

FERROCEMENT OCTAGENARIAN VISHNUPANT JOSHI FELICITATED

Ferrocement Society had its meeting at 4.00 pm on Dec 21,08 at its office in Mutha Qtrs, Pune.Nine members were present. Chief guest of the meeting was the learned Octagenarian Mr Vishnu D.Joshi Sir. Others members present were:

Dr. B.N.Divekar in Chair; Mr B.V.Bhedasgaonkar Vice President, Mr Rajendra Pawar Hon Secretary, Mr Pushyamitra Divekar,Hon Treasurer, Mr Chandramohan Hangekar,Project Organiser, Dr Neelkanth Patwardhan, Prof Praddepkishor Dhavale, Mr Prakash Nagnath.

Special guest -Mr Sabnis...formerly of BVCoEPune.

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Dr Patwardhan briefly stated the overview of Ferrocement Society since its inception. Mr Bhalchandra Bhedasgaonkar fluently narrated the bio-data of Chief Guest Mr Vishnu D Joshi. Mr Joshi is 1948 B.E.Civil of CoEPune; he had taken special advance degree from Imperial College of Science, London. In two phases Mr Vishnu Joshi had a stay and workoffice in New Delhi.

Noteworthy feature is the design of first high rise building of Express Towers, Nariman Point , Mumbai; he has designed with architect Mr Balkrishna Doshi a number of structures in India. Thereafter Mr Joshi came to Pen and motivated workmen to construct ferrocement boats. In 1990 and after training the labour in Pen and constructing a few 'dingis' in Pen area he came to Pune

and constructed his own residential building- with maximum use of ferrocement members.

[Arunodya Bldg, opposite Balbhim Temple, near PYC Gymkhana backside].

His close relative Mr Dandekar took the inspiration from Mr Joshi Sir and under the company title of '**Sah-Saarang**', started in a big way to construct ferrocement tanks in

He felt that mere insistence on ferrocement is not adequate. The three components are : steel skeleton of frame,ferrocement proper and **woodwool** like substances. Ideal thickness of ferrocement is less than 12 mm;ferrocement is not a cheap substance. It is a high quality and graded cement mortar.Its water cement ratio could be 0.375; it has zero slump.

It is the wire meshes, forming the



hundreds in Pune area.

The special structure of Ramakrishna Math Shikhar is a case of pre-casting petals . The mortar made for it was highly specialised and had admixtures and special fine aggregate.

SPEECH AND DIALOGUE WITH MR VISHNU D.JOSHI SIR

Mr. Joshi Sir narrated his area of work.

shape and matrix of cement mortar.

Mixing fibres in matrix play a vital role in the ferrocement construction..

Any thickness more than 3/4" is not an effective one. Less thickness is better .

~~While training in tribal areas, Mr Joshi found that illiterate workers-with some training - are proficient and better than educated people in ferrocement works.

Mr. Tukaram of Pen area is having excellent skills of making ferroceement members.

~Mr Bhedasgaonkar narrated instances or episodes where Mr Tendulkar of Wasai had taken advice of Mr Joshi and constructed nicely wall and roofs, that consist of ferroceement and use of **woodwool** like material. The other person who took inspiration from Joshi Sir, works is in Faridabad. MeherBaba complex development was carried out with a lot of members made in ferroceement.

Sahsarang was started by a nephew of Mr Joshi.

Mr Joshi advised use of stirrer for a dense concrete; and use of a special vibrator for ferroceement.

Mr Joshi Sir quoted an interesting episode : An Australian sports person, made a boat with ferroceement of 6 mm thick; this boat was extremely light ; in international canoe-race competition this boat got the first prize in rowing held in Western Europe.

A modified vibrator is developed by Mr Joshi Sir; sand-paper scraping machine is available in market; this could be used by removing its sand paper and slight modification is made. Imparting vibrations is essential; that is what this sand paper scraper machine does.

Such a vibrator is very good to get dense cement mortar matrix to press into the the skeleton of wire-mesh, over which chicken mesh is attached.

Few other examples of repute are: Jain Hotel near Narayangaon, Krishnamurth school. Gupte Maharaj Temple in Nashik is a noteworthy structure.

**DR B.N.DIVEKAR narrated how in 1976 he met Joshi Sir and took the concept of making 'dingi boat' for the boat club of College of Engineering ,Karad.

Mr Rajendra Pawar felt that canal lining could effectively be made using ferroceement; the water seepage /leakage could be greatly reduced. Dam wall waterproofing could be undertaken using ferroceement technique. Some study in this direction be undertaken.



CATAMARAN

Joshi Sir felt a deep sympathy for the population that stayed at the remote end of a backwater reservoir. They are deprived of any facility or access to the nearby community, markets.

It is here that 2 catamarans could be constructed and kept in each of these the reservoirs- one for medical purpose and the other for passenger.

Joshi Sir observed such boats should be always **twin** boats; these are thus stable and do not capsise.

फेरोसिमेंट सोसायटी

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मोबाईल - श्री अंतुरकर
०९८५०६४४५८८
प्रा. प्रदीप ढवळे
०२०-२४५७७२५५
श्री. अशोक कुलकर्णी

~~~The sand available in our area is not upto the mark; in crushed sand the particle size distribution is not maintained. It is as if gap graded sand.

~The freedom of choosing a shape is a plus point for ferroceement.

### TRAINING CAMPUS

It was told by visitors to our Stall [ by Mr Vaze and others] during CBX exhibition[Nov 19023,2008] in Pune that they are ready arrange the training in ferroceement making in an area near Velhe, near possibly Torna fort; Mr Vaze himself is a software IT specialist and is devoted to rural uplift for this ferroceement is an ideal member; for such a training he and his friends are ready to bear all expenses.

### FELICITATIONS

At this point of time Joshi Sir was felicitated by the Society by presenting him a Shawl and Shriphal in thumping cheers and claps.

Photographs were taken by Mr Hangekar; two of these photographs are enclosed with this e-mail.

### NEXT MEETING

It was decided to have a next meeting on January 4, 2009- i.e. next year.

\*\*IN THE MEANWHILE Mr Vinayakrao Anturkar our Admin in- charge and Mr Pushyamitra Divekar Hon Treasurer presented most of the accounts of exhibitions and other items of membership etc. These would be okayed by Mr Pushyamitra and some immediate bill would be paid/cleared by Mr Anturkar to update the accounts.

The meet ended with New Year's best wishes and with a vote of thanks to the chair.