



Unified planning, design and implementation of infrastructure

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1. Introduction

Infrastructure is definable through various perspectives and at different levels. A broad definition will go like “the resources required for a habitat to function”. The other aspect of infrastructure is that everyone loves to have it but no one is willing to pay for it. The third aspect is that the level of available and affordable infrastructure defines “good life”, every one’s goal. The above delineations lay out the points of discussion for this paper.

A “good life” is not an isolated feature. It is a composite index that recognizes the interactions between the physical, social, financial, indeed, of all developmental needs of the society. This composite nature of society’s requirements can be taken cognizance of most robustly through unified planning, as the first step. Here, a few things need to be acknowledged. Engineering plays a vital role in the provision of infrastructure and also that the days of a lone engineer sitting at his desk and working out a design is long past. All the distinct disciplines of engineering that may come to play in the process of creating an infrastructure edifice have to come together seamlessly, so that a functional habitat can be realized. The planning also has to take into account the constructability of a project. Even beyond construction, planning has to consider aspects of operation and maintenance. Of course, cost-effectiveness has to be embedded as a foundational principle in the process, reckoned over the full life cycle.

Typically, in an infrastructure project, which after all is generally considered a public good, an agency of the government will have a governing interest. Also, the civil society, for whom the facility is being created, will have his voice heard in the process. Therefore, the planners and engineers have to have a wide vista of the project requirements. Aesthetics and environment are becoming increasingly relevant in the planning. The communication skills required of the planners and engineers are awarded a premium in this scenario.



Existing Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium