

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1480/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 22 December 2017

H. E. Mr. Vinay Mohan Kwatra
Permanent Delegation of India to
UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris CEDEX 15

World Heritage List 2018
**Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai (India) –
Interim report and additional information request**

Dear Sir,

As prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have been requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2018. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to "Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai" was carried out by Yukio Nishimura (Japan) from 06 to 11 September 2017.

On 01 August 2017, a letter requesting additional information was sent by ICOMOS on the following issues: Updated information since submission of the nomination dossier (January 2014), boundaries, justification for inscription, criteria, maps and management and protection. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided 05 September 2017 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2017, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2018. The additional information provided by the State Party, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2018.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Thursday 23 November 2017 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the third part of the ICOMOS Panel meeting. During its last part meeting, the Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed.

Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The ICOMOS Panel has found that the proposed property has potential to justify the requirements of Outstanding Universal Value.

However, the grouping of the two historical phases – the late 19th century and Victorian architecture and the interwar period with its Art Deco architecture - into one narrative that goes beyond visual aesthetic qualities of the individual styles, would require further explanations and supporting arguments. At the moment these two periods do not appear well tied together into one single ensemble with a strong narrative that might suggest a coherence to this part of the city related to the development of its urban planning. Therefore, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could further work on the proposed justification of Outstanding Universal Value.

Boundaries and Buffer zone

In order to strengthen a revised justification of Outstanding Universal Value and consolidate integrity, the ICOMOS Panel would be also pleased if the State Party could consider modifying the boundaries of the nominated property to include more significant buildings of Victorian, Art Deco and the transition period styles, such as the Gateway of India, a monument which embodies the reasons for the efforts of modernizing the city and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2004 under criteria (ii) and (iv) for reasons that are fully consistent with the current nomination as it is indeed an outstanding example of Victorian Gothic Architectural Revival in India, attesting to the modernization of India.

The ICOMOS Panel also found that the boundaries of the buffer zone would need to be modified so as to include, rather than exclude, or cut through urban blocks and spaces and to offer protection of the nominated property, particularly from the Ocean side, where the Marine Drive is without a buffer zone. It would be also important to understand the rationale which led the State Party to exclude from the buffer zone the outer part of the oval south of Madame Cama Road.

Factors affecting the property

Could the State Party clarify how the visual integrity of the nominated property will be protected, considering the proximity of high-rise buildings in the setting of the property, keeping in mind the great speed of urban growth in Mumbai?

Protection

The legal protection of the property and buffer zone is based on the statute of the Government of Maharashtra, most importantly by the Heritage Regulations for Greater Bombay 1995, Regulation No. 67 (DCR 67). Under this regulation, buildings of the nominated property are listed as Grade I, IIA, IIB or III. According to the modification on 25th January 2009 the two precincts of the Fort Precinct and the Marine Drive Precinct are protected as heritage precincts. Most of the area of both the nominated property and the buffer zone falls within these two heritage precincts.

The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could clarify the impact of the CESS Act on the cessed buildings within the property and in the buffer zone and how does the protection of these building differ from the rest of the buildings within the nominated property and its buffer zone.

Regarding the buffer zone, ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide with further explanation of the protection measures and tools for the strip of buildings in the buffer zone that lies between the two heritage precincts.

Management and Conservation measures

The nominated property is managed through the existing mechanism based on Section 52 of the Greater Mumbai Development Plan by the Heritage Conservation Committee, which was created by DCR 67.

The ICOMOS panel highly appreciates the strong commitment from the part of the local community groups, which was instrumental in conservation and management of the property that led to its nomination for the World Heritage List. However, the panel is not clear with regards to the level of commitment on the part of the authorities on both local and national levels.

