually have shallow foundation on stiff sandy soil and deep foundations in liquefiable or expansive clayey soils. It is desirable that information about soil type be obtained and estimates of safe bearing capacity made from the available records of past constructions in the area or by proper soil investigation. In addition the following parameters need to be properly accounted for in the design of foundation.

- 1) Effect of Surge or Flooding - Invariably a cyclonic storm is accompanied by torrential rain and tidal surge (in coastal areas) resulting into flooding of the low-lying areas. The tidal surge effect diminishes as it travels on shore, which can extend even upto 10 to 15 km. Flooding causes saturation of soil and thus significantly affects the safe bearing capacity of the soil. In flood prone areas, the safe bearing capacity should be taken as half of that for the dry ground. Also the likelihood of any scour due to receding tidal surge needs to be taken into account while deciding on the depth of foundation and the protection works around a raised ground used for locating cyclone shelters or other buildings.
- 2) Building on Stilts- Where a building is constructed on stilts it is necessary that stilts are properly braced in both the principal directions. This will provide stability to the complete building under lateral loads. Knee braces will be preferable to full diagonal bracing so as not to obstruct the passage of floating debris during storm surge.

.....To be continued in December 2015 edition



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Which one are you?

All of us go through many types of problems in our life. But each one of us react in different way. Some take it very lightly and some mess up with the problems. Some face their problems independently and some go public.

Here's is something very interesting and I am sure after reading it your way of reacting to the problems would definitely change and be easier.

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter, moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl.

He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup. Turning to her he asked. "Daughter, what do you see?"

"Potatoes, eggs, and coffee," she hastily replied.

"Look closer," he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"Father, what does this mean?" she asked.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity—the boiling water.

However, each one reacted differently.

The potato went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak.

The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard.

However, the ground coffee beans were unique.

After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

"Which one are you," he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is what happens within us.

Readers kindly decide which one do you want to be Potato, egg or coffee



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