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In this Issue

1 71st National
Town and
Country Planners
Conference,
Bhubaneswar,
Odisha

17 Prof. V. N. Prasad
National Best
Thesis Award,
2022

20 Prof. Dr. D. S.
Meshram
National Best
Thesis Award,
2022



Shri Naveen Patnaik, Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha inaugurating 71st National Town and Country Planners Conference (on line). Present on the Dais: Smt. Sulochana Das, Honourable Mayor, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (in the centre); on her left Prof. Dr. D. S. Meshram, President ITPI; Shri S. B. Khodankar, Former Secretary General, ITPI, on her right; Dr. L. P. Patnaik, Vice President, ITPI; and Shri P. K. Patnaik, Member Executive Committee, ORC.

71ST NATIONAL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNERS CONFERENCE “CHALLENGES FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

Shri Naveen Patnaik, Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha, while inaugurating the 71st National Town and Country Planners Conference (on virtual mode), on 24 February 2023 noted that the Institute of Town Planners, India is organizing this Conference after 24 years in Bhubaneswar on the theme ‘Challenges for Urban and Regional Planning towards Sustainable Development’.

As India is striving for rapid economic growth, the country is witnessing fast urbanization across the states due to which people are moving from rural areas, and are settling in urban centres. Odisha too is witnessing this phenomenon. In urban centres there is enormous stress on urban service delivery and infrastructure systems. Therefore, along

with the economic growth we need to develop our cities and towns in a sustainable manner by providing infrastructure so that cities / towns can accommodate future population growth.

In Odisha, we have introduced a series of reforms to make urban planning processes and planning institutions more effective and citizen centric. In line with the 74th Constitution Amendment Act (CAA), land use planning functions have been delegated to urban local bodies. Online building plan approval system under the SUJOG have been launched to provide enhanced quality of urban services to citizens through online single window delivery channel to ensure accessible, convenient, transparent and timely delivery of services to citizen.



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Smt. Sulochana Das,
Honourable Mayor,
Bhubaneswar Municipal
Corporation, Guest of Honour
addressing the participants in
Inaugural Function

Inaugural Function of 71st NTCP Conference is in progress



Smt. Sulochana Das, Honourable Mayor, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation lighting the Ceremonial Lamp. Present are on her right Prof. Dr. D. S. Meshram, President ITPI; and on her left Shri P. K. Patnaik, Member Executive Committee, ORC; Dr. L. P. Patnaik, Vice President, ITPI; and Shri S. B. Khodankar, Former Secretary General, ITPI.

Citizens do not have to physically visit urban local bodies to pay their taxes, rather they can access the SUJOG remotely to avail planning and other services, which will also achieve internal efficiency and effectiveness of the urban local bodies (ULBs). Besides, it will facilitate to reduce administrative burden and will be a cost-effective service delivery system for urban local bodies. While concluding his address, the Honourable Chief Minister hoped to receive progressive recommendations from the Conference to which his government will give utmost attention. The Conference was then declared open by the Chief Minister.

Shrimati Sulochana Das, Honourable Mayor, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, the Guest of Honour, welcoming the delegates and participants to the temple city of Bhubaneswar thanked the Institute of Town Planners, India for organizing the 71st National Town and Country Planners Conference in Bhubaneswar. She said that Bhubaneswar is the confluence of rich heritage and modernity, and is the first planned city in the post-independence era and today it is one of the best smart cities in India. Together with Puri and Konark, Bhubaneswar forms the Golden Triangle and is one of the most visited tourist destinations in eastern India. The city also has magnificent sculptures and majestic architectural heritage.

She further noted that the theme of the Conference 'Challenges for Urban and Regional Planning towards Sustainable Development' with local sub theme 'Experiences of Smart Cities Mission in Odisha' is very appropriate and is timely in the present context, considering rapid pace of urbanization, our commitment to build our cities and towns adopting best practices and local needs. Under the guidance of Honourable Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, Bhubaneswar has emerged as one of the major hubs of IT in eastern region of India with the presence of IT companies like Infosys, TCS, Mind Fire Solutions, CSM Technology, Way-India, Software Solution, Enosis, ESSPL, Mahendra, etc.

The state is also leading educational and health hub with the presence of medical institutions and corporate hospitals, in addition to engineering educational institutes. It has become country's sport capital after hosting major sports events in 2018 and more recently in 2023, and many international sport events. Bhubaneswar is mineral rich and has tremendous potential for growth both in industrial and real-estate sectors. Under the guidance of Honourable Chief Minister, Bhubaneswar has taken path of planned development with a focus on clean and green city towards sustainable development. A number of projects, schemes and missions have been undertaken to address the urban challenges.

Even though some issues persist, we are trying hard to address all these issues. Through the JAGA Mission, attempts are being made to improve the existing 470 slums. Importance is also being given to make Bhubaneswar a liveable city for all through beautification drive, and by addressing all the relevant issues like air pollution, climate change, etc. She also mentioned that she looks forward to receiving the deliberations and recommendations of Technical Sessions to which the Municipal Corporation of Bhubaneswar will address in the right earnest.

Prof. Dr. D. S. Meshram, President, ITPI in his Presidential address informed that the earlier National Town and Country Planners Conferences were held in Bhubaneswar, during 1966 - 67 on the theme "Planning of Ancient and Historic Towns"; and in 1988-1989, on the theme "Planning Development at National, State, and Local Levels in the Context of 8th Five Year Plan"; and in the year 1998 - 1999 on the theme "Urban Infrastructure Development". We are now visiting Odisha, Bhubaneswar, today after 24 years to discuss the theme of 71st National Town and Country Planners Conference on "Challenges for Urban and Regional Planning towards Sustainable Development" on the invitation of Government of Odisha.

In fact, the Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI) organizes of the National Town and Country Planners Conference annually without any break in different parts of the country on the themes of topical interest and is one of the most important promotional activities of the ITPI since 1951, which in essence provides important forum to promote understanding of the subject, and ensures continual

debate on current issues. This is the time when experiences gained by professionals, educationists and researchers in public, private, corporate and cooperative sectors are shared with a view to keep planning practice, education and research, revitalized with the latest theories, techniques and technologies.

The ITPI was founded by 13 planners in 1951 who studied abroad because there was no School of Planning in the country and also Town and Country Planning Organization at Centre. Accordingly, due to their untiring efforts, the first School of Planning in the country was established by Government of India in Delhi in 1955 and Town Planning Organization also in the same year. Besides, Town and Country Planning Departments were also established in majority of States and UTs in India. Today we have more than 77 planning schools including 28 institutes fully and provisionally recognized by the ITPI. There are over 8,000 qualified town and country planners on the rolls of the ITPI.

The vision of ITPI is to 'promote dynamic, inclusive and integrated town and country planning practice, education, research and institutional mechanism for vibrant, sustainable and resilient spatio-economic development of towns, cities and regions. To achieve this vision, the ITPI promotes understanding of the subject of urban and regional planning, and its relevance and application in the ever-changing scenario of our towns, cities, and regions, in addition to advance the study in town planning, civic design and kindred subjects.

For promoting town and country planning education, the ITPI is interacting with the Ministry of Education, Government of India; University Grant Commission;



Sushanta Kumar Mishra,
Director Town Planning
and Addl. Secretary H&UD
addressing the participants in
Inaugural Function



Prof. Dr. D.S. Meshram,
President, ITPI
delivering the Presidential
address in Inaugural Function



Audience during Inaugural Function of 71st National Town and Country Planners Conference



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Planners, India

Inaugural Function of 71st NTCP Conference is in progress

NITI Aayog; and All India Council of Technical Education. The ITPI recognizes schools, colleges, universities and NITs and IITs. These institutions approach the ITPI voluntarily on their own for recognition so that their students after graduation and postgraduation can become eligible for government positions after getting Associate or Fellow members of the ITPI. The ITPI has been giving generous grants to NOSPlan (students organization) since 1971 for promoting their activities. The ITPI is also interacting with various state governments, semi-government departments, housing boards, development authorities and corporate and private sector for fostering town planning profession and education. To protect the interests of the qualified planners, the ITPI has published 'Professional Fees and Charges for Planning Practice', printed copies of which were made available to all the members of the ITPI, and the same is also available on the website of the ITPI.

It may also be noted that the Inter-Ministerial Advisory Committee was constituted by the NITI Aayog with President of the ITPI as a member on 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India' (2021). The Committee recommended to fill up the vacant posts of town and country planners in Town and Country Planning Departments of State Government and UTs by the qualified town and country planners; and also to constitute 'National Council of Town and Country Planners', a statutory body of Government of India to regulate the town and country planning profession in the country. The ITPI is constantly following up on these developments.

To strengthen the publications program, the Institute has been encouraging Regional Chapters of the ITPI by providing liberal financial assistance to publish Newsletters, apart from setting up and upgrading Regional Chapter's libraries with hardware and software. The ITPI also publishes 4 quarterly Journals (refereed) and 4 Newsletters, without any break since its inception. To facilitate the deliberations on regional and local issues, the ITPI has been organizing a number of Zonal Conferences throughout the country since last ten years.

On the theme of the Conference 'Challenges for Urban and Regional Planning towards Sustainable Development' Dr. Meshram noted that urban India is at the cusp of becoming a global powerhouse. Turning point for the country is premised on the

twin towers of India's continually rising level of urbanization accompanied by sustained high economic growth over the last three decades. Aspirational and highly trained young human power continues to propel Indian cities and towns into wealth generating machines. Government of India, state governments and municipalities are critical players in making Indian cities and towns as global economic nodes serving all of humanity through innovation and technology. However, the economic growth has its own fallout like production of goods at unimaginably large scale, causing land, water, and air pollution; loss of bio-diversity due to increasingly enhanced human impact particularly as a result of increasing number of people living in cities and towns, apart from building of new towns and economic corridors; use of fossil fuels in unsustainable modes of transport such as automobiles in cities and air travel across the globe; and disappearing water bodies and polluted rivers creating floods as well as water insecurity, among several others.

Therefore, Indian spatial planners and policy makers have to strike a balance between sustained economic growth and protection of natural environment. This cannot be a local, town, or city phenomenon; this is a countrywide and global issue to be tackled at that level with very large doses of innovations and new technologies on one hand and human and financial resources on the other. Poorly trained planners and inadequately funded research scholars would not be able to tackle these global challenges. In fact spatial planners need to devise climate change adaptation strategies to tackle compound, cascading and trans-boundary complex risks impacting water security, health, livelihoods, and infrastructure. But Town and country planning organizations and departments in states are seized of reforms as they lack adequately trained planning manpower and financial resources to make innovative spatial planning interventions.

On the Sub-theme 'Small and Medium Towns as New Drivers of Development' Dr. Meshram, mentioned that India was ahead of the times in launching a program for spatial planning of small and medium towns in 1979. However, the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns, (IDSMT) Schemes could only succeed partially because of thin spread of funds across a relatively large number of small and medium towns. Besides, developing a few elements of infrastructure and places such as transport nagars

and shopping centres could not really bring about foundational changes in these towns.

Unlike yesteryears, today India can afford to make large investments in transforming small and medium towns. The McKinsey Global Institute's report of 2010 forcefully argued that small and medium towns present the next major economic growth opportunity. While spatial planners continue to evoke planning for better planned metropolitan cities, more attention of planners and policy makers is required to plan and develop small and medium towns for spreading prosperity throughout the country.

In fact, the small and medium towns constitute 40 per cent of the total urban population of the country. These towns certainly will have to focus attention in terms of planned development. While preparing the metropolitan region plans or regional plans, the small and medium towns to be developed as counter magnets and satellite towns to absorb the pressure on million plus and capital cities. Under AMRUT 2.0 formulation of GIS Based Master Plan for towns with 50,000 to one lakh population has been approved by MoHUA. It is expected that GIS based Master Plans will get completed in a short period and also periodic updating of data would become much easier, thereby ensuring effective monitoring of implementation of master plans.

'Innovative approaches in Planning Education' is another Sub-theme, which needs to take into consideration 'National Education Policy, 2020', which envisions a complete overhaul and re-engineering of the higher education system to overcome the present challenges like severely fragmented higher educational system, a rigid separation of disciplines, etc., and aims at moving towards multidisciplinary mode with multiple exit options, and appropriate certifications. The NEP, 2020 also provides greater autonomy to higher educational institutions, and collaboration with foreign universities to combat and stop commercialization of higher education through light but tight regulatory system. Besides, to erode silos between technical education and other disciplines. It also recommends to take a lead in preparing professionals in cutting edge areas, and stresses that the technical education should be interdisciplinary and innovative, incorporating technical advancements in the field and other disciplines such as GIS, block chain, big data, aerial photography, satellite imagery and spatial data infrastructure. Thus,

in light with the NEP, 2020, there is a need to have a complete rethinking in urban and regional planning education at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The NITI Aayog in its report on "Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India" (2021) has also discussed in detail reforms to be undertaken in planning education, which includes utmost necessity to bring in standardization of nomenclatures of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and fine tuning of the model course curricula in accordance with changing requirements of both practice and education. It also observes that for long India has drawn learning inspirations from the western models of urban planning education. For example, after seven decades of planning practice, planning educators still continue to teach land use planning, considering human settlements as physical entities. Observing India's urbanization and urban development through the lens of western view points and aping their urban planning and development approaches without assessing the Indian context and following western approaches of planning for solving problems of Indian cities, which are totally different in terms of culture, demography, lifestyle, and so on, is not advisable anymore. Therefore, academicians need to take a re-look at western as well as Indian urban planning theories and reinvent models suited to Indian culture, and socio-economic ecosystem in tune with National Education Policy, 2020.

However, it is also important to mentioned that the NEP, 2020 highlights that world class institutions existed in ancient India such as Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikranshila, Vallabhi, etc., which set the highest standards of multidisciplinary teaching and research, and also made seminal contribution to world knowledge in diverse fields such as mathematics, astronomy, metallurgy, medical science and surgery, civil engineering, architecture, ship building and navigation, yoga, fine arts, chess and more (page 4 of NEP, 2020). However, the policy has not taken into consideration the well thought of principles of city planning, comprising of well-planned street grids and an elaborate drainage system, etc., were practiced in Mohenjo - Daro "mound of the death" and Harappa during the Indus Valley Civilization which flourished in India, in 2500 B.C. Thus, it is a clear indication that town planning education must have been in advanced stage during this period. As no importance was given to town and



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Dr. L. P. Patnaik, Vice President, ITPI, delivering the Welcome address in Inaugural Function



Shri P. K. Patnaik, Member Executive Committee, ORC extending vote of thanks in Inaugural Function

country planning discipline, not even a single School of Planning was existing before independence and also after independence in our country, till the ITPI made efforts in this direction, for the establishment of the first SPA in Delhi in 1951.

On the Sub-theme 'Reforms in Urban Governance' Dr. D.S. Meshram mentioned that with the growth of urban economy and contribution of cities to the GDP which is more than 60 percent, the nature and role of cities has changed. They have become more complex in nature. Cities are unable to fill the gap between supply and demand of facilities and services due to fast rate of increase of their population. As a consequence, the present condition of majority of our cities is far from satisfactory. Therefore, there is a need for strengthening urban governance, with sound institutions, mechanisms and reforms so that cities are able to, efficiently and effectively, perform their new roles in nation building.

In India, generally state government departments prepare development plans for town and cities which are implemented by Development Authorities and other agencies while, cities are maintained by the local bodies. However, it is generally observed that there is minimal coordination among various agencies. Therefore, there is a need to re-visit urban governance including structure, functions, inter-agency coordination and cooperation, resource mobilisation, capacity building with focus on provision, maintenance and delivery of utilities, facilities and services as well as minimising environmental pollution.

Post 2014 has witnessed a series of urban flagship programs like Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT Mission, Housing for All (HF-U), Swatchh Bharat Mission, and HRIDAY. Cities need to leverage funds through these programs to ensure sustainability by duly integrating these programs in the process of preparing the master plans. The strong interface of GIS and Integrated Command and Control Centre can certainly facilitate effective monitoring, implementation, and governance of our urban areas.

In these missions the capacity building is being focused at improving the capabilities of cities to deliver citizen services and to improve the health of the ULBs. The reforms implementation focus on bringing much desired ease of doing business and ease of living to the citizens. With the introduction

of e-governance, there has been re-engineering of functioning of the ULBs, thereby bringing transparency in governance. In this context, the NITI Aayog in its report on "Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India" (2021) has recommended that State Governments need to re-engineer and strengthen urban governance structures with clear division of roles and responsibilities among various authorities; more dynamic organizational structure, and extensive adoption of technology.

On the local sub-theme 'Experience of Smart City Mission in Odisha', Dr. Meshram, highlighted that Bhubaneswar has been a pro-active city in terms of Smart Cities Mission. The city was selected as smart city out of the pan India competition and stood first in the ranking. It would be worthwhile to share the experience of smart city implementation of Bhubaneswar with respect to (i) functioning of Integrated Command and Control Centre; (ii) smart streets; (iii) area based Strategy: Formulation of LAPs and TPS; (iv) integration of green and blue infrastructure; (v) climate smart action plan; and (vi) Smart and Intelligent Traffic Management System. In fact, the experiences of implementation of Bhubaneswar Smart City project, needs to be shared along with the successful stories of other Smart Cities among each other. Dr. Meshram ended his speech by wishing the participants and delegates fruitful conference.

In the Inaugural Session the welcome address was delivered by Dr. L.P. Patnaik, Chairman Odisha Regional Chapter, and the messages received from the dignitaries were read by Shri S. B. Khodankar, former Secretary General, ITPI, while Shri P.K. Patnaik, Member Executive Committee of ORC extended a vote of thanks.

Shri G. Mathi Vathanan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, Chief Guest of Plenary Session - 'Challenges for Urban and Regional Planning towards Sustainable Development' prefaced his talk by saying that town planners are the scare commodity as there is always a gap between demand and supply, and further mentioned that it may not be possible to fill this gap in the short run; thus, the victims are our cities. Because, growth of the city does not wait for planners to come and plan, it is a continuous process, people keep migrating and cities keep growing and by default our cities remains un-planned, as the growth takes place



Shri G. Mathi Vathanan, IAS, (in the centre) Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, Chief Guest, inaugurating the Exhibition.



Shri G. Mathi Vathanan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, Chief Guest of Plenary Session, addressing the participants

through the regularization process of unplanned growth. Towards planned cities we always quote the example of Chandigarh and Bhubaneswar and this Conference is being held in one of the planned cities - Bhubaneswar. After planning, this city has grown all over and now we are chasing unplanned growth to make it planned. Because 40 per cent of the population of Bhubaneswar lives in cities and towns in unplanned areas, and two-third area of the present Bhubaneswar is unplanned. Policing and enforcement are not easy jobs; how long we can do surveillance and watch the encroachments. In fact, we have created the regulations which we ourself find difficult to comply with. Then how can we expect the common people to comply with the building by-laws, that is why things are in mess. He then raised a question as to when we are going to prepare the regulations which facilitate the common man of our country, which are not copied from affordable and elite societies of western countries.

With reference to plotted housing scheme, he raised issue of why we cannot release government locked land in revenue records for the use of public who cannot afford houses, rather than allowing the land to be encroached by the greedy and powerful people. Yet another issue he raised was that of what should be the size of the plot for releasing in the market for the people who cannot afford but definitely not for construction of farm houses or for construction of palatial houses.

The JAGA Mission is the largest slum upgradation program for the provision of land rights and basic amenities and services to 1,72,000 slum dwellers. This project has received UN-Habitat award twice i.e., in 2019 and 2023. We have enumerated 2,919 slums out of which 725 slums have been upgraded and we are moving towards slum free Odisha. So far 1,72,000 land rights have been issued, and through drone surveys, complete information is made available on GIS platform and has been placed in the public domain. No other state has enumerated slums; so they do not even know how many slums are located in their states.

Yet another issue raised by Shri Mathi Vathanan, was about the affordability of size of dwelling unit to the slum dwellers. He mentioned that no housing schemes in private sector are coming forward with 200 - 400 sq ft house and it is not expected also from private sector. When 40 per cent of the people of Bhubaneswar live in household measuring 200 sq ft therefore, he opined to accept the ground realities. He also noted that we cannot create the green-field cities, in fact, today's villages will be tomorrow's towns and cities. So, the important aspect is as to how we integrate planning norms and planning principles and how do we bring down these norms to meet the requirements of the people as per the needs of the people because different segments of people need to have different norms. We cannot prescribe the uniform policy for all segments of the



Institute of Town Planners, India



Ms. Anumita Roy, Chowdhury, Executive Director, Research and Advocacy, CSE, New Delhi, Guest of Honour of Plenary Session, addressing the participants



Prof. Dr. Meenakshi Dhote, Head, Environmental Planning, SPA, Delhi, presenting her paper in Plenary Session

people irrespective of they are reach or poor. The example of Dharavi slum of Mumbai is not suitable for Bhubaneshwar because in Odisha, we need to focus our discussion on Salia Sahi slum, the biggest slum of Odisha, having 57,000 slum dwellers. He further said that wherever one sees the biggest investment he will also see slum, rather big projects like flyovers, office complex, shopping complex, etc., create slums.

Shri G. Mathi Vathanan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, also inaugurated the Exhibition organized on this occasion, on the theme “Challenges for Urban and Regional Planning towards Sustainable Development” to provide opportunities to various stakeholders to showcase their efforts and success stories, specifically with reference to smart cities.

Ms. Anumita Roy, Chowdhury, Executive Director, Research and Advocacy, CSE, New Delhi, Guest of Honour of Plenary Session said that cities are facing manifold challenges like unprecedented urbanization, growing carbon footprints and increasing vulnerability in terms of changing rainfall and temperature trends. According to IPCC, cities could witness an additional 2°C in local warming due to the urban heat island effect. Issues like urban flooding are rendering cities dysfunctional with enormous economic losses, whereas the growing health risk from toxic air is compromising the liveability of people in cities. Even the smart

cities of India are unable to address these challenges and at the same time are adding more carbon emissions. This climate disconnect from the current development pattern demands a complete overhaul in urban planning and development strategies.

Toxic air is amplifying the disease burden and negatively affecting life expectancy and mortality in cities. This is urging cities to prepare and implement hyper local action targeting vehicles, road dust, construction and demolition activity, solid waste, vehicles and industry. But as the air pollution moves in a large airshed, a multi-layered scale of action is needed. This is why national initiatives like National Clean Air Programme and the Clean Air Policy of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas seek a regional approach.

Thermal comfort is becoming a key indicator for livability in a climate challenged world. As cities are witnessing rising episodes and intensity of heat waves, an urban form that cools itself down is needed instead of trapping heat. But the reality is that the heat sinks - green spaces and water bodies which are shrinking. Further buildings and habitats are also not designed in a way to prevent trapping of heat through better clustering, orientation, passive design, and choice of materials. This is pushing cities to switch to mechanical cooling which contributes to the local warming by ejecting waste heat and aggravating the urban heat island



Present on the Dais Dr. L. P. Patnaik, Vice President, ITPI; Prof. Dr. Meenakshi Dhote, Head, Environmental Planning, SPA, Delhi; Prof. Dr. D. S. Meshram, President ITPI; and Ms. Anumita Roy, Chowdhury, Executive Director, Research and Advocacy, CSE, New Delhi, Guest of Honour of Plenary Session.

effect. Cities need to plan to regulate the urban form to prevent this.

Cities also need circularity. Currently, un - or under managed solid waste is destroying ecologically sensitive areas and also eating up urban land. Cities are progressing towards reclaiming this land for productive use such as Paradip, Indore, Bhopal, Udaipur among others. Further, an explosive increase in the number of vehicles is not only adding to air pollution but placing an enormous demand for land. Delhi is projected to have 25 per cent of its land occupied by parked private vehicles. This requires strategies to Influence urban form and reduce vehicular use.

Safe, convenient walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure reduces carbon emissions and urban heat intensity according to IPCC. India has the opportunity to bring this shift as 30 per cent of the population (Census 2011) still walks, 17 per cent cycles, 15 per cent uses bus and 6 per cent use trains.

There is an urgent need to reshape urban strategies for change. This includes:

- Cities need new urban agenda for clean air and climate neutral goals;
- Mandate and implement urban form-based code to have compact, connected, and accessible cities - Mandate adoption of all ToD measures for project implementation;
- Need restraint and demand management measures to reduce automobility: Parking policy, parking management area plan (PMAPs) with parking and congestion pricing;
- Shift budgets from road-building to public transport, active transport and zero-emissions mobility;
- Urban adaptation plan for thermal comfort, circularity, and to make transport infrastructure climate resilient;
- Fiscal reform to mobilize;
- Tap the resources and also new revenue streams to build sustainable and resilient transport infrastructure;
- Need just urban transition - include urban poor and informal settlements in urban planning for distributive justice; and
- Adopt measurable and verifiable impact monitoring systems.

Shri Ashok Chandra Panda, Honourable Minister, Science and Technology, Public Enterprises, Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disability, the Chief Guest of the Technical Session - I on 'Small and Medium Towns: New Drivers of Development' welcoming the delegates and participants to temple city of Bhubaneswar noted that Bhubaneswar has a unique background of religious tolerance being the home of different religions including Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and Jains. Here exists the famous Lingaraja Temple built in 11th century, and the land of Kalinga where king Ashoka fought battle and then denounced violence and adopted non-violence by embarrassing Buddhism.

He then mentioned that colonial masters were only interested in collecting revenue through police administration and not in planning. It is the initiation of Five-Year Plans, after independence, which facilitated the establishment of steel plants, ITIs, IITs, AIMS, Dams, Atomic Energy



Shri Ashok Chandra Panda, Honourable Minister, Science and Technology, Public Enterprises Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disability, being felicitated by Prof. Dr. D. S. Meshram, President ITPI; and Shri K. S. Akode, Former President, ITPI.

Commission, etc., which provided boost in strengthening Indian economy. The political personalities like Mahatma Gandhi and others greatly contributed to nation building. Similarly, the Late Shri Biju Patnaik and others and present Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, contributed immensely in building and development of the state of Odisha.



Shri Ashok Chandra Panda, Honourable Minister, Science and Technology, Public Enterprises, Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disability, the Chief Guest of the Technical Session - I, addressing the participants



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Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Odisha, the Guest of Honour of Technical Session - I, addressing the participants

On the theme of the Conference, the Honourable Minister noted that in the middle range cities like Bhubaneswar, which is having about 15 lakh population, including floating population, the commercial and other development activities are picking up, at the same time due to migration of people in search of jobs and livelihoods, the incidence of more than 470 slums is also being noticed. Therefore, we need to take care of them by planning for upgradation of these slums. The priority of development therefore, is on provision of shelter, water, sanitation, electricity, education and other infrastructure, to all sections of the society including poor. He then quoted the example that in 2009, land was allotted to LIG category in a posh locality and with the assistance of central and state government, out of 740 families 90 per cent were settled in vertical accommodation at these locations only.

We are also aiming for the provision of 24×7 water supply to people. Puri has been provided with such facility and next is Bhubaneswar. By 2024, more than 90 local bodies will have 24×7 water supply. The second challenge is sanitation, specifically in old cities. But people are required to be made aware that these schemes have been initiated for their benefits. The third challenge is power for which the answer is to go for non-conventional and renewable energy and make optimum use of prevailing sources. In this direction, the Honourable Minister quoted the example of Adelaide, Australia, where whole city is solar powered and also power is being generated from garbage and refuse. In addition, education facilities are required to be provided to all including economically weaker sections because they cannot afford to go to english medium public schools.

Honourable Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik initiated 5T schools transformation program (Team Work, Technology, Transparency, Transformation, and Time Limit), under which 239 schools have already been transformed and another 3,300 are in the process of transformation. Under the program, smart class rooms, e-library, state of art laboratory-cum - interactive science centre, new sports equipment and all other advanced amenities will be provided, Shri Ashok Chandra Panda, Honourable Minister mentioned.

Yet another initiative of the Chief Minister is the 'JAGA Mission' which aims to transform the existing 470 slums into liveable environments by providing

tenure security, holistic development of habitats, improved housing and mainstreaming urban poor through participatory approach for provision of water supply, *pucca* road, street lighting, access to toilet facility, *pucca* storm water drains and in house electricity, etc. Metro rail system is also needed in Bhubaneswar because the people from vicinity and around are commuting to Bhubaneswar.

Two major events have also been organized, Chief Minister being fond of sports. Earlier, he held Athletic Championship and recently 2nd World Cup Hockey. Our capital has not only become the hub of sports but capital of sports. We have also recently organized Make in India Conclave, unfolding industrial opportunities for industrial management. We signed lot of MoUs towards Biotic agreements running into Rs. 1,000 crore with the initiatives of Honourable Chief Minister. Bharat Biotech, which is a pioneer in manufacturing COVAXIN is going to open their second campus here and produce the vaccine. In scientific pursuits we are going for 'Innovation Hub'. 5T Schools and universities will be provided funding for encouraging these institutions for taking up bio-tech activities. Besides, proposals also include upgradation of existing institute of mathematics to the level of university. In addition, 8 to 9 planetariums are also coming up.

While concluding his address, the Honourable Minister said that he would like to see that not only Bhubaneswar, but state of Odisha is ahead of other states; and with the initiatives of Honourable Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, the presence of Odisha will be felt not only in India but also in the global forums.

Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena, IAS Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Odisha, the Guest of Honour of Technical Session - I on the theme 'Small and Medium Towns: New Drivers of Development' in his address mentioned that cities are not only going to lead the growth of economy of the country but also have impact on social fabric of the country. People from neighbouring settlements both urban and rural get attracted towards town and cities, due to better amenities and facilities like health, education, employment, shopping, and better livelihood. It is estimated that by another 25 years half of the population of India would be living in urban areas that is to say about 50% people will migrate to cities and towns. Then the question arises whether the present cities have the capacity to absorb this ever increasing population growth and provide them basic

infrastructure services and facilities. Whether the national and state governments would be in position to provide such facilities and opportunities. Therefore, we should consider developing some villages as Growth Centres beside to plan or redevelop towns and cities which are economically viable and cost effective, inclusive, healthy, having adequate opportunities, which can excel the quality of life of the people that will fulfil the aspiration of the people, irrespective of they are rich or poor; children or elder, cities which are affordable to the people and are environment friendly and within the reach of the governments and people, without taxing them more towards providing services and infrastructure facilities.

With reference to smart cities, he mentioned that the challenge is to create the cities which are climate smart, resource smart and environment friendly which will have the little adverse impact on micro and macro climate of India. He was also of the opinion that the apart from physical infrastructure, the behavioural aspect of citizen is also important and needs to take into account while planning our cities and towns. While, conceptualizing the cities emphasis should be to reduce the hard infrastructure and promote provision of green infrastructure. He has also pointed out that in some of the part of the city we are noticing heavy rainfall while other part of the city remains dry, so this aspect of climate change is also required to be considered, while planning our towns and cities.

As a Chief Disaster Manager of Odisha, he mentioned that he has handled 7 disastrous cyclones in last 3 years in Odisha and stated that urban flooding is going to be next disaster in the country. To strengthen his view point he quoted the example of floods of Chennai. Therefore, we should plan the cities which are disaster resilient and also to take care that our cities and towns do not become the victims of climate change and consequent disasters, he mentioned. He has also optioned that impact of heat islands is being experienced due to reckless construction activities and if proper precautions are not taken our cities and town will act as a heat chamber. Even though such event takes place after 100 of years, where is the guaranty that such disasters may not happen in this year or next. Thus, the question arises whether we are ready to face such situation, and therefore, he called on the planner's community to plan or redevelop the cities that are very averse to the climate change and in case such event takes place it should have less impact of disaster on property and the life on the people.



Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Odisha being felicitated by Prof. Dr. D. S. Meshram, President ITPI

Prof. Dr. Bibhuti Bhusan Biswal, Vice Chancellor, Odisha University of Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar, the Chief Guest of the Technical Session - III on the theme 'Innovative Approaches to Planning Education' in his address mentioned that National Education Policy, 2020 came into existence on 29th July, 2020 with a focus on curriculum-based education, holistic education, outcome-based education and skilled based education. On which discussions are taking place but implementation is quite slow, infact it is the third National Education Policy, the second policy was adopted about 40 years back.

He was happy to note that town planners dealing with plans of cities, towns and land are also focussing their discussion on National Education Policy. On the issue of curriculum design there cannot be a single curriculum for the whole nation. Professional or general education will differ from university to university, and there is least possibility of coming into existence the curriculum which can be applied uniformly to all the institutions, imparting education in the country. National Education Policy, 2020 comes with paradigm shift and also provide for multiple exits, multiple entry, skill based and focused education. All educational institutes should be at liberty to design there our curriculum.

With reference to planning education, he mentioned that we have to be very careful and we should give more autonomy to the institutes imparting planning education for designing their own curriculum.



Prof. Dr. Bibhuti Bhusan Biswal, Vice Chancellor, Odisha University of Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar, the Chief Guest of the Technical Session - III, addressing the participants



Prof. Dr. Darshini Mahadevia, Associate Dean Ahmedabad University, presenting her paper in Technical Session - III



Institute of Town
Planners, India



**Shri Rohit Pujari, Honourable
Minister, Higher Education,
Government of Odisha, the
Chief Guest of the Valedictory
Function addressing
participants (on virtual mode)**



**Shri Vijay Amruta Kulange,
IAS, Commissioner,
Bhubaneswar Municipal
Corporation, Bhubaneswar
the Guest of Honour in
Valedictory Function,
addressing the participants**



Present on the dais are Shri S. B. Khodankar, Former Secretary General, ITPI, Chairman of the Session; Chief Guest Prof. Dr. Bibhuti Bhusan Biswal, Vice Chancellor, Odisha University of Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar; Prof. Dr. Darshini Mahadevia, Associate Dean Ahmedabad University; and Dr. Arpan Paul, XIM University, Bhubaneswar.

Implementation of NEP, 2020 is a must because it is already delayed by 3 years, as there is no option but to adopt National Education Policy, 2020, which will make our education system more competitive at global level.

Shri Rohit Pujari, Honourable Minister, Higher Education, Government of Odisha, the Chief Guest of the Valedictory Session delivered the valedictory address (online), mentioned that while returning from Narsingpur, he got late and therefore, joining online. He then stated that Honourable Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik is pushing the agenda for organized urban development of Bhubaneswar and Odisha, and taken the initiatives such as JAGA Mission focussing on state wide land titling and slum upgradation program which aims to drastically improve the living conditions and promote social equality of the urban poor, specifically slum dwellers. And 'Drink form Tap' project for supplying drinking water around the clock through taps installed in the households, about 5.55 lakh people in the 19 cities and towns have been targeted to get the benefit from this scheme. Besides, under widely participated project of Smart Cities Mission two towns namely Bhubaneswar and Rourkela have also been selected under the Mission and the number of schemes and projects are under various stages of implementation.

The state of Odisha has a heritage of historical places and structures also, with traditional arts and crafts, which needs to be part of our planning process. He has further opined that in addition to making our towns and cities green, it is also important to provide green infrastructure, and

efforts should be made to avoid concentrate jungle. Infact, we have to think in global perspective but to act locally, as our challenges are different from the western countries, at the same time best practices which are beneficial to our country should be adopted. We also have the responsibility to take the weaker sections, urban poor, street vendors and slum dwellers along with us, so that balance can be achieved to reduce the gap between rich and poor. Honourable Minister also raised the issue of solid waste management, which also is posing the biggest challenge towards environment protection therefore, there is a need to address this challenge in right earnest. Honourable Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik has already taken the initiatives to bring the urban planning in to focus, by addressing the issue of urban poor and slum dwellers, he mentioned.

While concluding his address, Honourable Minister stated that he looks forward to receive the suggestions and recommendations of the Conference, for the consideration of the State.

Shri Vijay Amruta Kulange, IAS, Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar the Guest of Honour in Valedictory Session, in his address mentioned that the recommendations presented in this session will help in developing present and future cities and towns in orderly and planned manner. Specifically, the recommendations on small and medium towns are very important, as there is a need to develop these towns in sustainable, inclusive and liveable manner, and also opined that in addition to developing metropolitan towns, it will

be advisable to focus on development of small and medium towns, as well.

In Odisha efforts are being made to provide the essential infrastructure in urban areas, including the capital city Bhubaneswar. In light with the recommendations on Bhubaneswar, he mentioned that we have already started monitoring the development of Bhubaneswar through smart applications, IT solutions, and ICC centre, specifically monitoring of sanitation and development activities, and land use changes and development taking place. He has also mentioned that urban planners can ensure the future of urban India through planning of our towns and cities.

Shri Kulange also distributed, Prof. V. N. Prasad, National Best Thesis Award to postgraduate students of planning and also Prof. Dr. D. S. Meshram, National Best Thesis Award to undergraduate students of planning.

The recommendations emerged in Technical Session, were read out by Shri Milind B. Patil, former Vice-President, ITPI in Valedictory Session while, the welcome address was delivered by Dr. L. P. Patnaik, Chairman, Odisha Regional Chapter and vote of thanks were extended by Shri S. B. Khodankar, former Secretary General, ITPI.

The Plenary Session - I on the theme 'Challenges for Urban and Regional Planning towards Sustainable Development' was chaired by Prof. Dr. D.S. Meshram, President, ITPI, in which presentations were made by Prof, Dr. Ashok

Kumar, (online), Dean (Academics), SPA, Delhi; Prof. Dr. Meenakshi Dhote, Head, Department of Environmental Planning, SPA, Delhi. Prof. Dr. Vijay Kapse, (online), Professor, VNIT, Nagpur was the Rapporteur.

Technical Session - I on theme “Small and Medium Towns: New Drivers of Development”

The Technical Session - I on theme “Small and Medium Towns: New Drivers of Development”, was chaired Shri K. S. Akode former President, ITPI, in which presentations were made by Dr. S. K. Kulshrestha, Chairman Technical Committee, ITPI; Shri R. Srinivas, Former, Town and Country Planner, Town and Country Planning Organization, Government of India, and Shri P. P. Singh, Chief Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana.

Dr. Sandeep Kumar Raut, Associate Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Organization, Government of India was the Rapporteur.

After detailed discussions and deliberations following recommendations emerged:

- Small and medium towns are significant to enhance urban-rural linkages because they are more accessible to rural population and also act as a bridge between rural population and large cities;
- Small and medium towns present a strategic location for linkages to rural regions, and can



Shri Milind Patil, Former Vice President, ITPI, reading the Recommendations of Conference in Valedictory Function



Shri K.S. Akode former President, ITPI, addressing the participants as Chairman of Technical Session - I



Shri R. Srinivas, Former, Town and Country Planner, Town and Country Planning Organization, Government of India, presenting his paper in Technical Session - I



The Valedictory Function is in progress. Present on dais are Shri Vijay Amruta Kulange, IAS, Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar (in the centre); on his left Prof. Dr. D. S. Meshram, President ITPI; Shri Milind Patil, Former Vice President, ITPI; and on his right Shri S. B. Khodankar, Former Secretary General, ITPI; and Dr. L. P. Patnaik, Vice - President ITPI.



Institute of Town Planners, India



Dr. S. K. Kulshrestha, Chairman Technical Committee, ITPI, presenting his paper in Technical Session - I



Shri P. P. Singh, Chief Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana, presenting his paper in Technical Session - I



Dr. B. Mahendra, Former Vice President, ITPI, addressing the participants in Technical Session - II as Chairman of the Session

promote more equitable economic growth in rural regions and spur balanced development, absorb urbanization, attract investment and meet the demand for housing, land, infrastructure and basic services;

- The States need to encourage delineation of metropolitan regions and state capital regions and make efforts towards preparation of metropolitan region plan with focus on decentralization of economic activities to give impetus to development of small and medium towns based on their potentials;
- With the availability of grants from Central Government, these towns need to strengthen their infrastructure and become the hub for creating new economic opportunities;
- With more focus on corridor induced development there is much scope for development of small and towns and diversification of economy with both primary and non-primary sectors benefitting the regional economy;
- The access to digital communication with all towns getting connected to fibre optics also offer immense potentials to work from small and medium towns thereby cutting the operating and maintenance cost incurred which is quite high in metropolitan cities;
- Thus, the role of small and medium towns would be crucial in future and shall pave the way for balanced urbanization with shift from over dependence on metropolitan cities in terms of investments as well as planned development;

- The state governments therefore, need to study the growth and development of Tier - 2 and Tier - 3 cities with a view to:

- Identifying such emerging towns and cities in their respective states;
- Evolving proactive and collaborative spatio-economic strategies for their planned development;
- Introducing policies and legislative support needed for development of the integrated zero-waste townships and theme cities which may be developed in Tier - 2 and Tier - 3 cities, depending upon their potentials to ensure good quality of life to the residents;
- Introducing incentives and inducements for effective realty sector participation in the development process; and
- Priority for planning and development need to be given to Tier - 2 and Tier - 3, cities located in the influence area (100 km radius) of all metropolitan cities in the state.

Technical Session - II on the Sub-theme 'Reforms in Urban Governance'

The Technical Session - II on the Sub-theme 'Reforms in Urban Governance' was chaired by Dr. B. Mahendra, Former Vice - President, ITPI, in which presentations were made by Prof. B. Misra, former Professor, SPA, Delhi; Dr. Ramanath Jha, IAS (Retired), Distinguished Fellow at Observer Research Foundation, Maharashtra; and Prof. Dr. K. K. Pandey, Professor, IIPA, New Delhi.



Present on the dais are Prof. Dr. K. K. Pandey, Professor, IIPA, New Delhi; Dr. Ramanath Jha, IAS (Retired), Distinguished Fellow at Observer Research Foundation, Maharashtra; Dr. B. Mahendra, Former Vice- President, ITPI, (Chairman of the Session); Prof. B. Misra, Former Professor, SPA, Delhi; and Dr. Sarika Bahadure, Asstt. Professor, VNIT Nagpur (Rapporteur)

Dr. Sarika Bahadure, Assistant Professor, VNIT Nagpur, was the Rapporteur.

After detailed discussions and deliberations following recommendations emerged:

- New paradigm, new challenges, new understandings is urgently required for sustainable urban governance for wholesome and inclusive approach in urban planning and governance and the related institutional reforms. Accordingly, following actions merit consideration:
 - Recognise the fast rural to urban transformation and expand spatial urban space in its totality;
 - Consider statutory cities and towns and the non-statutory Census Towns as India's total urban space; and
 - Create sustainable urban - rural continuum by making selected Census Towns as major service link between larger towns and villages;
- Designate large Census Towns, 50,000 and more population, with statutory ULBs in line with the spirit of the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Act (CCA) to manage their planning and fiscal functions;
- Empower the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), to boost their revenue and confidence in governance. Accordingly following actions merit consideration:
 - Devolve crucial urban functions, planning and finance (levying taxes and fees) to all ULBs as provided in the 11th and 12th schedules of 73rd and 74th CCA. Accordingly, revamp the archaic municipal laws in line with central Model ML, NMAM, etc. The State Finance Commissions should follow and act on the guidelines provided by the Central Finance Commission; and
 - No constitutional restrictions for State Governments to devolve selected urban functions to NACs and Census Towns like LAPs, building licenses, regulations of subdivision of land for urban use, selected layout permits, collection of fee, etc.;
- Fill up the wide gaps in provision of urban planners and other trained manpower in ULBs and provide a freer hand in decisions. Accordingly, State Government needs to fill up the vacant posts of Town and Country Planners by qualified town and country planners:

- Create additional 8,000 posts and fill these up with qualified planners only, as recommended by NITI Aayog;
 - The government to encourage starting new Schools of Planning to meet the demand for planners as recommended by NITI Aayog; and
 - The government should establish the 'National Council of Town and Country Planners' a statutory body to regulate the planning profession, as recommended by NITI Aayog, so that qualified town and country planners can only profess Town and Country Planning profession; and
- Urban local bodies should be empowered through a mandated functional and financial domain and a strong, all-powerful executive, counter-weighted by transparency and accountability.

Technical Session - III on the Sub-theme 'Innovative Approaches to Planning Education'

In the Technical Session - III on the Sub-theme 'Innovative Approaches to Planning Education' Prof. Dr. Bibhuti Bhusan Biswal, Vice Chancellor, Odisha University of Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar was the Chief Guest. This session was Chaired by Shri S. B. Khodankar, Former Secretary General, ITPI, in which presentations were made by Prof. Dr. Nikhil Ranjan Mandal, Professor, SPA, Bhopal; Prof. Dr. Darshini Mahadevia, Associate Dean, Ahmedabad University, and Prof. Dr. Arpan Paul, Assistant Professor, XIM University, Bhubaneswar.

Shri Arvind Kumar, Town Planner, Government of Uttar Pradesh was the Rapporteur.

After detailed discussions and deliberations, the following recommendations emerged:

- Institutes may re-write the respective planning syllabus adopting 'Outcome Based Education' (OBE) pattern that envisages the formulation of expected learning outcomes at all levels of education programs leading to a degree / diploma / certificate and the same may be in alignment with the provisions laid out in the framework of NHEQF;
- In order to facilitate the above, as well as to pave the path for making India an education hub as envisaged, and Accreditation manual may be prepared by ITPI with wide consultations, with recognized educational institutes approved by ITPI;



Dr. Ramanath Jha, IAS (Retired), Distinguished Fellow at Observer Research Foundation, Maharashtra, presenting his paper in Technical Session - II



Prof. Dr. K. K. Pandey, Professor, IIPA, New Delhi presenting his paper in Technical Session - II



Shri S. B. Khodankar, Former Secretary General, ITPI, addressing the participants as Chairman of Technical Session - III



Prof. Dr. Nikhil Ranjan Mandal, Professor, SPA, Bhopal, presenting his paper in Technical Session - III



Institute of Town Planners, India



Prof. B. Misra, Former Secretary General, ITPI, addressing the participants as Chairman of Technical Session - IV



Prof. Tathagata Chatterji, Head, Human Settlement, Xavier University, presenting his paper in Technical Session - IV



Prof. Dr. Jayant Routray, Professor Emeritus, AITs, Odisha, presenting his paper in Technical Session - IV



Technical Session on Local Sub Theme is in progress. Present on dais are Prof. B. Misra, Former Secretary General ITPI, (Chairman of the Session); (on his left) Prof. Dr. Jayant Routray, Professor Emeritus, AITs, Odisha; Shri Amit Kumar, Deputy Director, Delhi Development Authority (Rapporteur) and (on his right); Prof. Tathagata Chatterji, Head, Human Settlement, XIM University; and Prof. Dr. Kajri Misra, Dean (Planning), XIM University, Bhubaneswar.

- The existing 4 year' UG programs may be encouraged to be converted into 5 years Integrated UG - PG programs with multiple exit options, such as, (i) after 1st year with a certificate; (ii) after 2nd year, with a Diploma, (iii) after 3rd year with a Bachelor's degree; (iv) after 4th year with a Bachelor's degree (Hons.); and (v) after 5th year with a Master's degree; Accordingly, Recruitment Rules be changed to open up the employment opportunities to these candidates.
- The existing syllabus of all UG, Integrated and PG programs needs to encourage introduction or modification of content of courses that impart creativity, innovation, entrepreneurial capabilities and teaches research methods;
- The Planning Institutes should promote global networking; strategic alliances; technology enabled learning; e-content and resource based learning; research collaboration; active industry - academy interface; and technology incubation; and
- Networking of the Planning Educational Institutes should be done for credit transfers, collaborative studios, and research.

Technical Session - IV on Local sub-theme 'Experiences of Smart Cities Mission in Odisha'

The Technical Session - IV on Local sub-theme 'Experience of Smart Cities Mission in Odisha' was Chaired by Prof. B. Misra, Former Secretary General, ITPI in which presentations were made by Prof. Dr. Kajri Misra, Dean (Planning), Xavier University,

Bhubaneswar; Prof. Tathagata Chatterji, Head, Human Settlement, Xavier University, and Prof. Dr. Jayant Routray, Professor Emeritus, AITs, Odisha.

Shri Amit Kumar, Deputy Director, Delhi Development Authority was the Rapporteur.

After detailed discussions and deliberations following recommendations emerged:

- The major thrust of Smart City Plans is generally towards Area Based Development, however, there is a need to also have greater data and digital infrastructure;
- The scope of the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) is to be expanded to cover the entire Metropolitan Region as the peri-urban areas are undergoing fast changes compared to the core city;
- GIS-based monitoring can help save urban commons, water bodies, green spaces, etc.;
- Smart City Plan of Bhubaneswar needs to have defined measurable outcomes to achieve sustainability targets and improve resilience against natural disasters and climate-change vulnerabilities;
- Alignment with data platforms under Urban Outcomes Framework and SDG Urban Index and Municipal Performance Index, is required to be adopted;
- Integrated Planning - Smart City Plans and other program-specific plans (AMRUT, PMAY, SBM, Jaga Mission) need to be integrated under a common master planning framework;

- Renewable energy sources (solar, bio, and wind systems) should be rigorously promoted, and implemented through supportive policy, affordable technology, and tariff system. A big gap exists at present between policy and practice for individual consumers at the household level. Community-managed renewable energy

systems should be given priority with ease of policy instruments;

- Sustainable urban development should be focused at the community and neighbourhood level; and
- A set of operational indicators and parameters should be worked out for making practicable for Indian towns and cities.



Prof. Dr. Kajri Misra, Dean (Planning), Xavier University, Bhubaneswar, presenting her paper in Technical Session - IV

PROF. V. N. PRASAD NATIONAL BEST THESIS AWARD, 2022 (For Postgraduate Students of Planning)

The Institute of Town Planners, India instituted a National Best Thesis Award, during 1991 to inculcate a healthy competition amongst the young planners so that they can compete with overseas students as well. One thesis from each specialization from all the Schools of Planning, recognized by the ITPI, getting highest marks are eligible to participate in this award. Since 1996, the award has been dedicated to late Prof. V. N. Prasad, one of the founder members of the Institute and a pioneer in the field of urban and regional planning in the country. Recently, the Council of ITPI has decided to institute three awards under the categories comprising first, second and third, with cash prize of Rs. 30,000, Rs. 20,000, and Rs. 10,000 respectively along with a Certificate of Merit.

Nominees are required to make a presentation before a Jury comprising of senior professionals and academicians for selecting the best entries in order of merit. 44 entries were received from various recognized institutions by ITPI, of which 42 contestants presented their thesis before the jury. The Jury for Prof. V. N. Prasad National Best Thesis Award for 2022 has recommended the following entries:

First Prize was Award to Ms. Shweta Shailesh Modi from Master of Urban and Regional Planning, the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, for the thesis 'Spatial Planning as an Approach towards Geo-conservation: A Case of 3 Geo-heritage Sites of Kutch District'.

Nature's diversity is broadly classified into two components i.e., Biodiversity (living or biotic nature) and geo-diversity (non-living or abiotic nature). Geo-diversity elements with which humans associate particular value(s) become part of our



Shri Vijay Amruta Kulange, IAS, Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, awarding First prize to Shweta Shailesh Modi from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara.

geo-heritage. In the absence of any protection measures, geo-heritage becomes susceptible to wear, tear and destruction due to anthropogenic activities.

Taking the case study of Kutch Basin in Gujarat, the research makes an attempt to explore the nexus between people, culture, landscape, and use of such geo-heritage sites to suggest proper measures for geo-heritage protection and conservation by integrating them into urban planning. The area has a variety of best quality geological and geo-morphological specimens. Three geo-heritage sites i.e., the Khari Gorge, the Tapkeshwari Hills, and the Kadiyo Dhrow have been studied in detail with a view to identify and quantify value association of sites and rank them as per geo-conservation needs. In fact, this study is an inductive exploratory research based on mixed methods. Finally, recommendations have been made at the three level i.e., macro, meso and micro to ensure integration with urban planning. Study concludes that geo-heritage, an integral natural resource lacks any kind of



Institute of Town Planners, India

conservation or protection status and is not addressed by any existing planning instrument. If conserved it possess the intrinsic quality to pass a valuable part of the Earth's memory to the future generations.

Second Prize was awarded to Ms. Radhika Mehrotra from Master of Urban Planning, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, for the thesis 'Planning for Road Safety in Delhi Using Big Data'.

Technology advancements and large-scale computing infrastructures have resulted in

among the 199 countries. Traditional road safety planning methods reach their limits as modern traffic becomes more complex. Hence, the study focuses on using big data towards road safety for analysis as it is becoming an increasingly important source for making evidence-based, high-quality decisions by assessing current or previous events.

Co-operative safety systems that utilize both infrastructure-based and vehicle-based systems with communication links were proposed for Delhi, likewise, a system was envisioned for efficient working of the Centralized Accident Trauma Services (CATS), which will have real-time data sharing and integration with the relevant departments for better decision-making purposes. Subsequently, a road safety framework was proposed with the intention that the institutional environment for road safety in Delhi is further strengthened and a mechanism for effective coordination of various stakeholders is put in place.

Third Prize was awarded to M. Heerendra Kannan from Master of Urban and Regional Planning, School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, for the thesis 'Rethinking of Coastal Commons Conflicts a Contestation in Development of Coastal Fisherfolk in Chennai'.

Extreme weather conditions caused by climate change, as well as rising economic and development activity near the coasts have raised the dangers of natural and human induced disasters harming the safety and livelihood of coastal population. Besides, the conflict for coastal space between fishing villages and other new users and interest groups poses a genuine threat to the very survival of coastal communities. As access to coastal resources becomes more widely available, the concept of "coastal commons" is assuming more significance. Coastal commons are areas that are commonly owned and provide a variety of benefits to fishing communities. These shared use areas are used for a variety of livelihood-related purposes and offer nourishment, as well as promote different social and cultural endeavours of local communities. However, in most situations, communities lack titles deeds for their dwellings and settlements. This poses a clear and present threat to the very survival of these fishing villages, which are battling non-coastal commercial interests in their homelands.



Shri Vijay Amruta Kulange, IAS, Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, awarding Second prize to Radhika Mehrotra from School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.



Shri Vijay Amruta Kulange, IAS, Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, awarding Third prize to M. Heerendra Kannan from School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada.

massive amounts of urban spatial big data in cities, which is currently being underutilized. Data collaboration among various stakeholders is lacking, and the power of data as a potential economic resource is underutilized. Road traffic crashes, kill nearly 1.3 million children and young people each year, making them the world's leading killer. In the World Road Statistics, 2018, India ranks first in the number of road crash deaths

To assess the coastal commons specifically the conflicts faced by the fishermen customary usage of the commons, infrastructure, and critical facilities, natural resources, the economy and livelihood that constitute an important countervailing force to forms of uneven development and dispossession that would wipe out communities and the coastal commons off the map. Approach begins with techniques that evaluate the 58 fishing villages based on the conflicts and contestation they encounter, which is followed by a micro-level assessment of the most conflicted fishing villages based on factors such as living conditions, temporal variations in fishing activities, the character of the coastal commons, links between the commons and the livelihoods of the fishing population. Thus, becomes a crucial

Continued from Page 20

will also be helpful to promote sustainable transport options in existing towns and also to new towns.

Second Prize was awarded to Rajib Lochan Ram from Bachelor of Planning, Odisha University of Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar, for the thesis 'Risk Assessment of Flash Floods in the Local Spatial Planning: A Case of Chamoli District, Uttarakhand'.

Uttarakhand has been susceptible to various flash floods in the last decade. None of us could forget the 2013 flash floods which stranded the lives of 9 million people in the difficult Himalayan terrain. Similarly, 2021 Chamoli floods which swept away the Tapovan Hydropower Project and Rishi Ganga Hydro Power Project also had disastrous impacts on the local communities.

In spite of the fact that several initiatives were taken, there are still some lacunas left behind in the process which make the impacts of these disasters more vulnerable than the previous therefore, the thesis focus on "Risk assessment of Flash Floods in the Local Spatial Planning: A Case of Chamoli District, Uttarakhand".

Chamoli's steep elevation having highest elevation at 7000 MSL (approximately) and lowest elevation at less than 1000 m (approximately) is located in Seismic Zone-V which receives the highest impacts of earthquake and lying in the severe to very high Land Slide Zone. These factors trigger the impacts

medium for fishermen to exercise their rights to coastal commons, particularly in the context of growing coastal urbanization and major alterations in coastal zone regulatory regimes. Given that fishing, communities are integral to the coastal areas of India the study demonstrates the role of conserving the coastal commons and improving the livelihoods of the fisherfolk in the Chennai Region and provides insights for the stakeholders into the location of the vulnerable hot spots and coastal commons, which most likely occupy socio-ecological important spaces.

All the three awards were distributed by Shri Vijay Amruta Kulange, IAS, Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar who was the Guest of Honour in Valedictory Session.



Shri Vijay Amruta Kulange, IAS, Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, awarding Second prize to Rajib Lochan Ram from Odisha University of Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar

of flash floods in Chamoli. Chamoli has 713 glacial lakes having a combined area of 3.79 sq km. Anthropogenic activities are responsible for the glacial lake outbursts. The major hot spot i.e. Badrinath and Karnprayag have been identified in the district which are highly vulnerable to the impact of flash floods, and accordingly, proposals and recommendations have been given, which includes use of tetra pots, sponge city concept, and zoning regulations.

Shri Vijay Amruta Kulange, IAS, Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar who was the Guest of Honour in the Valedictory Session distributed these awards.



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Planners, India

PROF. DR. D. S. MESHAM NATIONAL BEST THESIS AWARD, 2022 (For Undergraduate Students of Planning)

On the demand of undergraduate students from various Schools and Institutions approved by the ITPI who could not compete in the Prof. V. N. Prasad National Best Thesis Award, which was generally claimed by the post graduate students. Accordingly, the Council, ITPI, 2014 - 2015 instituted a National Best Thesis Award for undergraduate students of planning comprising first, and second prizes with cash prize of Rs. 30,000, and Rs. 20,000. However,

a presentation before a Jury comprising of senior professionals and academicians for selecting the entries, in order of merit. 10 entries were received from various institutions recognized by ITPI, of which 8 contestants presented their thesis before the jury. The Jury for Prof. Dr. D. S. Meshram National Best Thesis Award for 2022 has recommended the following entries:

First Prize was awarded to Nidhishree N. Kumar from Bachelor of Planning, NITTE School of Architecture, Planning and Design, Bangalore, for the thesis 'Framework for Pedestrian and Non-motor Privatization in Transportation'.

Rapid urbanization and increase in population impact the transportation system, specifically in metropolitan cities and accordingly, dependency on private vehicles increases therefore, planning strategies for transport planning also shift its focus from people to motorized vehicles.

This study focus on privatizing people over motors by proposing a framework for their privatization. The scale of this framework is limited to satellite town, as they play a key role in decongestion of cities. Accordingly, the aim of the research is creating a pedestrian and non-motorized transport system for satellite town, taking into consideration the existing surrounding development and advancement. The case study of Yelahanka Satellite town of Bangalore has been taken.

The proposed framework would be applicable to the scale of satellite towns and is prepared in Indian context. The calculated and resulted ideal mode share could be used as benchmark for cities in order to enhance their priority of pedestrians and non-motorized vehicle users. The proposed framework is highly suitable for Greenfield projects and can be used in planning for new satellite towns. Certain elements of framework are suitable for brown field development as well. This framework

Continued on Page 19



Shri Vijay Amruta Kulange, IAS, Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, awarding First prize to Nidhishree N. Kumar from NITTE School of Architecture, Planning and Design, Bangalore

taking into account the contribution of Prof. Dr. D. S. Meshram, President, ITPI; not only in the field of town and country planning profession but also in education, specifically initiating the under graduate program in Town and Country Planning Education in the country, in the year 1988 and also making efforts to start four Schools of Planning in the country by taking up the matter with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, and following it vigorously and also prepared DPR for starting New Schools of Planning and Architecture, in the year 2006, and made presentation to the erstwhile Planning Commission, Government of India, it was decided by the Council that the title of this award should be "Prof. Dr. D. S. Meshram National Best Thesis Award" for undergraduate students.

Nominees from the recognized courses of B. Planning approved by ITPI, are required to make