

A BRIEF SUMMARY – URJA Round Table Discussion, 26th April 2015

A full day conference was held on Sunday, 26th April, 2015 at India International Center URJA Coordinators from all regions of Delhi and some invited guests participated in the conference.

Also present were URJA Senate Members and office bearers

Pre Lunch Session was divided into two parts. In the first part, URJA gave a presentation on the proposed URJA - RWA Act, followed by deliberations on aspects related to eligibility, tenure, elections, electorate, funding and scope of work and jurisdiction

Everybody agreed that RWA Act was a prerequisite to usher in genuine good governance in Delhi which actually delivers civic amenities and redressal at the last mile

Some members were apprehensive that the current Govt. of NCT of Delhi will bring in Mohalla Sabhas. Members were informed that URJA has argued against crowd sourcing of governance and prefers that well structured elements of the governance process be formalized, empowered and made accountable so that each citizen is served well. URJA argues in favour of the RWA as being the best suited for this work at the last mile

In the second Part, in another presentation by URJA Awards for RWA of Delhi, Coordinators were informed that it has been decided to constitute an URJA award program to promote best practices and innovative initiatives in RWAs

It was highly appreciated by everybody and members suggested that the award should be open to all RWA irrespective of which federation they belong to. It was decided to constitute a committee to decide the criteria, parameters and modalities of the awards.

Post lunch, the afternoon session saw the presentations by a number of reputed experts. URJA moderated the session.

Mr. Ashok Bhattacharjee, Former Director UTTIPEC and Advisor CSE and Mr. Sandeep Gandhi, transportation engineer gave detailed presentation on Mobility in Delhi. They , not only, explained the reasons for congestion on the roads, (in spite of widening of roads to maximum possible , number of flyovers and the Metro) but also suggested tangible solutions. The presentation backed by data and statistics as well as comparable international models was an eye opener for many members

Mr. Manas Murthy spoke about Saving Neighborhoods. He gave full account of a project they were doing with the RWA in Malviya Nagar. As the project is in progress we wish him and RWAs of the area success

Ms. Jyoti Sharma of FORCE gave a presentation on the water and sanitation problems of slum Clusters.

She argued, convincingly, that authorized, unauthorized and slum clusters must work together on these issues because their health environments are closely interlinked.

Members also tended to agree with her view that given the challenges RWA from both regular and unregulated colonies have to work in unison to find solutions

Mr. Ravi Ranjan gave a useful presentation on Green Energy, especially solar energy. The attendees showed keen interest in the subject and URJA will assist those who want to carry forward the roof top solar installations as net metering is now allowed for such equipment. This will allow users to get credit for solar energy generated

All the members were thanked for their participation and URJA expresses its appreciation to all the Experts who provided our members with valuable information.

Members met for an informal interaction over coffee.
