



PLANNERS NEWSLETTER

April - June - 2013.
No. 10 x 2

Institute of Town Planners India
4-A, Ring Road, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110092

www.itpi.org.in
RNI-DELENG/2004/12724

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Completes Ph.D.

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Shri D.S. Meshram and Ms. Swati Meshram receiving Ph.D.

President, ITPI Completes Ph.D.

Shri D. S. Meshram is elected President of the ITPI for the fourteenth time, prior to this, he held the prestigious position of the Chief Planner, Town and Country Planning Organization, Government of India for over 12 years and was responsible for elevating the status of the Chief Planner to Joint Secretary in Government of India.

Shri Meshram was a member of Delhi Development Authority and New Delhi Municipal Council. Due to his initiatives, the ITPI was awarded the work of preparation of 'Urban Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) Guidelines' by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation in 1996, and appointed him as Chairman of Technical Committee for drafting the Guidelines. The UDPFI Guidelines are being followed by various State Departments, Local Bodies and Development Authorities. The Development Plan for

the Universal Township of Auroville was prepared by Shri Meshram, adopting the UDPFI Guidelines to demonstrate its practical applicability.

The Institute under his Presidency acquired land for the construction of buildings by a majority of the Regional Chapters. It was due to his efforts that the Annual National Town and Country Planners Congress of ITPI is / was regularly sponsored by the parent Ministry. He initiated the idea of organizing Annual Zonal Conferences by the ITPI on the themes of regional interests for better interaction among the members of Regional Chapters at Zonal level. He ensured that such conferences are held in different zones regularly. It is due to his untiring efforts that a separate All India Board of Town and Country Planning have been constituted by All India Council of Technical Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.



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President, ITPI Completes Ph.D.

Shri Meshram was also instrumental in taking up the issue of starting undergraduate planning courses in the country with the support of then Ministry of Education, Government of India and recently with Ministry of Human Resource Development to start four new Schools of Planning for which he himself prepared D. P. R. and accordingly, Ministry of HRD has started two new Schools of Planning at Vijayawada and Bhopal.

Shri Meshram was born on 16th May, 1941 at Nagpur. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Arts and Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from Nagpur University. He got his Master's Degree in Town and Country Planning from the School of Architecture and Planning, Chennai and an LLB from the Punjab University, Chandigarh. His instinct for acquiring higher and higher education inspired him to enroll for Ph.D. in Urban and Regional planning at the age of 70 years and accordingly registered himself as Ph.D. scholar in Institute of Development Studies, University of Mysore. His Guide Prof. (Dr.) Krishnegowda insisted him to select the thesis topic on the town where he was born and accordingly he selected the topic on "Growing in the Influence Zone of Metropolis: Case Study of Nagpur - Kamptee and Ramtek Towns", which was accepted by the University of Mysore and after jury he was awarded Ph.D.; in the 93rd Annual Convocation held on 5 July, 2013 at Crawford Hall, University of Mysore.

It would be interesting to note that inspired by his dedication towards education his daughter Ms. Swati

Meshram also registered herself as Ph.D. scholar. To her also, Guide Prof. (Dr.) Krishnegowda insisted to select the topic on the town where she was born. Accordingly she selected the topic "Efficacy of Controlling the Periphery of a Growing Town: Case Study of Chandigarh". Both father and daughter were awarded Ph.D. in the same convocation held at Crawford Hall, University of Mysore. Prof. Rangappa, Vice - Chancellor, University of Mysore mentioned that it is unique occasion in the history of University of Mysore that both father and daughter has been awarded Ph.D. in the same year, under the same guide, in the same discipline and in the same convocation. Ms. Swati Meshram has completed B. Arch from School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi; Masters in Environmental Planning, University of Arizona State, USA; and is the Member of American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP); Associate Member of Institute of Town Planners, India (AITP) and has also done Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED AP).

His Excellency Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj, Governor of Karnataka and Chancellor, University of Mysore; Dr. M.M. Pallam Raju, Honourable Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Higher Education, Government of India; Shri R. V. Deshpande, Honourable Minister for Higher Education and Tourism, Government of Karnataka; Prof. Rangappa, Vice - Chancellor, University of Mysore and Shri Anil Kumble, vatron Cricketer, addressed the convention.

East Zone Conference

Odisha Regional Chapter of ITPI has organized East Zone Conference on the occasion of Silver Jubilee Year of ORC, on 6 April, 2013 at Hotel New Marion, Janpath, Bhubaneswar.

Odisha Regional Chapter was established in 1988 under the Chairmanship of Shri Abdul Ali and Shri S. Behera as Secretary and Mrs. R. Mishra as Treasurer and now completed 25 years. Passing through the complexities of challenges, ORC now has its own three storeyed building at Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar.

On this occasion a Seminar on the theme 'Challenges and Management of Urban Heritage' was also organized, which was inaugurated by

Shri Debi Prasad Mishra, Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Animal Resource, Housing and Urban, Development, Government Odisha. In his address, he mentioned that conservation of building and natural heritage has been recognized world over, and India posses largest treasure of its glorious past endowed with rich cultural and natural heritage and it is our responsibility to preserve the same so that same can be transfered to next generation.

Shri Hrushikesh Tripathi, Director, Municipal Administration, Government of Odisha, stated that the excavation of Sisupalaguda and Jaugada testify the presence of highly developed pre - historic civilization in the State of Odisha. The caves of

Khandagiri and Udayagiri represents architectural heritage of first century B.C.

Shri Sanjeev Kumar Mishra, Municipal Commissioner, BMC, Bhubaneswar mentioned that Bhubaneswar before becoming the capital of Orissa in 1948 was famous 'Temple Town' accommodating series of ancient sandstone temples. Now Bhubaneswar is one of the modern well planned cities but still is popular as temple town, specifically old town area has tremendous architectural, historical and cultural values which needs to be protected and integrated into the overall growth of the city.

Dr. D. S. Meshram, President, ITPI, in his presidential address highlighted that rapid urbanization has changed the face of our towns and cities drastically, more so in last few decades. Due to rapid urbanization, historical monuments which have left their imprints on the character, form and face of our towns and cities are getting defaced in the lust for making land available for lucrative urban development activities. In fact historical monuments in our country are protected by Department of Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. But there are large number of other monuments, buildings, palaces, towns, gates, poles and bridges which are not covered under the Act partly because of not being sufficiently old to qualify for protection. A major part of the buildings and monuments of this category are structures in active use and therefore form living components of the city fabric, rather than being archaeological objects. There are significantly a large number of such objects, which reflect regional and local styles, therefore, buildings and monuments of this category play an important role in shaping and molding the individuality of old and traditional areas of our towns and cities.

The issue of urban conservation and its associated conflicts are not new and are being discussed and debated for past several decades, but have not yet been resolved he stated. Questions like – should the old areas be preserved or should they make room for new developments? How much and to what extent it is possible to freeze development in a conservation zone? Should the cultural heritage be preserved or be allowed to retain as it is and allow to decay and what impact, the new development taking place in the vicinity would have on the conservation

areas? Can a balance be achieved so that both new and old can be harmonized and blended with each other? All such questions, time and again come to the fore whenever the issues of urban conservation are discussed. However, it is not denying the fact that conservation of urban heritage not only includes individual buildings of exceptional quality and their surrounding or group of buildings but also all areas of towns which have a historical or cultural interest and require protection before much of our heritage, buildings and sites are lost forever due to vagaries of urbanization.

Urban conservation should not be seen as a footnote in the gamut of total urban development but should be seen as a major aspect of town and country planning process and accordingly measures should be taken to counter the known threats to the traditional character of historic areas. Before taking any new development in the vicinity of historic buildings, planning authority should take into consideration the impact, the proposed development is likely to have on such buildings and its environment. Many attractive streets in our towns and cities owe their character not so much to the individual buildings, but to the harmony produced by a whole range of buildings. In general parlance conservation is the action taken to prevent decay and therefore, it embraces all such acts that prolong the life of the property. However, conservation of heritage buildings should take the precaution to allow the maximum retention of existing material along with harmony in color, tone, texture, form and scale. At the same time, it should be identifiable from the original so that it does not falsify archaeological or historical evidence.

Conservation involves (i) prevention of deterioration, (ii) preservation of the structural fabric, (iii) consolidation of the structural fabric, (iv) restoration, and (v) rehabilitation. Prevention of deterioration would involve investigation of the causes of decay and deterioration, not only to a particular building but to the environment for taking appropriate safeguards. While the restoration is the process to revive the original character and, therefore, should be based on respect for original materials, design and authentic documented evidence besides the aesthetic, historical and physical integrity of buildings. The basic aim should be to retain the



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Seminar on 'Rain Water Harvesting'

buildings nearest to their original character for transfer to the next generation. While rehabilitation and reuse are process of returning historic buildings to a state of utility i.e. putting the buildings to appropriate uses, which will not damage them and the surrounding environment.

Heritage conservation area is an area of special architectural, historical and cultural interest, the character and appearance of which is desirable to preserve and enhance including its environment. These are areas which bestow a cultural and traditional identity to the locality inspite of large or small size. In fact it is the character of the areas rather than individual buildings that are sought to be preserved or enhanced.

Concluding his address Dr. Meshram, stated that the World Heritage Committee have provided detailed criteria for the establishment of the list of sites and monuments proposed by various countries for world heritage. And also highlighted that heritage

conservation needs to be seen and practiced in the overall context of planning and development process.

In the Seminar, the Technical Session – I focused on 'Initiatives in Conservation of Urban Heritage in India', presentations were made by Shri Phunibhusan Das, Former Secretary, Urban Development, Dr. B. K. Rath, Former Superintendent State Archaeology Department, Ms. S. Basu from I I T Kharagpur and Dr. P. R. Raut from Orissa Regional Chapter (ORC).

In the Technical Session – II on 'Planning and Management of Heritage in the Temple City of Bhubaneswar'; presentations were made by Shri Ranjan Chattopadhyaya from KMDA, and Shri S. Behera, Chairman, ORC.

The welcome address was delivered by Shri S. Behera, Chairman, ORC and Vote of thanks were extended by Shri S. M. Patnaik, Chairman, Building Committee, ORC.

Seminar on 'Rain Water Harvesting'

Haryana Regional Chapter of ITPI organized a seminar on 'Rain Water Harvesting' on the occasion of 'World Water Day' on 23 March, 2013 at HRC Building, Panchkula, in collaboration with the Times of India. Dr. D. S. Meshram, President, ITPI was the Chief Guest who in his inaugural address, stated

that according to WHO (Factsheet), the population of the world tripled in the 20 Century and on the other hand, the demand for water grew six-times. It includes water used for irrigation (66%), industrial processes (20%), domestic consumption (10%) and losses due to evaporation from the reservoirs



Present on dias are Shri Rajvir Singh, Shri S. D. Saini, Shri Nadim Akhtar, Shri A. K. Bhatia, and Shri Dinesh Tiwari

(4%). Though water is a renewable resource, the stress on it is gradually increasing due to imbalance between water use and available water resources.

According to the UNDP Human Development Report 2006, the pressure on water resource is mounting every day. It points at poor management of water as one of the main reasons for this state of affairs. The other reason, according to the Report, is climate change that is affecting the hydrological cycle which, in turn, is significantly distressing freshwater production and its distribution.

Fresh water is essential to support life forms. It is one of the key factors of economic development, food production, transportation, recreation and hydroelectricity production. Just 2.5 per cent of the total water available in the world is fresh water. Some 70 percent of this is in frozen form and the remaining 30 per cent is in liquid state that can be used for human, animal, plant and economic purposes. As per estimates, the total quantity of water available in the world is quite sufficient to sustain population growth in future. The natural water cycle makes it a perpetually renewable resource. But geographical distribution of water due to the complex structure of the earth and its aquatic environment is problematic. Because its distribution is not equitable and there are regions that enjoy abundance of fresh water while others face water scarcity and its related consequences such as draught.

With an increase in population and accelerated pace of economic development, the average consumption of fresh water, in the past 100 years, has increased by 900 per cent. Developed countries consume substantially more water.

According to an estimate, if appropriate and timely action is not taken, some 60 per cent of 5 billion people living in metro-cities in 2025 will be deprived of safe drinking water.

Water scarcity is causing increasing tensions among different users, local, national and international. In urban areas the situation is alarming, as the water shortage is so acute that people are dependent upon tankers for water supply, rivers passing through

cities are heavily polluted due to industrial wastes and sewage.

There is a water crisis today, but the crisis is not about having too little water to satisfy our needs. It is a crisis of managing water so badly that billions of people – and the environment – suffer badly (World Water Vision Report). Almost every where, water is wasted. There is a need to make people aware of the crisis and evolve a participatory strategy for sustainable water management.

Urban poor is deprived of safe drinking water and any strategy to enhance water productivity should ensure that it extends to this group also.

The ground water crisis can be minimized through revival of Indian traditional rainwater harvesting systems in various ecological zones. Studies have proved that such systems have the potential to generate large returns on investment and at the same time to reduce risk and vulnerability. Quoting the example of Universal Township - Aruville, he stated that earlier not even a single blade of grass was grown in this area but through adopting principle of 'zero runoff of rain water' the whole area has been transformed almost to thick jungle.

During the Seminar welcome address was given by Shri S. D. Saini, Chairman Haryana Regional Chapter, while keynote address was delivered by Shri Nadim Akhtar, Sr. Town Planner, HUDA, Shri A. K. Bhatia, Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, Chandigarh was the Guest of Honour and spoke on various rain water harvesting techniques and artificial recharge schemes.

Technical session was chaired by Shri Rajvir Singh, former Chief Town Planner, Government of Haryana in which presentation was made by Shri Dinesh Tiwari, Sr. Scientist Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, Chandigarh on the theme 'Hydrological Settings, Recharge – Discharge Inputs and Current Ground Water Scenario in Haryana'.

Vote of thanks were extended by Shri V. K. Goel, Sr. Town Planner, Chandigarh (UD).



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Acute Shortage of Planners by 2013

Acute Shortage of Planners by 2013

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India constituted a Committee of Experts in the field of Town Planning and Architecture to prepare a Policy Guidelines to energize the Architectural and Town Planning Education in the country on 28 March, 2011, under the Chairmanship of Prof. E. F. N. Riberio. The Committee has almost finalized its recommendations and is in the process of submitting its Report shortly to Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India

While estimating the requirement of professionals and supporting staff, the scenario likely to be emerged by 2031 is:

Qualified Planning Professionals required (1,60,000)

- Formal B. Planning courses - 1,20,000
- Formal M. Planning courses - 40,000

Qualified supporting staff required (1,40,000)

- Formal I T I and Diploma Courses - 80,000
- In-service up gradation programme - 60,000

Thus, by 2031 there will be requirement of 3,00,000 qualified town and country planning professionals and supporting staff while in the country today we have hardly 4,000 qualified planners resulting into huge gap to filled by 2031.

Centenary Year of Town Planning and Valuation Department, Maharashtra

Ever increasing population and fast rate of urbanization rapidly converting rural / agricultural land for urbanization purpose, which resulted into shortage of basic essential services. Therefore taking the cognizance of the same the Government on 30 January 1914, started a Department known as 'Consulting Surveyor to Government' at the then Bombay province under Mr. A. E. Mirams.

Subsequently for the orderly and planned development of towns and cities 'Bombay Town Planning Act' was enacted on 1 August, 1915 and the Headquarter was shifted from Bombay to Pune. And on 10 November, 1962 the name of the Department was changed to 'Town Planning and Valuation Department' and placed under Director, who is also Advisor to the Government of Maharashtra.

Accordingly on 30 January, 2014 the Department of Town Planning and Valuation, Government of Maharashtra would be completing 100 years. Therefore, on the occasion of Centenary Year of Town Planning and Valuation Department. Shri Rajan Kop, Joint Secretary (UD), Government of Maharashtra and Shri K. S. Akode, Director of Town Planning and Valuation Department, Government of Maharashtra extended the invitation to ITPI during Valedictory Session of 61st National Town and Country Planners Congress held at Ahmedabad to organize the 62nd National Town and Country Planners Congress at Pune. The invitation of the Government of Maharashtra accordingly has been accepted by the Institute of Town Planners, India.

62nd National Town and Country Planners Congress

ITPI announces, the 62nd National Town and Country Planners Congress to be held on 10 – 12 January, 2014 at Yashwantrao Chavan Natyagruha, Pune on the theme 'Urban Renewal, Redevelopment and Regeneration: Challenges and Options' with sub-themes (i) Consequences and Implications; (ii) Regulatory and Institutional Mechanism; and (iii) Special Township Policies – Experiences (Local Theme).

Members are requested to send Technical Papers on the main theme and sub-themes in hard copy, accompanied by soft copy along with brief Bio-data and photograph by 15 December, 2013.

Chairmen & Secretaries of Regional Chapters 2013 - 2014

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within and around urban areas, planning of new urban areas and urbanization of rural areas. Town planners highlighted the role of District Planning Committees and Kolkata Metropolitan Planning Committee for preparing plans giving due regards to the common interests of rural and urban areas within their territories. Discussions were also held on how increased Floor Area Ratios especially in new cities can provide opportunities of creating additional urban spaces within the cities and restricting cities encroachment over resourceful green spaces. Interactions were also held on government's action to prepare 'Development Control Regulations' for environment friendly

development in new urban spaces in West Bengal and to prepare Action Plans for implementation of environment friendly town planning and building practices. Possibilities of strengthening town and country planning offices under Urban Development Department of the Government of West Bengal in phases and establishing strong network with different districts and municipalities and capacity building programs of government institutions in regard to best practices of environment friendly urban development and strengthening research activities aided by government were also discussed.

Prof. Debashis Das and Shri Sutanu Sen coordinated the program as conveners of the seminar.



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Shri Debashis Sen;
Addressing the
Participants

World Environment Day

World Environment Day 2013 at WBRC

Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI) has always worked on developing new strategies and models for sustainable urbanization in the context of the priorities set by State and Central Government through various levels of interactions and brainstorming sessions. As a part of their program, West Bengal Regional Chapter of ITPI has celebrated the World Environment Day on 5 June 2013 at the Salt Lake City by organizing a seminar and interactive session on 'Issues of Environment and Urbanization'.

The main objective of this interactive session was to provide opportunities to planners to come in close contact with administrators, and policy makers of the State, working in the field of planning and development and to exchange views and ideas to supplement knowledge for the welfare of the society. It was hoped that town planners and professionals would gather knowledge regarding the present direction of urban development in West Bengal set by the appropriate government policies.

Shri Ranjan Chattopadhyay, Chairman ITPI, WBRC, addressed the gathering and briefed about the significance of the environment day. Environment as a whole is under threat against severe competition with

present urbanizing trends. Massive growth of urban population has brought abilities of urban municipal services to their threshold. Sustainable cities by promoting urbanization protecting environment and creating healthy ecosystem and habitats; reducing pollution in water, air and land; providing green spaces and parks or wildlife, recreation and other uses; pursuing ecosystem management, protecting biodiversity, etc.; were discussed. Further, environment should be used gainfully especially the city green spaces and parks. The administrators, planners, engineers are now under a lot of pressure on how to tackle new situations to make cities sustainable. In all urban areas, the services like transportation, waste management, and water supply are difficult to provide to all sections of society due to rapidly growing urban population. Dr. Souvanic Roy, Vice Chairman, ITPI, WBRC talked about important issues of urbanization in West Bengal.

Shri Debashis Sen, Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of West Bengal and Chairman, HIDCO discussed with participants the issues of land management and preservation of wetlands and utilization of canals

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Present on dias are Dr. Souvanic Roy, Shri Debashis Sen, Shri Ranjan Chattopadhyay, and Dr. Gautam Banerjee

Published and Printed by Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary General, ITPI on behalf of Institute of Town Planners, India, and Printed at Manav Enterprises, 46, Shanti Vihar, Delhi - 110 092, Mobile: 9811028427, and Published from 4-A, Ring Road I.P.Estate, New Delhi - 110002, Telephone: 23702452, 23702454, 23702457, 23702462, 64612462, 64692457. Edited by Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar, Secretary (Publication), ITPI.

₹100/-
Per Annum