



# planners newsletter

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## 56TH NATIONAL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNERS CONGRESS: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF PERI-URBAN AREAS

The 56th National Town and Country Planners' Congress was organized by the Institute of Town Planners, India from 20th to 22nd December 2007 at the Science City Auditorium, Kolkata. The main theme of the Congress was 'Planning and Development of Peri-Urban Areas' with a focus on the sub-themes: 'Planning and Development Policies'; 'Implications of Peri-urban Developments'; 'Financing and Management of Infrastructure'; and 'Integrating Needs of Urban Poor in the Development Processes' as the local theme. The Congress was sponsored by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India and organized in collaboration with Municipal Affairs and

Urban Development Department, Government of West Bengal; Delhi Development Authority; Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority; Kolkata Municipal Corporation; Jaipur Municipal Corporation; Rajasthan Housing Board; and Bengal Unitech Infrastructure Private Limited.

While inaugurating the Congress Shri Asok Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Municipal Affairs Department and Urban Development Department, Government of West Bengal stated that holding of the 56th National Town and Country Planners Congress here at Science City, Kolkata is indeed a special event as this is the second time when this National Congress is being held at Kolkata, last one was back in 1991. He also appreciated the focus of the Congress on 'Planning and Development of Peri-Urban Areas' – an issue which is having extreme significance in the context of increasing urbanization which is being witnessed throughout the world in this 21st century – the Century of Urbanization.

Over several decades, the rate of increase of population has become principal drivers of urbanization. As per United Nations estimates during the year 2007 the world population was 660 crores, with almost half of them



Shri Asok Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Municipal Affairs Department and Urban Development Department, Government of West Bengal delivering the inaugural address.

## IN THIS ISSUE

56th National Town and Country Planners Congress	1
Visit of President CAP to ITPI	10
International Workshops and Congress	11
National Workshops and Congress	13
Know Your Former Presidents	16

living in urban areas. United Nations projected that by 2030, six out of every ten people will live in towns and cities as the world's population is expected to climb to 820 crores, however, a major share of this population will be living in slums and peri-urban areas. Cities in the developing world confront challenge of a rapidly globalizing urban world. While the global spread of urbanization has positive impact and created a lot of opportunities, it has also created many problems, which are acting as barriers to potential gains. The cities are faced with problems of inequality, civil unrest, increased competition of basic needs and access to essential services, socio-political and economic institutions and health threats. Besides, the impact of the climatic change and environmental stress has also heightened the problems, particularly for the urban poor residing in slums and peri-urban areas. West Bengal is also experiencing urbanization in a similar fashion to those of the other developing countries throughout the world especially in the



Shri Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Mayor, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, West Bengal being escorted to the venue of Inaugural Session – Science City Auditorium, Kolkata.

countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. State government is seized of this potential urban growth and has been continually devising measures for providing healthy urban systems in the State. As a matter of policy, the state government has introduced the decentralized paradigm of planning and development in both rural and urban areas. West Bengal is the pioneer in implementing almost all the provisions of 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution and constituted MPCs, with an Executive Committee and five sectorial Sub-committees with elected political representatives. Besides, there are District Planning Committees in each district, which are functioning well. State government has taken several initiatives towards empowerment of women as well as weaker sections of the society by way of involving them in various decision making process. West Bengal is also the pioneer in translating land reforms into reality and presently West Bengal contributes 20 percent of the total land distributed throughout the country. In our state, 84 percent of the total agricultural land is owned by poor farmers. This stupendous success of land reforms has stepped up agricultural prosperity, which has led to manifold increase in the purchasing capacity as well as of service sectors which has finally

resulted in increased urbanization. A recent study has revealed that in rural West Bengal the annual purchase of finished industrial goods has increased to the tune of Rs. 20,000 crores.

Planning has also attained prominence in the state. We strongly believe that involvement of people in the planning and development process provides a sense of ownership towards the assets created and add to its sustainability. The planning exercise both in rural and urban areas in this State is not confined to the level of planners only; the entire planning exercise is being done with the active peoples' participation to translate the concept of decentralized planning into reality. More and more people from both rural and urban areas are being included in the process of decentralized development by way of involving them in Ward Committees, Community Development Societies, *Gram Sansads*, *Gram Sabhas*, etc. We must keep in mind that urban planning is actually the property of citizens. Awareness of the citizens in every aspect of the plan is essential for its effective implementation. He felt that similar system has become the need of the hour in the context of present day planning.

In this scenario, the discussions need to be focused on the various facets of

planning and development particularly to that of peri-urban areas. Now, what does a peri-urban area meant? Peri-urban area is used to describe such areas that are in some form of transition from rural to urban and may also be clusters of residential development within rural landscape. These areas often form the immediate urban-rural interface and a majority of the peri-urban areas are on the fringe of established urban centers. Acute shortage of available habitable land and its escalating prices in core of cities is compelling the poor as well as the new immigrants to live in peri-urban areas of the cities. These peri-urban areas are experiencing much of pollution and environmental degradation as a result of new industrial units and manufacturing industries being set up outside the core city areas. Besides, increasing migration of rural people being engaged continually in various informal sectors has a tendency to live in the nearby areas of the industrial units and economic centers in which they work. They live in these peri-urban areas where provision of infrastructure is inadequate and quality of life is generally poor. These areas are virtually transformed into urban sprawls. As a result these areas get developed in an unplanned and haphazard manner with both authorized and unauthorized developments including informal settlements. Peri-urban areas are also experiencing conversion of agricultural land into habitable land. In a recent study done by the Ahmedabad Space Application Centre, it is revealed that about 135 sq km of area has been developed in an unplanned manner surrounding Kolkata city. Due to this unplanned expansion, it is observed that only 15 to 20 persons are residing in each acre of land, which could have accommodated around 100 persons if the development would have undertaken in a planned manner.

Under this context, he emphasized that we should focus discussions on some new concept of comprehensive planning. A Comprehensive



Shri Asok Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Municipal Affairs Department and Urban Development Department, Government of West Bengal lighting of the Lamp during Inaugural Ceremony

Development Plan must be prepared to meet long term demands of the developing cities, optimizing resource allocation, co-ordinating the development between urban and rural areas, specifying the scale and development orientation and realizing sustainable development in terms of society, economy, population, resources and environment. Besides, the development objectives must focus on forming a social development system that promotes peoples' overall development and establishing well distributed residential communities with clean environment, adequate facilities, comfortable living and convenient transportation. City planners and policy makers should give proper priority in municipal infrastructure planning and space planning to establish an integrated system of urban traffic policy, control and protection of water, environment, prevention and control of air pollution and protecting places of historical interest. The Comprehensive Development Plan of a city must aim towards promoting integration between economic and social development so as to provide necessary emphasis on population, social security and social welfare. A Comprehensive Development Plan should also follow the strategy of co-

ordinated and sustainable development in economy, society, population, resources, disaster management and environment. Driven by technological innovation, the city will continue to strengthen urban functions towards a prosperous economy.

Yet another issue he, underlined was that most of urban designers and planners focus on the needs and desires of only a small minority of world's higher income population. Planners are much interested in planning big cities, big monuments but reluctant to draw plans for slums, urban poor and for unplanned areas using low cost technologies. In recent news, it has been reported that around 70 percent of the urban residents in developing countries are living in unplanned areas and majority of them find themselves in urban sprawl and peri-urban areas with very poor access to electricity, water and drainage. On the contrary, 70 percent of the planners come from the developed world whereas 70 percent planning work has to be found in developing countries. Under this context, future planners and designers, regardless of where they are trained, must be equipped with both appropriate skills

and conceptual understandings that would make their profession relevant in efforts to improve living conditions of all urban residents in global south so as to cope up with the challenges of urbanization. Each and every planner must keep in mind the problems of emerging urbanization in the context of developing countries. Whatever concept we generate, whatever development initiative we take, whatever reform measures we adopt, all must be tuned to the requirements of the poor in developing countries. While finalizing the training schedule to the new batch of urban planners, special care has to be taken to address the problems being faced in the peri-urban areas and to explore proper methodologies so as to incorporate the areas mostly inhabited by urban poor. The expertise and experience of planners should be oriented to bringing greater focus to the needs of the worlds' poor and vulnerable populations mostly living in slums and are affected by planning decisions.

With the advent of globalization, many opportunities are being created but we all know that globalization measures development through economic growth. It is noted that our country is experiencing growth at a rate of 9 percent per annum but on the contrary, World Development Report indicates India's position is 128th among 177 countries in terms of Human Development Index. It has further been observed that there is a fast increasing disparity throughout the world, which includes urban-rural disparity, urban peri-urban disparity, country to country disparity and region to region disparity. It has further been reported in the WDR that about 40 percent of the global population is living on less than 2 dollars a day that accounts for only 5 percent of the entire global income while the richest 20 percent account for three fourth of world's total income. Besides, more than 80 percent of the world's population lives in countries where

economic differentials are widening. This huge increased disparity has created a lot of social tension and has given rise to socio-political and economic instability. Planners and policy makers have their role to play in this context. Because of the variations in the nature and scale of rural-urban interactions between and within nations, both the urban and rural local bodies have to play a pivotal role to respond to location specific needs and priorities. Specific areas of interest in land tenure and natural resource management and their impact on urban poor and other low income groups are to be identified. While formulating future plans, we must take into account the change of employment pattern in these peri-urban areas with transformation in local market, displacement and evictions as well as resettlement and rehabilitation of the inhabitants which often is influenced by globalization.

Another area which needs to be focused upon is the legislation. Legislation on urban planning should be strengthened to raise the legal status of urban planning. A local system of legislation of urban planning should be gradually established which can take into consideration overall requirements. In this context he pointed out the various legislative measures and policy decisions taken by West Bengal state in the field of urban planning. Preparation of

development plan and annual development plan have been made mandatory in West Bengal Municipal Act, besides, having provisions for spatial planning and control of developments and densities. Separate act and rules for functioning of KMPC has been introduced in 2001. West Bengal Town and Country Planning and Development Act has been amended time to time in order to cope up with modern day planning. In the Act, there are provisions for the preparation of land use map and register indicating the present pattern of land-use as well as of Land-Use and Development Control Plans (LUDCP) with the area-specific use of land and development control actions. Urban local bodies are involving more and more citizens in preparing Draft Development Plans and Annual Development Plans. All the 40 municipalities within Kolkata Metropolitan Area have finalized their respective draft development plans. Steps have been taken to prepare the same for other municipalities also. State government is committed towards inclusive development so that the fruit of development reach every stratum of the society through active peoples' participation. Further, state government is formulating the 'Urban strategy for West Bengal'. An Action plan for Reduction of Urban Poverty has also been drafted. New state level policies are being drafted on rehabilitation and resettlement, slum

development, sanitation, sewerage and drainage including solid waste management. State government has also taken steps to prepare a sub-plan for the minorities in order to provide them better opportunity and improved living conditions. Very recently, both the Departments of Municipal Affairs and Urban Development Departments have published a document titled an Approach to Urban Sector during the 11th Plan. The document envisages the vision to create livable, environmentally balanced and investor friendly cities with dynamic municipal systems having efficient service delivery mechanisms to cater to the welfare and uplift of standard of living especially that of the urban poor.

While concluding his address Hon'ble Minister stated that many of the world's cities are experiencing population growth that far exceeds their absorptive capacity in terms of shelter, water and sanitation, public health and environmental sustainability and as a result this huge influx is settling in the corridors of established cities in the form of peri-urban areas. Activities in such areas have a strong interface with the city. Integration of city with peri-urban developments is, therefore, a precursor to sustainable development. Evolving safe cities and towns that will ensure affordable housing, equal opportunities and equitable access to education, health and livelihoods should be the vision of the city planners and policy makers throughout the world.

On this occasion a colorful Souvenir was also released by Shri Asok Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Minister.

During the Congress an Exhibition on the theme 'Provision of Infrastructure in Urban Areas including Peri-Urban Areas' was organized, which was also inaugurated by Shri Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation. On this occasion Shri Asok Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Minister was also present. Organization of exhibition has provided an opportunity to various stakeholders



Audience in the 56th National Town and Country Planners Congress, at Science City, Kolkata.

such as government departments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, public and private sector agencies, development authorities and urban local bodies to display their projects and products.

Shri Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, West Bengal, in his address stated that by 2051 more than 50 percent of the population would find their habitats in the urban area which calls for more rigorous planning for the urban settlements including Kolkata. For this purpose there is a need to prepare master plans for sewerage, transport, drainage, landscape, water supply, etc; in the absence of which the development of our towns and cities will face major problems of traffic and transportation over burdening already overstrained infrastructure. At present hardly 6 percent of the area in Kolkata is under traffic and transportation while in other cities it is over 15 percent. This may be due to the reason that excessive growth could not be visualized in past. Therefore, he called upon the planners' community to address all such issues in the right earnest and suggest solutions to remedy these deficiencies.

Shri V. Satyanarayan in his presidential address stated that Peri-urban Area, a space in the process of rapid transformation from rural to urban, in fact is the area around a city, located generally outside the municipal limits. It is perpetually under pressure from unintended developments, which may be contiguous along the municipal boundaries and roads or in clusters located in rural landscapes. Peri-urban area can be divided into two i.e. the urban fringe - an area that is immediately touching the municipal boundary and experiencing extremely rapid pace of transformation; and rest of the peri-urban area. However, the extent of peri-urban area depends upon the size of the city, larger the city, larger would be its peri-urban area.

In the larger urban agglomerations, peri-urban areas have a tendency to

grow along the urban corridors at faster rate. Often transformations in such areas are generally unplanned and haphazard. There are both authorized and unauthorized developments including informal settlements and slums. Provision of services and infrastructure is inadequate and quality of life is generally poor. The transformation of peri-urban areas, however, is inevitable. Development in these areas is governed by several agencies including *village panchayats*, *nagar panchayats*, district administration, MPCs, DPCs, and development authorities. Functional responsibilities of such agencies are not clear, their functions are overlapping and their actions are not co-ordinated. He, however stated that the District Planning Committees (DPCs) and Metropolitan Planning Committees (MPCs) constituted under the 74th Constitution Amendment Act could be important authorities to guide the development in such areas and Master Plan and Regional Plan could be more appropriate and effective tool in this direction.

In the peri-urban areas land related conflicts are endemic, specifically with reference to the use of land for agriculture or urban development. Even pattern of agriculture is transforming from traditional food crops to cash crops that fulfill the needs of the mother city or provide raw materials for agro-based industries. A major social problem in such areas is rehabilitation of farmers whose lands are converted to urban uses. In a vibrant economy like India, peri-urban areas are preferred locations for some of the most strategic economic activity centers such as large industrial, institutional or residential complexes that guide the direction of future development of the city. For sustainable development, administration and governance, it is necessary to evolve planning, development, financing, management and governance strategies in such a way that the conflicts between social and economic concerns as well as rural and urban

issues are minimized and environmental potentials and land or water resources for meeting the needs of urban dwellers are maximized. Such strategies should strengthen the rural urban interface between the city and its peri-urban areas.

Rapid change is the primary feature of peri-urban areas. To be effective planning agencies will have to act faster to deal with challenges thrown up by commercial interests. Public policies may also be directed towards retaining some of the prominent features of peri-urban areas as they contribute to sustainable development of cities. Urban agriculture, for instance, not only provides for essential food requirements of the city population, but also caters to open space and green area needs of the citizens of the entire region. Integration of city with the peri-urban developments is therefore, a precursor to sustainable regional development.

In a globally integrated free market economy, Indian cities and regional authorities can not afford to overlook peri-urban areas because such oversight could have unmitigated consequences. Regulation of peri-urban developments, therefore, is necessary so as to avoid misuse and abuse of lands in these areas. Financing and management of infrastructure is yet another crucial issue for any part of planning area, peri-urban areas are no exception. These areas are, however, different in two main ways. One, since pace of change is very rapid in these areas, it is important that planning authorities provide basic infrastructure quickly to avoid slumming of these areas. Two, planning authorities must regulate commercial interests to ensure sustainability and inclusive growth.

On the local theme 'Integrating Needs of the Urban Poor in the Development Processes' he stated that urban poverty is a stark reality due to lack of access to employment, adequate housing, services, social protection, health care, and education. It is more

prominent in metropolitan areas and Kolkata is no exception. It is a multidimensional phenomenon and requires multi-pronged solutions to resolve these issues. Similar is the case with Hyderabad - a radial city with 33 radial roads, which is also experiencing the problem of rapid growth and huge development in the form of SEZs, Industrial Parks, IT and ITES, Bio-technology Complexes; large residential complexes / enclaves in the Peri-urban areas of Hyderabad. In the absence of proper co-ordination mechanisms between various agencies which are responsible for granting permissions or approvals of layouts and buildings, the problem of provision of infrastructure both physical and social, besides road networks are assuming alarming proportions. Therefore, there is an urgent need to create Metropolitan Planning Committee (MCP) to co-ordinate the planning and development activities in the vast peri-urban areas of Hyderabad.

Shri B. Mahendra, Vice-President ITPI, read the Messages received from the dignitaries.

The Plenary Session was chaired by Shri V. Satyanarayan, President ITPI on the main theme 'Planning and Development of Peri-Urban Areas', in which presentations were made by Dr. A.N. Sachithanandan and Prof. Monideep Chatterjee. Shri S.B. Khodankar and Prof. Joy Sen were the rapporteurs.

Shri P.K. Pradhan, Principle Secretary, Urban Development, Government of West Bengal was the Chief Guest of the session, who in his address underlined the issue of urbanization which at present is 28 percent in the country and would increase to more than 50 percent by 2051 i.e. every second Indian would be an urbanite. The present trends also show the tendency that medium towns become large and larger towns become mega. He said that this phenomena is universal as it is not possible to stop the immigration, the towns are bound to grow in size

and numbers. However, the problem is that how to manage this growth, how to keep pace in terms of sufficient housing stock and infrastructure. Due to non-availability of serviced land or non-affordability due to rising land costs in towns, the migrants settle in urban areas as agricultural land is cheaper and therefore, unscrupulous elements cut the small plots without bothering for the availability of infrastructure and sell them. He quoted that, 1,400 colonies in Delhi are manifestation of this phenomena. These areas are devoid of roads, schools, hospitals, water supply, sanitation, garbage collection and electricity, etc. It is very difficult to provide these facilities and services in a planned manner, after habitations have grown. So the best solution is to prevent this haphazard growth.

Master Plan of Delhi has been prepared but no Zonal Development Plans and Layout Plans were prepared in a time bound manner. Even the plan proposals conceived in the Master Plan Delhi were not implemented in the spirit conceived, and therefore, manifestation of haphazard development occurs on periphery of the larger towns. The major reasons for non-implementation of Master Plans proposals is the budgetary resource crunch, no investment in infrastructure provision, minimal participation of private sectors, while these areas require heavy doze of investment primarily in infrastructure.

Planners should not forget that EWS and LIG category are required to be served because it is they who settle first in the peri-urban areas because they can not afford housing, they cannot pay for commuting and therefore whole planning process should take this into account. Yet another aspect Shri Pradhan brought into focus is regarding the adequacy of planners i.e. trained manpower besides the commitment from the politicians, administrators, planners and others major players in the planning and development so as to ensure that

development occurs in planned manner in peri-urban areas.

Workshop-I on 'Planning and Development Policies' was chaired by Shri D.S. Meshram, Past President ITPI and key speakers who made the presentation were Dr. S.K. Kulshrestha, Shri B.C. Datta, Shri S.C. Mahagonkar and Shri R. Srinivas. Shri Sunil Mehra and Prof. Uttam Roy were the rapporteurs.

Shri Meshram, in his address stated that the term peri-urban is used frequently in the literature and in policy decisions, but the definition employed are situational and case specific. They provide little basis for a unified understanding of what constitutes peri-urban. Peri-urban areas are the transition zone, or interaction zone, where urban and rural activities are juxtaposed, and landscape feature are subjected to rapid modifications, induced by human activities. These critical areas of land cover change leading to transformations in the hydrological, ecological, geomorphological and socio-economic systems, and are often neglected by both rural and urban administrations. However, as cities develop, much of their growth is located in such areas. Peri-urban areas occupy changing spaces on the margins of towns and cities. Many of their activities move outwards as the city grows, other activities and land uses become incorporated into the urban fabric.

Peri-urban areas are amongst the fastest growing regions in many countries and hold high strategic, spatial, economic and environmental significance. The diversity of residents, land uses and economics activities in peri-urban areas need to be valued in different ways like for the poor these are the places where it is easier to build shelters and to occupy land for agriculture; for industry it is sources of materials essential for urban life: water, brick clays, sand and gravel, limestone, fuel wood and timber; for the middle class these areas are the potential residential zone for houses in

a rural settings; for local government the fringes of urban areas are often a site for locating landfills, waste dumps, peripheral freeways, airports or noisy and toxic industries; for conservationists these are the sites of valuable protected areas, forested hills, preserved woodlands, important wetlands or mangroves, and major coastal ecosystems; and for education and human well being these areas are the places of natural vegetation and bio-diversity. Therefore, peri-urban areas needs to be dealt with more sensitivity and understanding.

Workshop-II on 'Implication of Peri-Urban Developments' was chaired by Dr. A.N. Sachithanandan, Past President ITPI and key speakers were namely Prof. B.K. Sengupta, Prof. Sarup Singh, Prof. N.N. Som, Shri P.K. Mitra, and Shri M.L. Chotani. Shri P.K. Behera and Prof. Subrata Kumar Paul were the rapporteurs.

Prof. A.N. Sachithanandan in his address stated that, land cover changes with the attendant hydrological depletion needs to be addressed well in advance before any signs of development that takes place later. The planning area of cities accordingly should be delineated and broad transportation networks of the area should be indicated in the Master Plans. Such plans could preempt conversion of fertile productive land and avoid chaotic developments that emerge out of the market driven situations. Another strategy that has been lost sight of is the non-participation of multi-national and national corporate sector (IT, ITES and other manufacturing industries, etc;) also require scrupulous harnessing by way of their involvement in infrastructure provision in such area. This would also ensure corporate social responsibility in addition to there personal benefits bereft of community welfare. Therefore, the immediate attention should be bestowed on corrective measures in the peri-urban areas of major cities and advance planning of strategic infrastructure,

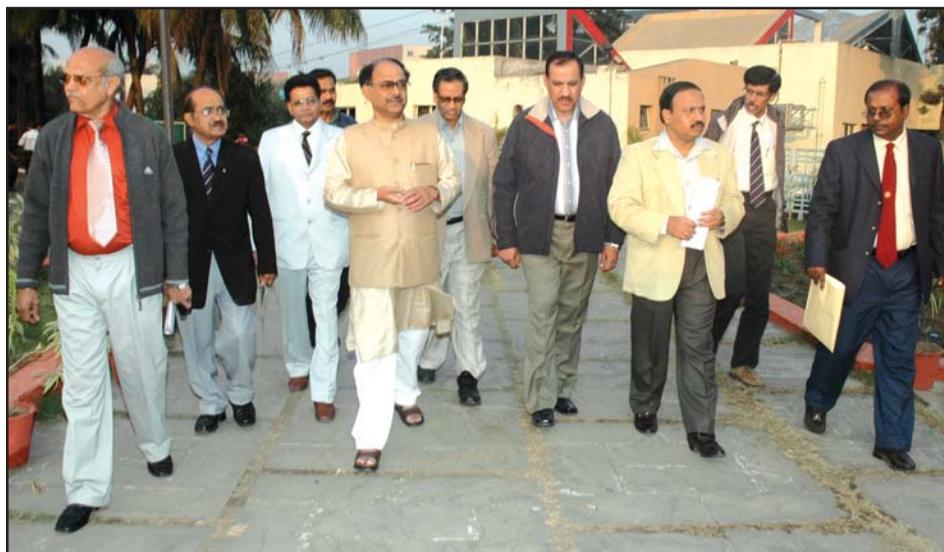
network plans for emerging tier two and three cities to cope with the inevitable urbanization and burgeoning city growth.

Workshop-III on 'Financing and Management of Infrastructure' was chaired by Shri Aniyam Mathew, Past Vice-President ITPI. Dr. H.S. Gill, Shri S.D. Landge, Dr. S.P. Bansal, Prof. R.N. Datta, Shri Kalyan Roy, and Shri T.K. Mitra made the presentation as key speakers. Shri Subhash Sharma and Mrs. Jayita Guha Niyogi were the rapporteurs.

Workshop-IV on local sub-theme 'Integrating Needs of Urban Poor in the Development Processes' was chaired by Shri V.P. Kulshrestha, Past Vice-President, ITPI and Shri A.K. Jain, Shri V.K. Bugga, Prof. S. Halder, Prof. Souvnik Roy, Shri S. Behera and Dr. C.R. Pathak made the presentations as key speakers. While Shri P. Dinesh and Prof. Joydeep Dutta were the rapporteurs.

These Workshops were followed by the Valedictory Function. While delivering the Valedictory Address Shri Gautam Deb, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Public Health Engineering – Chief Guest, congratulated the Institute of Town Planners, India for selecting the theme 'Planning and Development of Peri-urban Areas' because problems of core areas of cities are generally discussed

in such seminars and congress but initiating discussion and debate on the peri-urban areas is a welcome step. He also said that being the political activist, problems of shelters and housing of urban poor's and economically weaker sections of the society are dearer to him. Urbanization has become the biggest problem next to global warming. The urban population of the country which at present is 28 percent would be more pronounced in the coming 10 to 15 years because it will increase to 150 millions. To cope up with this situation, he stated that Planning Commission has adopted two pronged strategy – first, existing towns and cities to absorb more population through redensification and second, 100 new cities to be planned and developed. He added that the only new city has come up is Rajarhat which is being planned and developed by his Department. He stated that the town will house more than 1.5 million people and about 2 million floating population. This new town would be five times bigger than Salt Lake City, the dormitory town of Kolkata. Investment to the tune of Rs. 70,000 crores is being mobilized not from budgetary support of central government or state government but the funds have been raised from the market. Rajarhat would be independent modern town with all kind of required amenities and facilities and



Shri Gautam Deb, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Public Health Engineering being escorted to venue of Valedictory Session - Science City Auditorium, Kolkata.

infrastructure including five star hotels at the same time it will house 70 percent population in the income bracket of EWS, LIG and MIG and will act as hub for eastern India. He also stated that the new town would not encourage the migration to Kolkata from Rajarhat but it will reverse the process that is people of Kolkata would prefer to migrate to Rajarhat because of the high quality infrastructure which is being provided for which investment to the tune of Rs. 70,000 crores has been conceived.

Hon'ble Minister also invited the planners' community not to consider peri-urban areas as constraint to planning and development but plan for them in advance so that urban poor who initially settle in these areas, can cater for them and adjust them along with their requirements in the over all planning process. Yet another issue he underscored was of decentralization of urbanization and not to allow the concentration in few towns but to deflect to others satellite towns. He also stated that for mitigating the problems of migration it would be more advisable to provide urban facilities in rural areas so that rural population is not tempted to migrate to large urban centers. He opined that the advancement in telecommunication and other technologies would further narrow the gap between urban and rural areas and reduce work trips from peri-urban areas to the core city. While concluding his address, he once again impressed upon the delegates to accept the challenges thrown open by the peri-urban areas and find solutions for planned and orderly development of these areas without creating much demolition and hardship to urban poor.

While introducing the National Best Thesis Award popularly known as Prof. V.N. Parsad Best Thesis Award, Shri S.S. Mathur, Secretary General ITPI stated that the award comprises of a certificate and cash prize was introduced in 1990 for encouraging competition among young planners, he stated that one thesis each from each specialization from all recognized



Shri Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Mayor, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, West Bengal giving away the National Best Thesis Award to Ms. Anu Punj.

schools of planning by the ITPI getting highest marks is eligible contenders, for this award. This year's Gold Medal was given to Ms. Anu Punj, of the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi for her thesis on 'Housing Strategy for Urban Extension Areas of New Delhi'. Commendation certificate was awarded to Ms. Ronita Bardhan, of IIT Kharagpur for the thesis 'An Urban Corridor in Transition: Vision 2020' and Shri Arun N.V., of the School of Architecture and Planning (SAP), Chennai for the thesis 'Planning for Compact City: A Case Study of Chennai' by Shri Gautam Deb, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Public Health Engineering. All the three awardees were given an opportunity to present their Thesis, in brief.

The welcome address was given by Shri Ranjan Chattopadhyay, Chairman, West Bengal Regional Chapter and vote of thanks were extended Shri S.S. Mathur, Secretary General, ITPI.

After two days discussions and deliberations, the following recommendations were made by the Congress.

- Peri-urban areas are generally rapid settlement expansion areas, which in fact are under transformation from rural to urban on the outskirts of mega cities, metropolitan areas and other larger cities. Therefore, planning

processes in these areas need to be immediately initiated, as these areas are the supply zones for urban agriculture, manpower, urban expansion and attracting points for migrants, displaced persons from the core area as well as industries, SEZs, etc.

- As unplanned as well as planned development takes place in peri-urban areas, it would be pertinent to integrate such isolated and piecemeal developments in an integrated manner. However, until such time the plans for such areas are prepared and approved by the MPCs, instruments like 'Fringe Area (Development and Control) Act' should be adopted. In this context the Congress noted with concern that only one MPC has been constituted up till now under the 74th Constitution Amendment Act, 1992. Hence, it is but natural for the Congress to strongly recommend the constitution of MPCs in all metropolitan areas of the country on fast track;
- Clear, simple and enforceable land policies and development control norms for peri-urban areas should be framed and existing acts, rules and byelaws should be revised or modified accordingly for guiding and promoting development.
- While deciding the development policies, a critical balance needs to

be achieved between urban, agricultural and rural activities or functions. The Congress therefore suggests retention of land for such activities, for future so as to not adversely affect avenues of next generation.

- All development schemes or projects in peri-urban areas should be prepared by utilizing latest tools and technologies (like Remote Sensing, GIS, GPS, etc.) after taking into account existing conditions in consultation with all the stakeholders including the MPCs, DPCs, local bodies and line departments.
- While preparing proposed transport network plan, major roads and city rail systems should be considered as development corridors and accordingly land uses should be prescribed.
- To check the spreading of unplanned developments in peri-urban areas of larger metropolitan towns and cities, in future the state governments, development authorities, local bodies (including *Nagar Panchayat* and *Gram Panchayat*) should take proactive measures and evolve suitable strategy for planned development along with proper mechanisms with adequate manpower. Capacity building of urban and rural local bodies also merits upfront consideration.
- The Congress noted that CDPs under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) are being prepared with little or no regard to the existing Master Plans of cities. It, therefore, strongly recommends that CDPs should be prepared within the framework of Master Plans and CDPs should serve as tools for implementation of Master Plan proposals.
- CDPs and DPRs, which are mandatory for availing finances under the JNNURM, hardly address the issue of peri-urban areas and projects identified under

the Mission as the JNNURM only addresses primarily the augmentation of urban infrastructure within municipal boundaries. Therefore, there is a need to address the issue of peri-urban areas in CDPs under the Mission.

- Land in peri-urban areas are under pressure of getting converted in to urban uses indiscriminately thus at times loosing existing and potential good agricultural land permanently. Besides there is some amount of speculation in land development. Land banking and community land development is required to be encouraged by the MPC and revenue department.
- In order to help development of peri-urban areas in the background of metropolitanisation, development thrust should be given in areas which are not under agriculture or part of wet land. Plan should be given to road network development and primary road connection with mother city to open up the areas and also guide metropolitan development away from the core.
- To check the speculative exploitation of land in peri-urban areas, it would be advisable to have a mechanism for quick access to land (like a refined land bank or land reconstitution system) in peri-urban areas. Besides providing technical and financial support to communities for land development, government should also consider land acquisition at places where displacement of original land owners could be minimal. Any large scale land acquisition either by government, semi-government or private sector should be backed by Rehabilitation Plan so that peri-urban spatial injustices are corrected or avoided.
- Congress recommends taking corrective steps to eliminate peri-urban spatial injustices, which have depilating effects on the abilities of

persons to function effectively and lead lives that they value. This requires, among other steps, that Government must frame equitable and just policies for the resettlement and rehabilitation of farmers and landless laborers.

- Serious steps should be taken to establish just and transparent participatory governance structure because participation is meaningful only if it empowers the people with the sense of achievement and engenders in them the spirit that they are capable of making changes in public policy to achieve their own interests. Congress therefore recommended inclusive peri-urban development, as a development management strategy.

In the Congress one full Session was devoted to the local theme - 'Integrating Needs of the Urban Poor in the Development Process'. After detailed deliberations, the Congress observed that poverty has many dimensions. People in rural and urban areas are both affected by poverty and deprivation. The Congress highlighted this as an important area not only in economic context but also in social and spatial context. Reduction of poverty both in urban and rural areas in India as well as in West Bengal, though attempted by various programmes and schemes, the worrisome fact is that 20 to 25 percent people still remain below poverty line. Kolkata has more than five thousand *bustees* which accommodate more than one third of city population. The Congress therefore gives the following recommendations:

- More effective plan programmes are required to be formulated and devised to make tangible impacts by improvement of environmental sanitation, potable water supply, urban basic services, shelter, slum improvement, social welfare schemes, etc.
- As poor people cannot be absorbed in the organized sector,

informal sector needs to be given adequate importance for employment generation in the spatial plan as a part of mixed land use. Specific sites for informal activities as part of the plan should be earmarked.

- Poor people not only have less income generating capacity but also they have poor access to services and the capacity to spend money for health, education, etc; is extremely limited. Adequate measures need to be evolved so that access to the facilities is guaranteed.
- The large areas of cities are dotted with slums and rural habitations whereby people do not have the right to site. Therefore, land reforms and tenancy acts need to be further amended to adequately protect the interest of the poor people and reduce their vulnerability.
- Though the constitution amendments guaranteed the representation of disadvantaged groups and empowerment of woman, adequate representation of the general people from the settlements in the local bodies and other political institutions need to be given so that inclusive cities and administration through active participation from citizen irrespective of creed and economical background, is ensured.
- Bharat Nirman project and the JNNURM have been launched by the central government recently. Specific schemes, taking advantage of these funds for reduction of poverty in rural and urban areas, are required to be formulated focusing on target area and target population as a part of the exercise of district development plans, master plans, CDPs and DPRs.
- The best practices for reduction of poverty by increasing involvement of poor people themselves followed in the country and abroad should be adopted

with a focus on special local needs of poor in India in general and West Bengal in particular, in addition to on going programmes.

- Monitoring and reviewing of the government programmes on poverty reduction should be further strengthened in order to increase the reach of the schemes for the targeted poor groups in addition to the need of increasing budget provisions for poverty reduction programmes in West Bengal for reaching the target of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The present provision and utilization is not commensurate

with the quantum of poverty and government espoused goals.

- Under Thika Tenancy Act, Thika owner though has saved the slum dwellers from the fear of eviction by the landlord and Thika owners. It is strongly recommended that the act appropriately be amended to give right to the site of their stay so that they can take measures for improvement of the physical or environmental conditions of that individual site or group of sites by an approved plan to facilitate them to get authorized access to utilities and services and also use the same as collateral for raising finances

### VISIT OF PRESIDENT CAP TO ITPI

Ms. Christine Platt, President, Commonwealth Association of Planners, a planning consultant from Durban is the first person from Africa and the first women to hold the post of President CAP. Ms. Christine Platt is committed to 're-inventing planning' agenda that the CAP has laid in recent years and also to strengthen the CAP activities in the region.

Ms. Christine Platt made a short visit to India. She was invited to the ITPI on 9th October, 2007. On this occasion a discussion on 'Emerging Role of Planners in Development of Urban

Areas' was organized by Delhi Regional Chapter, ITPI in which presentations were made by Prof. A.G.K. Menon, Director, TVB School of Habitat Studies on 'Role of Planning Consultants'; Shri. S.D. Landge, Council Member, ITPI on 'Role of Town Planning Department and Specialized Agencies – MIDC'; Shri J.B. Kshirsagar, Chief Planner, TCPO on 'Role of TCPO'; Shri E.F.N. Ribeiro, Former Commissioner (Planning), DDA on 'Role of Development Authorities – DDA'; and Prof. Shovan K. Saha, SPA on 'Evolution of Town Planning Education'.



Present on the dias are Shri V. Satyanarayan, President ITPI; Ms. Christine Platt, President CAP; Shri D.S. Meshram, Past-President ITPI; Shri S.S. Mathur, Secretary General ITPI; Dr. S.P. Bansal, Chairman DRC; and Dr. P.S.N. Rao, Secretary DRC (Left to Right)



Members present during the visit of Ms. Christine Platt, President CAP

In her address Ms. Christine Platt stated that the CAP not only serves as an important conduit for communication and dissemination of information between member associations, but also provides a critical connection to other global players in the planning and development field, including those within the Commonwealth and United Nations. There is also undoubtedly a growing realization that we are all part of one world, and that issues impact widely. The CAP provides the institutional framework for global relationships between planners, and these in turn facilitate the development of bilateral relationships. These global connections allow a level of knowledge sharing and debate which makes CAP such an important organization in the 21st century.

The challenge now is to strengthen the Regions within the CAP to ensure that we as a significant part of the global

planning family can interact meaningfully, and make credible contributions to addressing global planning issues. She also stated that Regions of the CAP are already doing very important work and invited Institute of Town Planners, India to rejoin the CAP.

Members, however, were of the opinion that there are certain basic issues which are required to be addressed by the CAP before the ITPI Council considers rejoining the CAP. Ms. Christine Platt stated that she will get examine all the issues raised by the Council Members of the ITPI. Shri V. Satyanarayan thanked Ms. Christine Platt for visiting the ITPI in her short trip to India and expressed full co-operation for betterment of the town and country planning profession. She was presented a Plaque by the President ITPI, on behalf of Council as token of love and affection to her.

development by sustaining its tradition and culture, and building a safe and secured city, based on Disaster Culture. The objective of the 21st EAROPH World Congress and Mayors' Caucus is to contribute to city development in respective member countries of EAROPH by holding lively discussions on these subjects.

EAROPH is an organization dedicated to preparing and carrying out urban and housing plans for better human settlement and constant improvement of residents' living standard. Geographically, the organization's activities basically cover the region between longitude 60 and 180 degrees east, the region encompassing part of Asia, Australia and Pacific Islands. The forerunner of EAROPH was inaugurated in 1954 in New Delhi, as a regional organization of the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP). During its second congress, held in Tokyo in 1958, the East Asia Regional Organization for Planning and Housing (EAROPH) was officially established and recognized as a Regional NGO by the United Nations. Although EAROPH became independent from IFHP in 1980, EAROPH retains close relationship with IFHP. In 1982, EAROPH changed its name to the Eastern Regional Organization for Planning and Housing and in 2004 to the Eastern Regional Organization for Planning and Human Settlement. In Japan JASOPH (Japanese Society for Planning and Housing) has kept contact with EAROPH.

The main theme – 'Succession and Sustainability of Urban Culture and Human Settlements' – refers to a basic principle in creating housing, communities and cities by preserving traditions and cultures unique to respective EAROPH member states. Preparedness for natural disasters, such as earthquake, tsunami, windstorm and flood, is prerequisite to fulfilling this theme.

To achieve sustainable urban development, participants in the 21st

## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND CONGRESS

### Succession and Sustainability of Urban Culture and Human Settlements

The 21st EAROPH World Congress and Mayor's Caucus is being organized on 'Succession and Sustainability of Urban Culture and Human Settlements' in Himeji and Awaji Cites in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan on 21st and 22nd

October, 2008. As home to Himeji Castle – a world heritage site – Himeji is committed to city development by preserving its invaluable historic and culture assets. Awaji, on the other hand, is reviving its community and economy from the devastating Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995. Hosted by these two cities, the 21st event will feature discussions about city

EAROPH World Congress and Mayor's Caucus will hold discussions on the preservation of historic and cultural assets; disaster reduction, related culture (disaster culture) and disaster restoration based on case studies in various countries / regions, and will seek to build an international network, linking diverse organizations in many counties and regions. In so doing, the participants will take into consideration geographical, natural and socio-economic conditions of individual countries, respecting their histories and cultures.

Sub-themes of the conference are:

- City Development by Sustaining Tradition and Culture: Under this sub-theme, discussions will be held regarding regional vitalization and infrastructural development by seeking effective use of historic and cultural assets, as well as traditional industries; and
- Building a Safe and Secured City Based on Disaster Culture: Based on case studies of initiatives taken in various countries / regions to restore cities following a variety of disasters, including earthquake, tsunami, windstorm and flood, discussions will be held regarding both tangible and intangible aspects of initiatives to promote disaster reduction and foster Disaster Culture. In addition, discussion topics will include ideal ways of disasters restoration and the creating of safe and secure cities in non-emergency.

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### URISA - 2008

Urban and Regional Information Systems Association organizing a 46th

Annual Conference on 'URISA 2008' during 7th-10th October, 2008 in New Orleans.

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) is a non-profit professional and educational association that promotes the effective and ethical use of spatial information and information technologies for the understanding and management of urban and regional systems. It is a multi-disciplinary association where professionals from all parts of the spatial data community can come together and share concerns and ideas.

Since 1963, URISA has been the professional home of choice for Public Sector GIS and IT executives throughout the United States, Canada and other countries worldwide. The URISA Annual Conference traditionally attracts professional interested in management and policy discussions of IT and GIS issues. 'URISA 2008' in New Orleans will challenge participants to better manage, analyze, plan and implement technology for more effective and efficient government operations.

The program topics for conference are:

- Geospatially Enable Enterprise;
- Data Acquisitions and Conversion;
- Open Source and Open Standards/Google Earth;
- Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration;
- Natural Resources and Environment;
- Transportation and Infrastructure;
- Public Participants GIS (PPGIS) or GIS for Communities;
- Emergency Management and Homeland Security;
- 3D GIS;
- K-12; and
- Management and Professional Development

### World Congress on Housing Science and National Housing Programmes New Visions

Department of Architecture and Regional Planning, Indian Institute of

Technology Kharagpur is organizing IAHS World Congress: 'Housing Science on National Housing Programmes New Vision' during 3rd-7th November, 2008 in Kolkata. The second IAHS Congress in India will cover the various national housing programmes that have evolved the world over. It will address the issues of urban development and urban environmentalism. The effects of globalization on housing, innovative housing finance schemes will feature among discussions. An emphasis will be given on new building materials like nano and low energy materials, and construction management concepts like simulation based optimization process and best fit approach. Classical issues of slum and squatter settlement upgradation and provision of urban infrastructure will also be covered. The Congress will give a better understanding and global perspective on housing science and go a long way to improve the overall housing situation.

A timeline of national housing programmes across the globe shows very interesting trends, development shifts in focus and policies. The 50s decade saw government as Architect. Much of the national housing programmes started as post war rehabilitation schemes. Australia's public housing schemes for instance, were aimed at housing returned soldiers of WW II. During 1925-30 many innovative municipal housing schemes were done in Germany, mostly in Berlin, Cologne and Frankfurt am Main.

IAHS established in 1972 in the United States as a non-profit, educational, world organization, the IAHS is a member of the United Nations and the ECOSOC, as the NGO. The IAHS promotes research, publication and conferences on topics relevant to the Housing Science. It has already organized Thirty-five World Congresses.

The themes of the Congress are

- Urban Development;

- Innovative financing Schemes;
- Building Materials;
- Provision of Infrastructure;
- Construction Management Concepts;
- Slum and Squatter Settlements; and
- Environmental Aspects;

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in Indian Context for the development of housing and real estate sector, the conference with the theme "Affordable Housing for All" becomes important to realize the objectives of National and State Urban Housing and Habitat Policies.

Board issues to be discussed are:

- Urban Housing and commercial Real Estate Scenario and Affordability;
- Housing and Real Estate Finance and Taxation;
- Legal and Regulatory Reforms for Speedy Growth;
- Retail, Office and Commercial Real Estate; and
- New Material and Appropriate Technology.

For further information contact:

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### **Globalization, Inequality and Sustainability**

Under UGC Special Assistant Programme national seminar is scheduled to be held on 'Globalization, Inequality and Sustainability' on 6th-7th March, 2008. Sustainability is related to quality of life in a settlement community i.e. whether economic, social or environmental systems that make up a community are providing healthy, productive and meaningful life for all community residents, present and future. It requires managing households, individuals, communities, nations and globe in ways to ensure that our economy and society continue to exist without destroying the natural environment. It is an issue for all communities from rural to large metropolises, mega cities and meta-cities where crime and poverty are

## **NATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND CONGRESS**

### **Affordable Housing for All**

National Real Estate Development Council is organizing its National Conference on 'Affordable Housing for All (8th National Convention)' during 21st-22nd April, 2008 at Chandigarh. Indian housing and real estate sector in last 4 to 5 years has registered an annual growth of 25-30 percent when economy has been growing at 8-9 percent at the back of the impressive growth of infrastructure, manufacturing and service sectors. Hundred percent FDI through automatic route allowed in housing, built up infrastructure and construction development, together with rising investors confidence and lucrative return have made housing and real estate sector attractive and investment friendly for NRIs, foreign and domestic investors. Around US\$10 billion has already been committed in the sector by foreign equity and institutional investors and another US\$30-40 billion is in the pipeline. By 2015, a total of US\$50 billion of foreign investment is expected to flow into the Indian realty sector.

Growing and Globalized Indian economy has put pressure on quality residential, office and retail spaces and demand for housing units and commercial spaces has increased because of rising income and demographic changes. Approximately 25 million housing units, mainly of low-income groups, are already deficient. It is estimated that nearly 40 million housing units; 150 million sq ft office space, and 220 million sq ft retail space besides 1.5 lac hotel rooms and 41ac hospital beds, at a combined

investment of US \$ 150 billion, would be required in next five years. Investment on infrastructure development during the same period is estimated to be around US\$500 billion.

Metropolitan areas which have been centre of attraction so far because of their better infrastructure and spending power, have got saturated and real estate prices risen many fold in last few years making way for the development of Tier II and Tier III Cities, new townships and SEZs. Potentials, thus, for housing and real estate development in India is huge and a transparent, regulated and hassle free environment would help speed up the development. Central and State Governments have taken many steps to transform and regulate the sector and meet the demand of social housing but still there is lot to be done to achieve the goal of 'Housing for All' and meet the shortages of office and retail spaces, hospitality and health care, etc.

Government, Public and Private Sectors, forming an integral part of this apex body - NAREDCO have been invited to present the housing and construction scenario in different parts of the country. Chandigarh has been chosen as Venue to launch Punjab, Haryana and Himachal REDCOs and highlight housing and real estate potential in these States including Union Territory of Chandigarh while deliberating upon the housing and real estate scenario of the country as a whole. Aimed at defining the road map for administrative, legal, fiscal and commercial reforms and suggesting changes in monetary and credit policies

decreasing the quality of life. It is argued that mere sustainability is not enough and sustainability and social justice must go hand in hand. The problem of inequality and poverty is not that it can not be sustained but should not be sustained. Sustainability is therefore about long term consequences with emphasis on social equity.

Keeping the above in view, the Department of Sociology is organizing a National Seminar on 'Globalization, Inequality and Sustainability' with following sub-themes:

- Conceptual and Theoretical issues;
- Inequality in Globalizing World;
- Globalization and Institutions;
- Inequality and Sustainability;
- Sustainable Cities and Governance;
- Social Justice and Human Rights; and
- Various Stakeholders at Global, Regional, National and Local levels.

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### **Green Building: Striding Towards Environment Protection and Clearance**

Search Foundation is organizing two days national workshop-cum-conference on 'Green Building: Striding Towards Environment Protection and Clearance' in association with Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, on 18th-19th April, 2008 at Silver Oak, Indian Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

The issues of green buildings, what they are and how they operate are still in the development stages. We need to create awareness on various issues

involved to facilitate the nation's confident march into the exciting world of 'green buildings'. To boost the growth of the Green Buildings movement in India, it is necessary that all the stakeholders of construction industry be abreast of Green Building concepts.

India is on the verge of rapid urbanization. The fast development of various sectors has placed enormous stress on resources, environment and ecology. The MoEF has provided detailed guidelines and set up standards for construction is mandatory for various construction projects to secure environment clearance prior to construction. Green buildings help to conserve energy, facilitate environment protection and ecology restoration. They are vital instruments to achieve sustainable development. They also ensure a faster and smoother process to obtain Environment Clearance from the concern authorities.

The whole range of relevant topics would be discussed. The recommendations and suggestions would be forwarded to concerned agencies and government department for necessary follow up actions. A synopsis of the topics is as follows:

- Green Building Philosophy;
- Barrier for adopting Green Building concepts;
- Economic Viability of Green Building;
- Design features of Green Building;
- Energy aspects of Green Building;
- Site planning for Green Building;
- Technologies and material in Green Building;
- Dynamics of water handling;
- Solid Waste Management;
- Health and safety concerns;
- Certified Emission Reduction (CER) as part of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM);
- Buildings rating system (Platinum, gold, Silver, etc.);
- Understanding the process of Environment Clearance;

- Towards faster and smoother EC process; and
- Finalizing recommendations.

For further information contact:

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### **Urban Land Management Policies and Practices**

Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology is organizing a workshop on 'Urban Land Management Policies and Practices' on 24th-25th April, 2008. Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNIT), Surat is one of the twenty National Institutes of Technology in India set up with the objective to provide high quality technical education to meet the needs of the nation in the present competitive world.

The Postgraduate section for M.Tech (Planning) is in force since 1987. This section has produced many quality town planners serving the nation at various fronts. Many of them have become successful consultants in the field of Urban Planning and Management at National Level.

It is said that by the turn of the present century India will be on top of the population table of the world. It is estimated that approximately 30 percent of the population will be living in the urban area. The major problems of the urban areas are limited resources. One of them is precious Urban Land. The management and development land needs understanding of the related dynamics and implications.

Accordingly, the discussion will focus on the following themes:

- Urban land scenario and government policies;
- Historical changes in urban land policies;

- Urban land management tools and constraints;
- Public private participation in urban land management;
- Authority and accountability of town planners for urban land management;
- Infrastructure development and land management; and
- Housing and land management and pricing.

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### ABHIKRAMA 2008

NOSPlan is a congregation of the students of the School of Planning in India, aimed at promoting live interaction among professionals and students engaged in the field of planning. It is an attempt to establish a rendezvous between the experienced professionals and evolving planners of tomorrow, to ensure that the passing on of knowledge and skills by the word of mouth and efforts in the field are streamlined to ensure the progress of our society. The long inactive National Organization of students of planning was rejuvenated in the year 1993. The success of the event encouraged the planning fraternity to hold an annual meet since then.

10th National NOSPlan Event 2008: *Abhikrama* is scheduled to be held on 26th-29th February, 2008 at Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

### OBITUARY

With profound grief, it is informed that Shri P.B. Rai, former Town and Country Planner, Town and Country Planning Organization, Ministry of Urban Development, New Delhi left for heavenly abode on 24th February, 2008 at Bangalore. Shri Rai had made significant contribution for the first Master Plan for Delhi and also first Regional Plan for National Capital Region. He worked on various prestigious projects in India and served as UN expert in British Guyana. His work was exemplary and some of the manuals and Guides with which he was associated are still followed in various Development Planning and exercises. May his soul rest in peace and almighty grant strength to bereaved family to bear this loss.

*Continued from page 16*

assisted the State Government for the implementation of urban development and housing schemes and in the preparation of comprehensive traffic and transportation plans. He extended advice to the State Government on all planning matters for exercising control over the local municipal bodies and planning authorities in the field of physical planning also monitoring the progress of the IDSMT projects, being implemented by respective municipal council.

During his service tenure, Shri Patharkar prepared the development plans of Nanded, Latur and Kolhapur towns, but his major contribution was in the preparation of Master Plan of Nashik, notably at three stages, firstly when it was a municipal council, secondly, when it was a municipal corporation and thirdly, after his retirement from the government services. His other major contribution was the initiation of dialogue with the State Government on revision of Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act with reference to Town Planning Schemes. He propagated that after the arbitrators plan is prepared, it should be immediately taken for implementation and financial implications may be calculated subsequently. Increment of land value which amounts to 50 percent should be distributed on pro rata basis so that municipal bodies can recover the costs. He also initiated the dialogue with the government on 'Planning Standards' which were based on the British norms

and therefore needed to be reviewed and revised based on practical aspects and ground realities so as to meet the aspirations of the people.

After his retirement from the State Government services, Shri Patharkar is called upon by the Government to work on various committees set up by it. He has been appointed as the member of Planning Committee for Pune and is also appointed as a member of Core Group on Urban Planning and Implementation to study the present practices and to suggest the Government the ways and means for change or revision.

The profile of Shri Patharkar's achievements affirms the distinctiveness and high level of his abilities as a student, and qualities of an officer and a kind person. He came from a modest family but because of his education, dedication, hard work and sincerity, he rose to greater heights in the planning profession. His humble and humane behavior earned him many friends and associates.

At the age of 63, Shri Patharkar is very active and is doing a number of consultancy works. Recently he has prepared the City Development Plan of Nashik under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). He takes full interest in the activities and developments of the Institute of Town Planners, India.

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 This profile is prepared by Shri Abdul Qaiyum, Former Town and Country Planner, TCPO, New Delhi.

## KNOW YOUR FORMER PRESIDENTS



**Arun Rajabhau Patharkar**

Shri Arun Rajabhau Patharkar, Fellow of the Institute of Town Planners, India, Member of the Council for a number of years and President during 2001-2002, is a well known urban planner. During his long tenure of service in Maharashtra State Town Planning and Valuation Department, right from the Assistant Director to the Head of the Department, Shri Patharkar worked with zeal and enthusiasm and displayed extraordinary abilities in getting endeared by him and subordinates.

Shri Patharkar actively involved himself in the drafting of the Model Urban and Regional Law (revised) and suggested modifications in the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act 1966, which incorporated the provisions of Urban Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) Guidelines, prepared by the Institute of Town Planners, India for the then Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment, Government of India, during the year 1995-1996.

As the President of the Institute of Town Planners, India, Shri Patharkar successfully organized the 50th National Town and Country Planners Congress at Nashik in 2002. The Congress discussed the theme that focused its attention on implementation of development plans for good governance. After three days of deliberations, the Congress made a number of recommendations, which,

inter alia, includes that urban development plans should be viewed as a tool for good governance, as it is a public document open to all, providing a framework for development of all sectors in towns and cities.

Shri Patharkar was born on 9th May, 1944 in a family with modest income but large in size, in Amravati, a district place in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. His father, though with low family income was very keen to see that his son should be highly educated. Shri Patharkar did not belie his father's desire. He was a bright and intelligent student and while in school, he captured the goodwill and attention of his teachers. He was always first or second in his class. He stood eighth in order of merit at Higher Secondary School Certificate Examination (HSSC) in 1961 and was awarded National Merit Scholarship. He did his Bachelor's Degree in Architecture with Honors from the Visvesvaraya Regional College of Engineering (VRCE), now known as, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT), Nagpur in 1966 and got first class and second position in order of merit. He did his Master's Degree in City Planning with highest grade points from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur in 1968. He obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Regional Development Planning from the Hague, the Netherlands in 1973-1974.

Shri Patharkar started his professional career as Associate Lecturer in the Department of Architecture and Regional Planning, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur in 1968. Subsequently in 1969, he was promoted to the post of Lecturer in the same Department. He joined the Maharashtra State Town Planning and Valuation Department as Assistant Director of Town Planning in the year

1970. Shri Patharkar worked as Assistant Director from 1970 to 1982 and he discharged services at Nanded, Akola, Kolhapur, Nashik and Jalgaon during the period.

Shri Patharkar was promoted as Deputy Director of Town Planning in 1982. He functioned as such from 1982 to 1990 at Amravati, Aurangabad and Nashik. As Deputy Director, he controlled, supervised and co-ordinated the working of the district level offices. Later in 1990, he was appointed the Joint Director of Town Planning and posted at the head office at Pune as the state level Head of Implementation Wing. He was appointed as the Director of Town Planning in the year 1994, the post which he held for about eight years till his superannuation in 2002.

As the Director of the State Town Planning and Valuation Department, his jurisdiction extended to the whole of Maharashtra. The Department acted as central body providing expertise for preparation of regional plans through the Regional Planning Boards, especially set up for specific regions; development plans and town planning schemes of the municipal council areas of the State through local municipal bodies; and also for the preparation of area development plans for implementation by other agencies; preparation of urban development plans for small and medium towns; preparation of urban transportation plans, etc.

As Director he was responsible for initiating and drawing up of programmes and policies relating to urban and regional development plans in the State. He supervised and co-ordinated the working of the offices of the Joint Directors, Divisional offices and those of special units headed by the Deputy Directors. He advised and

*Continued on page 15*