



AMDA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF AMDA

VOLUME 20

NUMBER 1

JAN. - FEB., 2005

EDITORIAL

AMDA NEWS, the newsletter of Association of Urban Management and Development Authorities (AMDA), is the means of dissemination of information to our members and other professional organizations on varied urban issues. We are glad to inform our readers that from 2005 we have increased our frequency of the newsletter to bi-monthly from quarterly. We therefore request members to send us news which they wish to share for the next issue of March-April 2005.

This issue, in its first section highlights the deficiencies of the mapping and geographical data policy of India. Also, the revised environmental clearance procedures for appraisal by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests are stated. A brief note on the new technologies for urban safety of mega cities in Asia as discussed at a symposium organised by the Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur has been reported on. Also reported in this section are the guidelines for Public Private Partnership to reform urban water supply and sanitation services designed by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation and also the new guidelines on clean drinking water recommended by the United Nations World Health Organisation. We also report on the recommendations on cooperative housing for slum dwellers by a national seminar organized by the National Cooperative Housing Federation of India as also a review of progress of one of the eight Millennium Development Goals on the eradication of poverty.

In the section dealing with initiatives by states, we report on the lead taken by the IT Department of Kerala towards good governance through a single window system - FRIENDS, as also on the initiative taken by the Government of Maharashtra by announcing a reduction in stamp duty. An improved sanitation services as being provided to the slum dwellers of Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore has been incorporated.

In the city initiatives section, we report on the outcomes of the Public Private Partnership between the Bangalore Mahanagar Palike and the Bangalore Agenda Task Force towards improving municipal effectiveness, and on the use of IT for better governance by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Besides these there are reports on steps taken by the MCD towards proper implementation of Bio-medical Waste Rules, and on changed policies of Lal Dora lands in Delhi, on E-waste a rising burden to local bodies and garbage disposal plans by the MCD. In the final section we highlight several news and facts from round the world and of interest to readers.

We hope that this issue provides our members and readers with valid and useful information. We look forward to comments and suggestions in improving the newsletter.

The AMDA NEWS is a publication of the Association of Urban Management and Development Authorities - an apex body active in providing information and capacity building support to its members.

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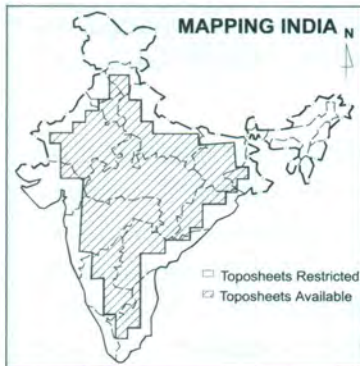
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AMDA NEWS — INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION & DISSEMINATION

1. POLICY AND STRATEGY ISSUES

1.1 MAP MONOPOLY

Indians can access maps called toposheets for only 57 percent of the country's territory; for the remaining 43 percent these maps are restricted. Toposheets show the physical features of an area at 1:50,000 and are basic to most local-level planning. Officially, one can access



restricted toposheets, but only after a long-drawn procedure. For example, data of a village in the restricted category, requires the attestation of a senior officer, often a secretary to a state government. A form-number 0.57 (a)-must first be filled up. Then begins the wait for government

to respond. On top of the form is inscribed: *"Maps will, normally, be issued only to government officials and those of local administrative bodies when required by them for official work"*. Simply, those not part of the system can almost never access maps.

As per **Official Secrets Act, 1923**, distribution of toposheets was brought under the act by the Union Ministry of Defence (MoD) in 1967, The act bans anyone possessing a map *"likely to assist, directly or indirectly, an enemy or which relates to a matter the disclosure of which is likely to affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State or friendly relations with foreign states"*.

Mapping milestones by Survey of India

- 1767 First Survey General of Bengal appointed;
- 1802 The great trigonometric arc survey starts;
- 1830 George Everest appointed Surveyor General;
- 1840 Cape Comorin to Mussorie survey completed;
- 1849 Mt Everest measured;
- 1901 Magnetic surveys begin;
- 1956 First series of metric maps begin;
- 1970 Computerisation begins;
- 1982 Satellite-based mapping initiated;
- 1992 Global Positioning System introduced;
- 2001 National Spatial database Infrastructure mooted

Worldover, people now have digital versions of their nations' toposheets. But in India, a toposheet even of

the unrestricted area (which one can buy from Survey of India (SOI) counters) cannot be digitised without MoD's clearance. Digital maps of towns, cities and villages need clearance from MoD. This takes over 18 months, by which time the settlement has grown and the map becomes less useful.

The resolution achievable with remote sensing satellites makes toposheet restrictions redundant. For example the Ikonos satellite, owned by a private company called Space Imaging, provides imagery of any part of the world at 1 metre by 1 metre resolution. One can even count the steps to one's house using its images. MoD, however, persists in deleting coordinates from maps, believing this would prevent access to such information. But its officials themselves use the satellite-based Global Positioning System (GPS), which through a device similar to a tiny calculator can accurately provide coordinates anywhere in the world. The toposheets that are restricted by SOI on security grounds are available for sale from agencies like the Stanford International Map Centre, London. Satellite imageries of even larger scale, which provide all the geographic and topographic information, are easily available abroad.

Moreover, maps of India available abroad are usually updated more regularly than government can manage. Russian-made topographical maps of strategic cities like Mumbai are later editions than the presently available SOI toposheets. The same is the case with very high-resolution remotely sensed satellite data as well as topographic elevation data from sources like the SRTM (Shuttle Radar Telemetry Mission) of the US government.

Scientists and researchers often complain of the lack of geographical information to carry out studies. Seismologists working in the Himalayan regions say permission to work close to the border is next to impossible and it is rather pointless to mention the plight of an individual who may wish to see a toposheet or want to "play" with the plan of his locality on a digital map.

Behind the mass of confusion over maps lies a basic problem: India has no mapping policy. To fill this vacuum, various authorities have arrogated to themselves regulations of using, printing, publishing and developing maps. Geographical information is also not part of the more fundamental right to information. While the state regulations on right to information (wherever enacted) remain silent on it, there has been no clarification on this count either by the courts or the government.

Table 1.1 - The Policy on Geographical Data in India

Data type	Name of agencies involved	Ministry of	Paper data	Digital data	Maps on website	Sale through website
Meteorological data	Indian Meteorological Division	Science and Technology	Y	N	N	N
Environmental data	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) National Environmental Engineering Institute (NEERI)/ WWF/Forestry Survey of India	Environment and Forests	Y	N	N	N
Mapping data	Survey of India	Science and Technology	Y	N	N	N
Remote sensing data	National Remote Sensing Agency	Space	Y	Y	Y	Y
Information on Buildings (at national or local level)	Local Government	Rural Areas and Employment/ Urban Affairs	N	N	N	N
Cadastral registers	State Government	Rural Areas and Employment/ Urban Affairs	N	N	N	N
Geological data	Geological Survey of India	Mines	Y	N	Y	N
Botanical data	Botanical Survey of India	Environment and Forests	Y	N	N	N
Agricultural data	National Bureau of Soil Survey, All India Soil and Land use Survey	Agriculture	Y	N	N	N
Thematic mapping	National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Agency	Science and Technology	Y	N	N	N
Census data	Census of India	Home	Y	N	Y	Y
Watershed data		Agriculture/Water Resource /Rural Development	N	N	N	N
Data on river basins	Central Water Commission	Water Resources	Y	N	N	N
Oceanographic data	National Institute of ' Oceanography	Ocean Development	N	N	Y	N
GI laws	Defence	Defence	N	N	N	N
Ground water data	Central Ground Water Board	Water Resources	N	N	N	N
Statistical data	CSO (Central Statistics Organisation)	Planning and Implementation	Y	Y	Y	Y
Information systems	National Informatics Centre	Planning Commission	N	N	Y	Y
Forest cover data	Forest Survey of India	Environment and Forests	N	N	N	N

Note: Y = Yes, N = No

Source: Ravi Gupta 2000, "SWOT analysis of geographical information: The case of India", *Current Science*, Vol. 79, No. 4.

India's mapping policy is however being debated by the concern ministries. But indications are the policy is going to be as antiquated as current regulations. The restricted area is not to be reduced; it will remain at 43 percent. Also, these maps will omit heights, contours or latitude and longitude. This means the maps will be redundant for anyone who wants to add (or layer) information on them. They will merely be high-resolution pictures one can see but not improve or manipulate to needs. The maps will be available only to a select group of agencies: primarily

government bodies connected via a web-based network. Tiringly, maps will not be available to individuals or non-government bodies directly but will have to be procured by them through these designated agencies. *The draft policy suggests all institutions wanting to use these maps must first inform or 'take permission' from SOI under a new National Map Transaction Registry.*

India has been planning a spatial database infrastructure called the National Spatial Database Infrastructure (NSDI). But the NSDI proposal has been in limbo for more than two years now.



Table 1.2 - Micro-level issues in Geographic Information Scenario in India

Problem	Possible problems foreseen by	The escape routes in vogue the Government	Implications of government not accepting the solutions
Digitisation of SOI Topomaps not allowed	Loss of control of data	People forced to digitise SOI maps 'illegally'. They don't acknowledge SOI name. Instead they acknowledge NRSA data/NATMO maps as the data source	SOI loses its moral right to be known as producer of the data
No clear-cut policy on Import of Indian maps from Outside India	Assumes that no maps are available abroad	Users are getting the required maps secretly abroad, which may not be accurate	People lose faith in the system
Restrictions on export of Maps	Government feels that maps exported will lead to increased security risks	Digitisation and export of maps through internet going on	Private agencies are marking profits at government's expense
Maps of restricted areas	Access to restricted maps will increase security risk	Restricted maps being imported from abroad	Indian scientists and private companies suffer because of restrictions
Geodetic data restricted	Access to geodetic data will increase security risk	Scientists forced to get data from abroad	Hamper the S&T growth in India
No right to information	No political motivation to implement	Beg, borrow or steal principle for data access being used	Government loses the revenue it would have generated by selling data. Public loses a chance to benefit from the information collected by its money
In all data dissemination activities only government considered as a consumer Data	Not the Government runs the country. Not the NGOs or private sector. So no question of giving them the access	Beg, borrow or steal principle for data access being used	Lack of public participation in Government decision making
Mandate for data Dissemination efforts	Too busy in data generation to think of dissemination	Selective data leakage done by the Government depending on its comfort	Duplication of costly data generation

Besides the potential to create an unsavory situation for the bureaucracy, NSDI is also an expensive proposition. India would need to invest Rs.25,000-30,000 crore to set up a robust database. However, the government and private interests are spending about Rs.2,500 crore annually to maintain alternative systems of sharing this information - a mere 10 percent of what is required. An annual outlay of Rs.7,500 crore is proposed for setting up NSDI through combined funding.

The lack of government initiative has not prevented private interests from setting up such infrastructure on their own. The Reliance group today has one of the largest and strongest geo-spatial databases in India. Of course, this database will cater to groups that can buy the information. It is not for public service. Senior

bureaucrats in the Union ministry of science and technology are reportedly impressed with the database.

On December 15, 2004, science and technology minister Kapil Sibal announced that educational institutions can now procure digital copies of declassified aerial photos from the map sales offices of the Survey of India. The government had so far paid no heed to requests of scientists, while aerial maps from foreign satellites are available on the Internet

Source: Down to Earth, Vol. 13, No. 16, January 15, 2005.

1.2 NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE PROCEDURES

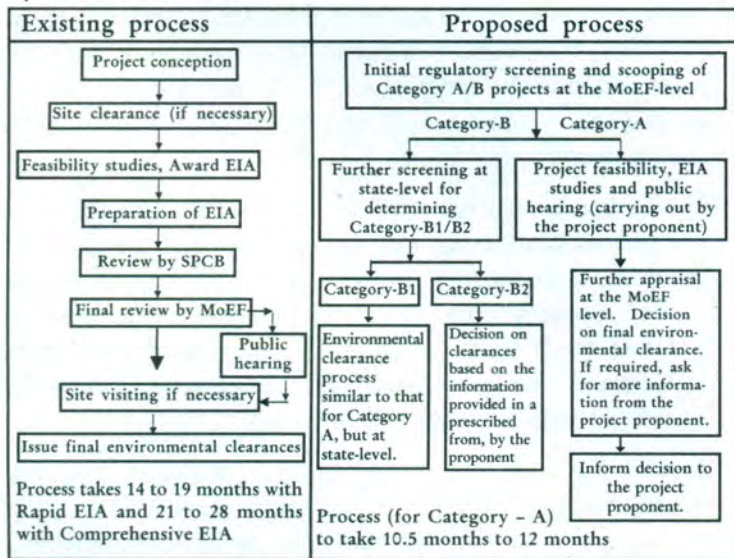
The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests

(MoEF) released the first draft of the New Environmental Clearance Procedures for appraisal. The draft has been sharply criticized by the state government and non-government organizations.

The draft groups all activities needing environmental clearances in two categories: A and B. Category A contains 19 entries including river valley projects, industrial estates/parks, special economic zones, nuclear power projects, pesticides, pulp and paper industry and mining of major minerals. MoEF will clear all Category A projects.

Category B lists 27 activities including cement, dyes, and mining of major minerals over 5 to 25 hectares, oil and gas exploration, and railways, including metro rail. A screening and scoping expert committee (SSEC) of MoEF will examine all such projects too on the basis of information provided by the project proponent. It will then decide whether the project falls under the Category A or Category B. The state governments will clear all the projects falling in Category B (see flowchart).

Explaining the classification, the draft says that those proposals, which are likely to have a higher impact on the environment or have impact on more than one state or a neighboring country, will fall under Category A requiring environmental clearance from the government of India. A representative of the state government concerned will be associated with the SSEC while screening a proposal. The draft has been prepared by a consultant as part of MoEF's Environmental Capacity Building Project, funded by the World Bank.



State government and non-government organizations (NGOs) have sharply criticized the draft New Environmental Clearance Procedures. While many

states believe the proposed procedures go against the spirit of decentralization, the NGO sector dismisses the changes suggested as too mild to adequately address environmental and social concerns. Environmentalists see the new proposals leading to a power struggle. The Union and state governments are wrangling over gaining the final authority to clear projects but none of them are interested in the actual process or in adequately addressing environmental and social concerns.

The state governments and all the stakeholders will be consulted before finalizing the new clearance processes. But most experts feel that tinkering with the existing provisions is not the way. Drastic changes are required in the entire process if one needs to address all the social and environmental issues. Experts feel that the EIA, rehabilitation and environmental issues have to be handled by an independent agency. The industry does not have the ability or the expertise to handle such issues.

Post-clearance monitoring mechanism is another issue not addressed in the draft. The existing EIA has the provision that the project authority submits half-yearly reports to enable the Impact Assessment Agency (MoEF) or the state government) effectively monitor the implementation of the recommendations and conditions subject to which the environmental clearance had been given. It is also mandated that such compliance reports be made publicly available.

Transparency at each step of the process will ensure that people know the basis and the conditions on which a project is cleared. This will not only help local communities decide about projects coming up in their areas but also make the proponents and the permittees accountable for any problems arising from a project.

Source: Down to Earth, Vol. 13 No. 10, October 15, 2004.

1.3 INDIA'S URBAN CHALLENGE

India is second most populous country in the world after China and has one of the largest populations of urban poor. Of India's one billion populations, around 250 million are urban poor who are mainly concentrated in slum areas.

A process of devolution of government to the local level began in 1993 with the 74th amendment of the Constitution, which sets out strong guidelines for decentralization. However, power still remains concentrated at the federal government level with policies and programs mainly focusing on rural poverty.

The policies of State government, mainly responsible for housing and urban development, have not proved successful. Many states have been unwilling to delegate power and resources to local governments. There is a lack of transparent and effective coordination between the various levels of government. There are no mechanisms for implementing national policies through local governments.

The Government of India nominated the national Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) as the agency responsible for coordinating the monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the *Habitat Agenda*. There has been no concerted effort to make local government aware of the *Habitat Agenda* and their potential role in implementing it. Among the relatively few recognized successful good practices implemented since 1996, the majorities were initiated by NGOs. To complement the research in the Indian context, two case studies were selected (among nine) the AAA+D4C program and the *Care Plus* project, were both based in the capital, New Delhi and begun around 2000.

The AAA+D4C project was launched by Aid India, a non-profit, non-governmental organization that implemented the AAA program to help the homeless through a number of partnerships it established with other NGOs and other organizations. It encompasses the shelter, health, education and advocacy needs of the homeless. *Care Plus* was launched by Care with the support of four strategic partners and other local government and civil society actors. Its aim is to help slum dwellers through the provision of basic services, including drinking water, sanitation and education.

The case studies also show that the formation of successful partnerships in local development and service provision, involving a variety of actors, can facilitate effective action in urban poverty reduction.

The current Government of India policy framework provides little scope for localising the *Habitat Agenda*. Policies are developed centrally and without stakeholder participation and rarely localized. Although, in principle, a strong institutional framework for decentralization exists, autonomous action by local authorities is hampered by their limited capacity and financial weakness. Urban poverty is currently being addressed in isolated projects which lack co-ordination and a local policy context, and the outcomes of those projects are not used to inform policy - making.

A case study by Mr. Catalina Gandelonas is a researcher at the Max lock Centre University of Westminster in London.

Source: Habitat Debate, Vol. 10, No. 2, June 2004.

1.4 NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR URBAN SAFETY OF MEGA CITIES IN ASIA

The Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur along with the Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo held an International Symposium on "New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia" at Agra on October 18-19, 2004. AMDA offered technical support to this symposium. AMDA members from Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Agra Development Authority, National Capital Region Planning Board and Lucknow Development Authority participated in the symposium. From various deliberations during the symposium, it was resolved that there is an urgent need:

1. To bring together academic institutions, researchers and scholars from the Asian region in the areas of design, construction and maintenance of urban infrastructure and those engaged in development of new tools to work together and create awareness towards the latest developments in urban safety for better management of urban assets.
2. To have an Asian forum for decision makers, practicing professionals and researchers to share their expertise in diverse fields such as infrastructure planning and development, application of new technology, non destructive evaluation of structures and rehabilitation methods and to improve

Status of Infrastructure, Cost of Living and Talent Pool in Seven Largest Metropolitan Cities							
Cities	Delhi	Mumbai	Bangalore	Kolkata	Hyderabad	Pune	Abmedabad
Parameters							
1. Infrastructure							
Telecom Connectivity	4	4	4	4	5	4	4
Power Supply	2	4	3	5	4	3	4
Airports and Hotels	4	5	4/3	3	3	2	2
Public	2/1	3	1	2/3	3	1	1
Transport: Roads	4	2/1	1	1	3/4	2	2/3
Housing	4	4/3	3	3/4	3	4	3
2. Cost of Living	2	1	2/3	4	4	3	4
3. Talent Pool	4	4	4	4	4	4/5	3

The ranking is on a scale of 5 (very good) to 1 (very poor). However, in regard to cost of living, the scale is different with 1 for low cost and 5 for high cost.

Source: Nagarpalika Update, Vol. 2, No. 4, July-August 2004.

cooperation and information sharing between professionals in the Asian region, where the problems are quite similar.

3. To synergize across the Asian Region various developments in the field of remote sensing, GIS, GPs and other computational tools to devise new methodologies for management of urban assets and infrastructure to mitigate damage during calamities such as earthquake and floods.
4. To enhance coordination amongst agencies involved within each country in different areas related to safety of urban infrastructure.
5. To impart training to practicing engineers and government agencies in modern tools available for urban safety.

The proceedings of the symposium including invited papers have since been published. A copy of this is available in the library of AMDA.

If members desire copies for their library they may please contact Dr. S. Mishra at the address: Dr. Sudhir Mishra, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Kanpur-2308016, Tel: (91-512) 2597346, Fax: (01-512) 2597395, Email: sud@iitk.ac.in

1.5 EQUITABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Equitable land management is an extremely complex problem around the world, subject to countless legal, administrative, cultural and religious practices; it is

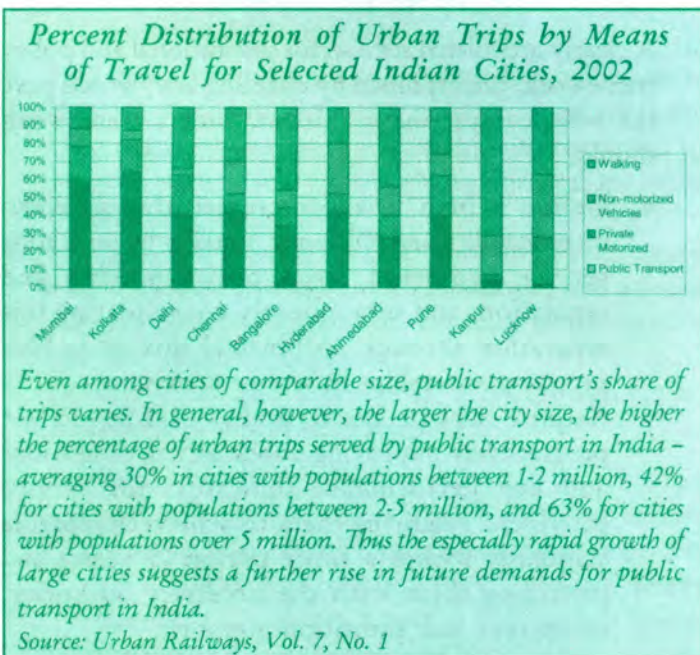
something that has to be addressed by taking in a number of factors simultaneously.

The range from land policy and land use policy, to land tenure including rentals, land registration, land use planning, land information, land management and administration, gender valuation, state and private land governance issues, NGOs and civil society, land tax as well as different forms of capacity building. It is an issue that encompasses the rights of citizens, especially of the dispossessed and the poorest of the poor, those least able to stand up for their rights.

In September 2000, the millennium declaration was adopted by the UN General Assembly. It articulates the commitment of Member States to significantly improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020 – Target 11 of Goal No. 7 – a task monitored by UN-HABITAT. Security of tenure is one of the major indicators to measure progress in achieving this target. The Campaign for Secure Tenure supports partnerships between organized groups of slums dwellers and local governments. By stopping evictions and securing land tenure, the Global Campaign provides a strategic entry point to urban upgrading, based on social and economic justice.

There are three fundamental challenges that need to be tackled when it comes to security of land tenures.

- Firstly, UN-HABITAT believes that conventional titling is not the easiest way to give people tenure security. Instead a range of options could be introduced. To challenge conventional thinking about land registration and cadastral approaches is at this stage very important. The land regulatory framework has to be innovative. Affordable tenures and pro-poor land management systems must be introduced. Conventional titling approaches are generally not affordable to slum dwellers. Flexible systems should be promoted.
- Secondly, decision makers need to have reliable, updated and correct land and spatial information. This information is needed to make decisions on safe drinking water, for the development of roads, the provision of electricity, the management of natural resources, and for raising land based taxes to develop urban areas. The information system should be transparent and open for everyone. They should be useful to all levels of government, especially local authorities



- Finally, there is need to consolidate available knowledge on land management.

There is need to share this information extensively to change the lives of the poor, especially those living in urban slums.

Source: UN-HABITAT Debate, December, 2003.

1.6 NEW W.H.O. GUIDELINES ON CLEAN DRINKING WATER

New recommendations released on 21 September, 2004 by the United Nations World Health Organisation (WHO) aim to ensure the safety of drinking water supplies – everything from what is piped into homes to the rural wells provided to refugee camps in an emergency. The revised Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality (GDWQ) will allow public health management to focus on prevention of microbial and chemical contamination of water supplies.

The new recommended approach for regulators and operators is to manage drinking water quality in a holistic, systematic fashion from source to tap, including by ensuring water reservoirs or local wells are not at risk of contamination from human and animal waste, to checking basics like the regular changing of water filters. The guidelines also include new guidance on their application in specific settings such as emergencies and disasters.

Source: UN Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 59, No. 39, 25 Sep.1 Oct. 2004.

Money Flow:

Composition of funding based on projects under consideration, 2005-2008

Project Heads	US \$ Million
Roads and Highways	2,550
State Water Sector	2,490
Urban Reform, Infrastructure and Development	1,580
Health	1,559
State Structural Adjustment Loans	1,410
Power grid, State Power and Rural Energy Access	1,320
State Livelihoods	662
Education, Childhood Development and Vocational Training	650
Agriculture – technology, Productivity and Competitiveness	640
Hydropower	550
E-governance	500
Forestry, Environment and Clean Energy	468
Slums	350
Rural and SME Financing	270
State Rural Service Delivery	250
Others	474
Total	15,723

Note: The actual lending will be lower, remaining within the overall limit of US \$ 12 billion.

Source: Down to Earth, Vol. 13, No. 11, October 31, 2004.

1.7 URBAN WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES: GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation had designed the Public Private Partnership (PPP) guidelines to sensitize state governments and urban local bodies to the policy and procedural issues that need to be addressed so as to reform urban water supply and sewerage issues. They also seek to:

- Embed an evolving role for the private sector into this broader sector reform.
- Facilitate a systematic assessment of the issues and options for successful private sector participation (PSP); and
- Prevent improperly designed and executed PSP transactions.

Given below is the executive summary of the document posted by the ministry on its website.

- Radical reform of the urban water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector is urgently needed to:
 - Boost economic growth and the well-being of the urban population, especially the 70 million urban poor;
 - Create the institutional and policy framework, which can attract the level of public and private investments needed to fill the rising gap between the demand and supply for modern infrastructure services in a sustainable manner.
- A clearly articulated state sector institutional and policy framework, underpinned by enabling law, would pave the way for systematic reform. Such a framework should:
 - Define a path towards greater transparency, accountability and efficiency, initially by separating service provision from policy-making and regulation, and subsequently consolidating this separation through an optimal mix of public-private partnerships in service provision;
 - Require Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to set progressively improving public service obligations and key performance indicators for service providers, requiring them to achieve acceptable standards within a finite period (5 years) and providing them with the necessary authority, incentives and transition support;

- Define a financing strategy for the sector, detailing a transition plan which complements budget funding with user charges (moving towards cost-recovery tariffs) and seeks to leverage private investment through an effective use of robust cash-flow projections and public guarantees;
 - Introduce specific pro-poor incentives and mechanisms, ensuring that low-income consumers also benefit from service improvements and are able to afford at least a basic level of services;
 - Mitigate adverse impacts of reform on employees, contractors and other legitimate stakeholders;
 - Provide guidance on managing scarce water resources in an equitable manner;
 - Establish principles of economic regulation, creating the regulatory authority when there is a clear demand for its services and the political will for its empowerment;
 - Seek to upgrade the local engineering, construction and consulting industry.
- Implementation of the Policy Framework:
- State governments would create the enabling state-level legal, regulatory and industry structures, stipulate regulatory roles, and establish a Reform Facilitation Team to guide the reform process.
 - Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), with support from the Facilitation Team, would restructure service providers; assess supply costs, tariffs and subsidy requirements; decide on and execute the appropriate form of PSP; and manage the resulting PSP contract.
- PSP transactions should be supported, provided these are consistent with the sector policy framework, have been designed to ensure sustainable improvement in services, particularly to the urban poor, and are being transparently executed.
- Successful PSP would require building the capacity of the ULB to manage the PSP contract and govern the service provider, and the capacity of the state to provide regulatory support.
- In selecting and executing PSP transactions, stakeholders would keep in mind that:
- Benefits from PSP grow as increasing responsibility and risk is transferred to the private partner. While service and management contracts are simpler to execute, they generate fewer benefits than deeper forms of PSP such as leases, concessions and divestitures.
 - Concessions can mobilize much needed capital and high quality human resources, but may be unfeasible until market conditions are better developed.
 - Management contracts can be costly but might be an expedient and cost-effective stepping stone to a deeper form of PSP.
 - All PSP contracts should specify clear obligations to improve services to the poor.
- PSP transactions must be transparent and designed to maximize competition, using reputable advisers to structure, market and execute the transaction. (The full guidelines can be downloaded from Ministry's website www.urbanindia.nic.in.)

Source: *Urban Finance*, Vol. 7, No. 2, June 2004.

1.8 ERADICATION OF POVERTY

In September 2005, world leaders will gather at United Nations Headquarters for a high level event to review progress in implementing the millennium declaration adopted in 2000. But a major breakthrough is still needed to meet the eight Millennium Development Goals derived from the Declaration by the target year of 2015.

In terms of actual progress towards the goals, the data available so far suggest that developing countries fall into three broad groups.

- a) Comprising most of Asia and northern Africa, is largely on track to meet the target of halving extreme poverty and to achieve many of the social targets.
- b) Mainly in West Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, has been making good progress towards some individual goals, such as achieving universal primary education, but has been less successful in reducing poverty.
- c) Largely comprising countries in sub-Saharan Africa but also least developed countries in other regions, are far from making adequate progress on most of the goals.

If a solid statistical picture is drawn of the gains and shortfalls, it should be remembered that the concern is not numbers but individuals: young people at work and out of school, children orphaned by AIDS and other preventable diseases, mothers who die in childbirth, communities affected by environmental degradation. It is well within our power to overcome these and other terrible manifestations of poverty and underdevelopment.



United Nations Deputy Secretary General Louise Frechette has issued a call for stronger ties between the United Nations and businesses in order to reach global anti poverty targets and ensure that the benefits of globalisation are more fairly distributed. She felt that the private sector should create jobs and wealth, to promote trade, investment and stable markets, and to develop new technologies that benefit poor people—all of which if done in the right way, would help achieve progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. She emphasized that business should work with the UN in the spirit of enlightened self-interest.

Ten years from the target date, the goals remain feasible and affordable. But there is need of quantum leap in aid, debt relief and trade concessions on the part of developed countries as expressed in goal number eight. And similarly dramatic changes are needed on the part of developing countries to retool their development programs.

Source: UN Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 59, No. 42, 16-22 October 2004.

1.9 COOPERATIVE HOUSING FOR SLUM DWELLERS

Multiple problems of housing shortage, unemployment and poverty are prevalent in the country. Various estimates show that there is deficiency for about 25 million families, about 35 million people do not have appropriate jobs and over 260 million people are below poverty line. 67 million of them are living in urban areas. Similarly over 40 million people in our towns and cities are living in slums in substandard conditions without adequate access to basic amenities of housing and sanitation. Thus the problems are enormous and calls for concerted efforts to tackle them on a war footing. In this context a National Seminar on 'Cooperative Housing for Slum Dwellers' was organized by the National Cooperative Housing Federation of India on 15th December, 2004.

The august gathering has adopted the following recommendations:

- The Central Government should draw up a comprehensive Centrally Sponsored Scheme for housing the slum dwellers through cooperatives and specific Action Plans and Strategies **should be evolved on priority basis for providing affordable housing facilities** to the slum dwellers and urban poor.
- The Central and State Governments, Urban Local Bodies and Development Authorities **should adopt**

the concept of "Cooperatives of Slum Dwellers and Urban Poor" as a strategy for slum improvement and urban poverty reduction.

- Formation of Multi-purpose Cooperatives among urban poor and slum dwellers **should be encouraged by motivating them through dissemination** of appropriate information and requisite facilitative efforts.
- Land owning agencies in towns and cities **should liberally provide land either free of cost or at reasonable costs** to these cooperatives for their housing activities.
- Density norms prescribed under City Master Plans should be liberalized to **accommodate larger number of EWS/Urban poor families within each unit of allotted land for economizing the cost of their houses.**
- While selecting land for allotment to these cooperatives, **it should be ensured that there would be only minimum dislocation of sources of jobs and income of slum dwellers.**
- Land presently occupied by slums, jhuggis and jhompris which could be declared for residential use under City Master Plans **should be allotted to these cooperatives.**
- Central and State Governments **should create a 'Slum Housing Fund'** for supporting the housing efforts of cooperatives of slum dwellers.
- The Slum Housing Fund **should devise a package of loans and grants** for assisting the slum cooperatives and their housing activities on liberal terms.
- Financing Institutions, State and Central Housing Departments **should provide financial assistance for housing efforts** by these cooperative on **liberal terms and at very low interest rates.**
- Various on-going Central/State housing programmes for WES/Urban Poor and Slum dwellers like Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), National Slum Development Programme (NSDP), etc, **should now converge on to these cooperatives for their effective implementation.**
- The proposed cooperatives of slum dwellers **should be organized and registered under the Cooperative Societies Acts** of respective States/UTs.
- National Cooperative Housing Federation of India which is promoting, guiding and coordinating the cooperative housing activities through out the country and its member apex cooperative housing



- federations in States/UTs in association with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies of States/UTs should draw up a comprehensive model bye-laws for these new set of cooperatives.
- The National Cooperative Housing Federation of India should draw-up a comprehensive educational and training programme for the slum dwellers as well as their organizers, officers and management to properly impart training on management practices, resource generation, cost-effective construction techniques as well as post-construction maintenance and management of community assets and services.
 - A Central Coordination Committee under the aegis of Union Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation should be constituted to apprise and coordinate the programmes of activities of these cooperatives.
 - National Cooperative Housing Federation of India should be designated as the national level monitoring and coordinating agency for the activities of cooperatives of slum dwellers.

Source: *Proceedings of National Seminar on 'Cooperative Housing for Slum Dwellers', organized by NCHF of India, New Delhi.*

1.10 SPEAKING OUT FOR THE URBAN POOR

The two G-words, Globalisation and Governance, go hand in hand. While globalisation has had an impact on our daily lives and the choices we make, the systems and structure of governance allude to those who need them most. But it remains elusive. India has embraced globalisation, but without governance, inequity is exacerbated, and the gulf between those enjoying the benefits of globalisation and those who do not simply widens. Most local authorities have a brewing crisis

on their hands as they begin to find their accountability to the local constituencies means a change in their systems and structures. With conventional wisdom always seeing urban and rural as separate and competitive, the aspirations of the poor in both contexts have suffered. Clearly, the present paradigm of development is not empowering the poor; it is not setting policy and practices that lay foundations to fulfill people's aspirations and it is definitely not addressing issues of equity and social justice.

Whether it is a grassroots NGO or a big organization, all have to constantly focus on issues of equity and social justice. It is eight years since world leaders adopted the *Habitat Agenda*, yet grappling with macro calculations. But what is happening on the ground? The horror of demolitions will continue, the poor are streaming into cities, agricultural practices and land reforms fail the poor in rural areas, while the hostility of cities driven by market and investment compulsions becomes more and more hostile to the poor.

Embracing change, aspiring to make a difference and creating institutional mechanisms to do so are the need of the hour, and all voluntary sectors will have to take the plunge to explore innovation that helps the poor explore the risky business of getting empowered. There is need to make the *Habitat Agenda* work at a scale that produces a demand for governance and equity. Most vital need is to create the bridge between the institutions of the state and the poor to make development accountable to issues of poverty.

A case study by Mrs. Sheela Patel, the founding Director of SPARC, an NGO working with the National Slum Dwellers Federation and Mahila Milan two Community-based Organisations working in more than 50 cities in India.

Source: *Habitat Debate*. Vol. 10. No.2 June 2004

Women's Rule should be extended

The position of women sarpanchs in Panchayati Raj institutions might soon be reserved for more than five years if the resolution passed at the national round table on panchayati raj, held at Raipur in Chattisgarh on September 24-25, 2004, is translated into practice. The roundtable has left it to the state government to decide on this recommendation. This was the third in the series of seven roundtables being held in different parts of the country to evolve a consensus on amendments to be made in the Panchayati Raj Act.

Currently, in a reserved constituency, panchayats get a chance on rotation basis to elect a woman sarpanch for a period of five years. Those supporting the extension of tenure argued that it would enable women representatives fight gender bias and complete development works. But the opponents of the provision said if it is implemented, many panchayats would have to wait for a very long time to be able to avail the benefits of the reservation. A few states like Tamil Nadu have already extended the reservation for women sarpanchs to 10 years.

The roundtable also passed a resolution on fixing the reservation for scheduled Caste / Tribes in panchayats bodies based on their population in respective panchayats, and not the district population data.

Source: *Down to Earth*, Vol. 13, No. 11, October 31, 2004.



2. STATE INITIATIVES

2.1 A STEP TOWARDS GOOD GOVERNANCE

Devised by State IT Department, Kerala, this single window system-FRIENDS (fast – reliable – instant – effective – network for distribution of services) is considered as a service centre where one can pay the numerous bills.

In this project, the consumer is given the option of paying for the common services rendered to him under a single roof. It is Janasevanamkendram for integrated citizen service centre of the State. It came into being in 1999, in association with local bodies. The center functions as a 'reliable' counter to remit utility bill payments, submit applications, seek information on government programs and schemes and access other special services. Its functions are equally user-friendly.

The key to the success of such projects is the comfortable ambience provided to the users and that is the underlying emphasis in this project. The center has a help desk, which provides information on the remittances and also has a facility to record suggestions/ complaints. These are then seriously reviewed regularly and corrective measures suggested/ undertaken.

FRIENDS centers are currently intended to function as per the principle of "Collect & Remit" and "Receive" and "Forward" methods. It uses server client architecture, consisting of a network of a powerful server and 10-20 clients. The server holds the database and the computer terminals installed in each of the counters have equal access to the database. This ensures that the services are not only fast, reliable and instant but also efficient.

As per the prevailing system, the customers consumers clients are issued a bill/ demand notice by the concerned agency providing services based on which the various regional offices of the agency collect the payment. The project envisages facilitating the collection of various payments within the specified area limit like corporation, municipality, etc. at one single centre.

FRIENDS software is a customized package with a strong and effective database as the back end and an appropriate user-friendly front end to expedite transactions. Adequate provisions have been incorporated even at the user level to roll back the incorrect entries without affecting the database. The program is also equipped to handle and check redundancies and thereby avoiding the duplication of records.

The FRIENDS centres are currently operational at 13 out of 14 district headquarters of Kerala. The employees deputed from participating departments who function as service officer, irrespective of their designation in the parent department manage the counters.

Source: IIPA Newsletter, Vol. XLVIII, No. 9, Sep. 2004.

2.2 LOWERED STAMP DUTY IN MAHARASHTRA

The Maharashtra government announced a reduction in stamp duty, with effect from July 1, 2004, seems designed only to make players in the commercial and high-end residential segment smile.

Value of Property	After Amendment (Stamp Paper)
Less than Rs. 1 lakh	Nil
Rs. 1 lakh – Rs. 2.5 lakh	0.5% of the value
Rs. 2.5 lakh – Rs. 5 lakh	Rs. 1,250 + 3% of the value above Rs. 2.5 lakh
Rs. 5 lakh – Rs. 15 lakh	Rs. 8,750 + 5% of the value above Rs. 5 lakh
Above Rs. 15 lakh	Rs. 8,750 + 5% of the value above Rs. 5 lakh

For commercial properties, the duty has been slashed from 10 percent to 5 percent. While for residential properties, the duty has been brought down from 8 percent to 5 percent.

The state government has announced a set format for leave and license agreements for commercial properties. The government has proposed three slabs for leave and license:

- If the leave and license agreement is for less than 33 months, the money spent in stamp duty and registration would be Rs. 1,100 for registration.
- For agreements period over 33 months upto 10 years, the stamp duty will be computed as five percent of three times average annual rent.
- For agreements over 10 years and up to 29 years, the stamp duty will be 5 percent of five times the average annual rent.

Source: Lallson Properties Bulletin, Vol. VII, Issue 10, October 2004

2.3 NARMADA WATER FOR 16 NAGARPALIKAS

The 16 nagarpalikas of the western part of Ahmedabad city will be getting water from the Narmada canal from March-April 2005. The Ahmedabad Development

Authority (AUDA) will be charging a one-time installation charge for the first year. For the first year, AUDA proposes to charge a monthly rate of Rs. 200-300 per household for which AUDA will be paying Rs. 150 as cost to the Narmada canal authorities. AUDA proposes to supply 140 litres of water per person per day.

Source: *Indian Infrastructure*, Vol. 7, No.42, November 2004

2.4 PORT-BASED SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES IN KERALA

The union government has given approval to the Cochin Port Trust for setting up a Rs.15 billion port-based special economic zone (SEZ) at Vallarpadam, on an area of about 450 hectares. The port-based SEZ would cater to the transshipment of mother vessels, which currently takes place through Colombo port.

The Kerala government has decided to add a free trade and warehousing zone to the Rs.20 billion port-based SEZ in Kochi. State-level facilitation for the centre's port-based SEZ in Kochi was cleared in July, 2004. The incentives for the SEZ will be open to any investor putting in over Rs.1 billion on the 5 million square feet area, earmarked for the project.

Source: *Indian Infrastructure*, Vol. 7, No. 2, Sept. 2004

Improved Sanitation Services

The three Indian cities of Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore are now providing slum dwellers with improved toilets through a partnership of municipal bodies, provisional governments, NGOs, community organizations and slum dwellers themselves. The idea is to reduce the number of residents per toilet, and the walking distance to a toilet. Each facility is planned, designed, constructed and managed by the slum dwellers, with a high involvement of women. This ensures that the infrastructure meets local needs, and that the residents themselves gain new skills in infrastructure design, construction and supervision.

An additional and important benefit is the de facto recognition of the community's right to security of tenure providing toilets in the selected communities amounts to tacit recognition by governmental authorities that these settlements exist and are there to stay. By involving community organizations in the entire process, residents are recognized as stakeholders in local development.

Source: *Habitat Debate*, Vol. 10, No. 2, June 2004.

3. CITY INITIATIVES

3.1 PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPROVING MUNICIPAL EFFECTIVENESS

The Public Private Partnership between the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) and Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF) is more than three years old. During this period, these organizations have collaborated on a number of initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life in the city. While all partnerships have some difficulties, the outcomes of these efforts of BMP and BATF are truly impressive.

BATF was essentially the private side of the partnership. The public partners were the seven stakeholders: i) Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP), ii) Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), iii) Bangalore City Police (BCP), iv) Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC), v) Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), vi) Bharat Sanchar Nagar Limited (BSNL), and vii) Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM).

The BMP saw this PPP initiative as a tremendous opportunity as it would infuse fresh thinking, new ideas, innovations, and also to some extent financing especially for pilot projects, experiments etc. Several approaches were adopted to provide value addition in terms of pilot projects with a hands on approach e.g. Swachha Bangalore; and to provide intellectual inputs to systemize or bench mark to process, as in Self Assessment Schemes (SAS), and Fund Based Accounting System (FBAS).

The engagement between BMP and BATF started in four areas:

- a) *Road Infrastructure Projects*: BATF played the role of facilitator. It was responsible for setting up an inter stakeholder forum to look at road and traffic projects involving more than one stakeholder. BATF formed the mechanism to address the traffic problems jointly by the various stakeholders viz. BMP, BCP, and BMTTC through Traffic Review Action Committee (TRAC).
- b) *Public Health and Sanitation*: BATF helped in raising funds through mobilizing corporate resources for the projects. BATF project teams actively participated in the monitoring and supervision of the projects involved.
- c) *Fund Based Accounting System*: A project team of BATF was assigned on the full-scale consultancy for the development of an accounting system (Accounting Reforms).

- d) Other Citizen Centric Measures: BATF played advisory role in BMP's initiative of introducing citizen-centric measures in areas such as property tax assessment, building plan approvals, Self Assessment System etc.

Results Achieved:

- *Swachha Bangalore*: The BMP staff cooperated wholeheartedly with the BATF team to introduce the concepts developed in this initiative. Their assessment is that this partnership effort has improved the performance of the sanitation staff and citizens are happy with the outcome.
- *Nirmala Bangalore*: The 'Pay and Use' toilets constructed under this initiative are no doubt exceptionally good, though quite costly. Therefore, the BMP has started constructing its public toilets using similar design and concept but at lower cost. Thus, there has been a positive effect on the BMP.
- *Fund-based Accounting System*: The BMP has adopted this modern system of accounting and they are satisfied. It would have been difficult to undertake this project on their own. With the help of this ever Performance Budget by any urban local body.
- *Other Citizen Centric Measures*: The opinion of top officials of BMP is that the partnership with BATF has been beneficial for the corporation.

Lessons Learnt:

Both partners in this PPP experiment have learned important lessons. From the perspective of BMP, these are:

- The private sector can make valuable contribution in the form of financial and knowledge inputs for raising the quality of urban governance.
- The success of PPP depends on the willingness of the participants to be flexible and not rigid in their attitude.
- The public partner has to judge what is beneficial in terms of improving their performance and accept the necessary changes. On the other hand, some of the changes being advocated may not be in the larger public interest and these should not be accepted.
- From the perspective of the BATF teams, the important lessons of this PPP experience are: PPP initiatives need a champion on both sides, preferably the head of the organization.

- Corporate and citizen involvement is extremely important in urban governance. PPP is the appropriate framework to achieve this.
- The private partner should be aware that their role is to facilitate the public partner's goal.
- PPP will work if it's a win-win situation. Cooperation, common goals and teamwork are essential for this approach to work.

Source: *Urban Finance*. Vol. 7, No. 2, June 2004.

3.2 I.T. FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE

Delhities will soon be getting hassle-free and fast disposal of civic services after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between e-Governance Foundation of Bangalore and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to enable information technology in all the departments of the MCD. With implementation of these services in all functions of the MCD, people and government interface is being expected to be hassle-free and transparent besides increasing efficiency of civic services. It will not just benefit citizens but also administration as more revenues

Major change of Land Use

In a relief to hundreds of small industrial unit owners and their employees, the Centre has decided not to relocate industries from areas with more than 70 per cent of manufacturing activity in the national capital. The government has decided to accept the suggestion of a sub-group on industrial sector for the master plan of Delhi 2021 that clusters having more than 70 per cent of manufacturing activity could be developed as industrial area. The sub-group was one of the 12 constituted by the Delhi Development Authority for preparation of the master plan. Headed by Dilip Biswas, it comprised representatives of central pollution board, planning department of DDA, CII and Delhi factory owners.

It had recommended permission to turn clusters in non-conforming areas having concentration of more than 70 percent units engaged in industrial activity into industrial areas. Proper parameters and norms for this purpose would be finalized soon, official sources said; adding amendments would be made in the existing master plan 2001 for the purpose. Redevelopment of the clusters, according to this amendment, would be taken up after proper survey, identification and verification of boundaries as of today. It was also decided to include 18 more activities in the list of permissible household industries.

Source: *Lallson Properties Bulletin*, vol. VIII, Issue 11, November 2004.

can be collected and proper records of spending would be maintained.

The MoU will further the process of IT application in areas of property tax, public grievances, GIS applications and fund based accounting. Other initiatives being implemented are in the MCD's website for booking of community halls, parks and payment of taxes. The GIS applications, being developed, will be used for property tax, civil works, and horticulture and building departments. Few municipalities like Karnataka are the only ones, which use such an application to keep track of their properties. To use GIS application, base maps would be taken from the National Informatics Centre and serial photographs would be used. The system is expected to take some time to be developed and on completion would aid in mapping covered areas of properties, monitoring roads and drains, keeping records of public lands, planning new projects, parks and gardens amongst others.

Source: IIPA Newsletter, Vol. XLVIII, No. 9, Sept. 2004.

3.3 NO MORE DUMPING

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has asked the capital's hospitality industry to own responsibility for the waste it produces. The industry has to establish a waste segregation system by putting separate garbage bins for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste. MCD has warned more than 500 major hotels of the city, along with small restaurants and dhabas (eateries), that it will levy a fine of Rs. 5,000 per violation for not following waste segregation.

The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) has been asked to chalk out a waste management action plan for the sector. This plan will serve as a blue-print for hotels and restaurants. It is noteworthy that the five-star hotels of the city alone generate 100 to 150 tonnes of waste every month. Addressing a workshop on "Waste Management and Disposal in Hotels and Restaurants" MCD commissioner Rakesh Mehta said that the fact should be accepted by the hospitality industry also that the polluters pay principal works all over the world.

The situation of medical waste is deteriorating with the increasing pace of urbanization. Most of the hospitals in Delhi have not implemented the **Bio-Medical Waste Rules** and are violating these rules and ignoring the **Supreme Court Order of 1995**. Improper segregation, lack of finance, inadequate and untrained staff and lack of waste treatment facilities compel the Delhi government

to pay more attention to medical waste management. The following measures are suggested:

- The Delhi government should provide financial assistance to those who cannot afford the cost of such high technologies like incinerators, autoclaves, etc. instead of providing centralized bio-medical treatment facilities. Regular monitoring and supervision is needed to check the misuse of funds provided for the treatment of waste.

E-waste: a rising burden to Local Bodies

Electronic discards are a municipal problem due to low awareness and outdated methods of recycling and disposal.

Electronic waste, techno-trash: Refuse from discarded electronic devices like PCs, computer accessories etc.

Contains: Lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, plastic, PVC, BFRs, barium, beryllium, and carcinogens like carbon black and heavy metals.

Dangers: Dumped in poorly managed landfill sites or recycled, pose health risks. Land-filled or incinerated, it poses contamination problems. About 70 percent of the heavy metals found in land-fills come from e-waste.

Sources of e-waste: Over 70 percent from imports from other countries used computers from countries like the United States, Singapore and South Korea and public and private sector discards. 50 to 80 percent of the e-waste collected in US is sent to Asia, mainly to China, India, and Pakistan for recycling.

Legal problem: No recycling facilities and no law to govern the disposal of e-waste.

The Solutions:

- *Evolve and implement adequate legislation and ban electronic scrap from being imported from other countries to India.*
- *Create awareness at the national level. Computers must become 'greener' - Adopt product design solutions for longevity, upgrade, repair and re-use, and minimize toxins in production. Give manufacturers and users incentives to upgrade or reuse computer hardware instead of discarding it.*
- *Estimate the current status of e-waste generation through baseline studies.*
- *Develop a knowledge base to come up with solutions for recycling and reducing harmful effects. Evolve a standard model for e-waste monitoring and tracking at city, state and national levels.*
- *Promote environment friendly e-waste management by training municipal officials, public health engineers and pollution control boards.*

Source: Good Governance India, Vol. 1 No. 4 September-October, 2004.

- There should be a stress on minimizing of waste.
- Proper segregation should identify waste according to source and type of disposal or disinfection.
- There is a need to allocate a separate budget for waste management.
- There should be regular checks of incinerators and other equipment for the safe disposal of waste.

Source: *Down to Earth*, Vol. 13, No. 14, December 15, 2004 and *Indian Infrastructure*, Vol. 7, No. 6, January 2005

3.4 RULES OF LAL DORA LAND CHANGED

All the glitzy showrooms and housing apartments that had come up on the so-called village land in different areas in Delhi could come under the hammer. A recent office order issued by MCD Commissioner strikes down the 1963 notification – which allowed one to construct on Lal Dora land (rural village land) without getting the building plan sanctioned by the Corporation.

The order plugs the legal loophole at MCD's end and would put a stop to the free-run being enjoyed by shopping malls and multi-storied apartments that were coming up in rural villages in a big way. The MCD realized that instead of helping the villagers to set up their houses, the notification was being used by builders to erect hi-tech showrooms.

The order, issued in mid September directs all zonal engineers to ensure that no building activity – which is not in consonance to the building bye-laws or is contrary to the provisions of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act – takes place in Lal Dora / extended Lal Dora land. Except for residential properties, one would have to now seek MCD's approval while carrying out any type of construction on Lal Dora land. The office order has been issued in pursuance to a High Court directive.

Source: *Lallson Properties Bulletin*, Vol. VII, Issue 10, October 2004.

3.5 GARBAGE DISPOSAL PLAN TO MAKE MCD RICHER BY 7.53 BILLION

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has come up with an ambitious master plan, spread over 20 years, which would help the civic body to make a tidy profit of Rs 7.53 billion from garbage disposal and treatment. The implementation of the plan, broken into five year terms, would allow the corporation's Conservancy and Sanitation Engineering (CSE) department to proceed in a logical manner regarding garbage collection, treatment and disposal through public-private partnership.

Source: *Urban Finance*, Vol. 7, No. 2, June 2004.

Green Ganesh

Bangalore's lakes were spared the annual deluge of toxic Ganesh idols during this year's Ganesh Utsav, the Hindu festival. Instead of immersing the idols in the lakes, people immersed them in mobile tanks, provided by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), civic agencies and the Lake Development Authority. In Chennai, the Madras High Court had issued an interim order banning the immersion of idols of Ganesh made of plaster of paris or other chemical into the sea.

The idea behind the tank in Bangalore was to introduce people to the concept of immersing the idols at home. Rashmi Mahesh, member secretary of KSPCB said that last year they found traces of lead, arsenic and heavy metals in the waters after the festival. This year they wanted to popularize mobile vans so that by the next year people immerse idols in a bucket of water in their own homes.

The KSPCB plied four mobile tanks with an immersion capacity of 2,500 liters and 100 idols to circumnavigate four areas of the city. The water from the mobile tanks would be treated in the board's common effluent treatment plant and used for watering its Urban Eco Park. The Bangalore Development Authority used 25 tanks to protect the Lalbagh Lake while the Bangalore City Corporation plied three tanks to protect Sankey, Ulsoor and Yediyur lakes. It also constructed small water receptacles for the immersions. Around 75 percent immersions took place in these tanks.

Tests conducted by the KSPCB have established the toxicity of painted idols. In its order, the Madras High Court also called for using clay idols, sans paints and plaster of paris, saying this would be in "consonance" with nature. The paints, varnish and other such materials used on the idols have been linked with skin, eye, and lung infections.

Source: *Down to Earth*, Vol. 13, No. 10, October 15, 2004.

3.7 GDA BUILDING NORMS

The construction of multi-storied houses in plots allotted for single homes has wrecked Ghaziabad's infrastructure.

The Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) and the district administration have now imposed a ban on the registration of such homes. The problem is prevalent in places like Shalimar Garden, Shayam Park and Vaishali.

Source: *Lallson Properties Bulletin*, vol. VIII, Issue 11, November 2004.

4. NEWS IN BRIEF

4.1 CHINA SHUNS GREEN VEHICLE

The Chinese fetish for bicycles is ending. While the country's new middle class already prefers cars, a recent government move also indicated the same preferences. It cancelled the bicycle registration requirement, a step viewed as de-recognising the two-wheeler as a "transportation tool".

Car numbers have risen rapidly in Beijing and environmentalists believe the newly widened boulevards, flyovers and ring roads indicate government's transportation priorities. Bicycle accidents and conversion of bicycle lanes into car lanes and parking spaces are increasingly common. In addition, car prices are reducing. The Chinese government also announced its plan to develop the public transportation system, including buses, subways, taxis, and ferries, in urban areas to fight traffic congestion.

Source: *Down to Earth*, Vol. 13, No. 14, Dec. 15, 2004.

4.2 WORLD BANK ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL ROADS

The World Bank has approved a \$400 million assistance package for the development of rural roads. The loan will support the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). This is the first assistance from the Bank for the national program on rural roads.

Source: *Indian Infrastructure*, Vol. 7, No.3, October 2004.

4.3 RESTRAINT IN DECLARING NEW NHs

The Planning Commission has advised the government to exercise restraint in declaring new National Highways (NHs) since indiscriminate declaration has caused a

Fast Denuding:

Forests have depreciated most in regions with developing countries.

Region	Forest cover change 1990-2000	
	Average Percent	'000 Hectares
Africa	-0.78	-5,262
Asia	-0.07	-364
Oceania	-0.18	-365
North and Central America	-0.10	-570
South America	-0.41	-3,711
Europe	-0.08	881
World	-0.22	-9,391

Source: *Down to Earth*, Vol. 13, No. 11, Oct. 31, 2004

backlog of incomplete highways. It has also suggested wider adoption of the toll-based build-operate-transfer (BOT) model instead of the annuity approach for highways development through the public-private partnership (PPP) mode. According to the commission, the response to PPPs has been limited so far with a total of 48 projects worth Rs.89.4 billion being developed through the route.

Source: *Indian Infrastructure*, Vol. 7, No.4, Nov. 2004

4.4 AMIDST GREAT CHANGES FAMILIES REMAIN RESILIENT

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan at the General Assembly session marking the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Family said that families are resilient to far-reaching changes in their size and structure but government must do their part to protect society's smallest unit. Spurred on by global integration, he said that earlier people lived in extended families but today they live increasingly in nuclear families and cited decreasing fertility rates, increasing life expectancy, delayed marriage and growing numbers of people living alone as the contributing factor.

Mr. Annan said that the traditional gender roles continue to evolve, as more women work outside the home and more men contribute to the work within it. The AIDS epidemic is creating more orphans and imposing more burdens on grandparents, while migration in search of opportunities could keep family members apart for a very long time. He added that in spite of strains and adversity families are proving resilient, often in remarkable way. They do their best to pull together and continue serving

Taipei Building is World's Tallest

A global architectural group has declared the Taipei 101 skyscraper in Taiwan's capital is world's tallest building.

The 1,679-foot-tall, 101-storey skyscraper is 184 feet taller than the previous record-holder, the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Taipei 101 also claims a hat trick for having the highest structural top, tallest roof and the highest occupied floor.

It also has two of the world's fastest elevators, which travel 3,333 feet per minute and can go from the ground floor to the 89th floor in 39 seconds.

To determine a building's height, the council measures from the sidewalk level of the main entrance to the skyscraper's architectural top, which can include a penthouse, tower, spire or pinnacle. Flagpoles and antennas are not included.

Source: Lallson Properties Bulletin, vol. VIII, Issue 11, November 2004.

as a source of strength and inspiration for their members. He said that governments should integrate family concerns with broader development and poverty eradication efforts. It should not be forgotten that family is a vital partner in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the many other objectives set by the international community during the last decade. The MDGs are a set of time bound targets for tackling major global ills by the year 2015.

Source: UN Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 59, No. 50, 11-17 December 2004.

4.5 SNOWFALL IN DUBAI AND GRASS IN ANTARCTICA

For the first time ever, in December, 2004, Arab Emirates snow fall took place, leaving a white blanket over the mountains of Ras-al-Khaimah as the desert country experienced a cold spell and above average rainfall. The mountain cluster, 1,737 metres above sea level, had heavy nighttime snowfall as a result of temperatures dropping to minus five.

This is the latest episode of freakish weather. Grass is growing in Antarctica for the first time in December 2004, 25,000 people have died of heat wave in Europe, while raging fires have destroyed thousands of miles of forests in Indonesia and Borneo. The World, in short, seems to be going topsy-turvy.

Scientists say that global warming - thought to be accelerated by the emission of greenhouse gases. The World Meteorological Organisation estimates that the

number of extreme events has doubled in the last ten years. A major reason for all of these is that temperatures around the world have been rising steadily, and faster than ever in the recorded past. Average global temperatures increased by 0.6 C in the last century, and are now increasing at an even faster 0.1C every decade.

The ten hottest years in recorded history have occurred since 1990-1998 was the warmest, and 2004 the fourth warmest. The October month (2004) was the warmest October ever. The Arctic region is growing warmer at four times that rate, which means melting ice caps.

According to NASA, the polar ice cap is now melting at an alarming rate of 9% per decade. Arctic ice thickness has decreased 40% since the 1960s. the current pace of sea level rise is three times the historical rate and appears to be accelerating.

Scientists estimate that the sea level will rise by an additional 19 inches by 2100, and perhaps by as much as 37 inches. Some reports suggest that as many as 2 billion people might be at risk of flooding by 2050.

Rising temperatures also have an ecological effect - a recent study found that at least 279 species of plants and

Flyover in 36 hrs !!!

Delhi government is seriously considering on the proposal to construct a flyover in 36 hours at the ITO crossing. Jitendra Gupta, an engineer from IIT, Roorkee, whose construction company, Krishna Consultants, may undertake the project if the government finally approves it. He says it is plain and simple technology. He said that he would be getting technical support from Technology Implementation Group, Texas, of the American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials.

He said that the proposal to construct the 1-km long flyover was based on prefabrication technology. This would mean that the framework assembly, concrete casting and other tasks associated with the bridge construction would be done off-site in a controlled environment. The technology involves putting pre-fabricated units at the designated place within 36 hours. As the drilling of one pillar takes around 12 hours, several teams are pressed to raise a pillar and the total time does not exceed the stipulated hours. The cost of the flyover is expected to be 10 per cent more and its life would be three times higher than conventional ones.

He also claimed that he would be using high-performance concrete of 700 kg per centimeter square, which has only recently been invented and is in use in USA. In India low/medium strength concrete of 250 kg per centimeter square is used which takes long to dry and strengthen.

Source: The Indian Express, and Times of India, New Delhi Edition, January 7, 2005.

animals are already responding to global warming – species' geographic ranges have shifted towards the poles at an average rate of 4 miles per decade and their spring events have shifted earlier by an average of 2 days per decade. In even further reaching consequences, studies have shown that volcanic landslides that generate huge and devastating tsunamis tend to occur during historically warmer times on Earth.

Source: *The Times of India, New D. Edition, Dec. 31, 2004.*

5. PUBLICATIONS

5.1 TOOLS TO SUPPORT TRANSPARENCY IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Author: Transparency International and UN-HABITAT

Category: Global Issues and Strategies

The publication is a guide for all urban stakeholders – policy makers, professionals, private sector, civil society organizations and concerned citizens – working to improve the quality of life in their cities.

For details see: www.unhabitat.org

5.2 THE FUTURE OF CITIES

Author: UEFB

Category: Global Issues and Strategies

The Future of Cities was one of the five key parallel events held during the Nineteenth Session of the UN-HABITAT Governing council in May 2003. The objective of the parallel event was to explore and discuss how cities are likely to develop in the twenty-first century.

For details see: www.unhabitat.org

6. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

➤ **International Conference on Achieving Innovation and Best Practices in Urban Management.**

8-9 March 2005

Ipoh City, State of Perak,
Malaysia.

Website: <http://www.innobp-urban.org>

➤ **ISoCaRP Seminar on Innovative Communities.**

13-15 March 2005

Riverside, CA, USA

Website: www.isocarp.org

➤ **4th International Conference and National Convention of Mayors on “City Development and Management Strategies – Problems and Prospects**

3-5 March, 2005

Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

contact: Website: www.goodgovernanceindia.com

➤ **International Seminar: Outsourcing of Engineering Consultancy in Global Scenario**

18-19 March 2005

New Delhi.

contact:

Seminar Secretariat, Consulting Engineers Association of India

Core 4-B, 2nd Floor, India Habitat Centre,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

E-mail: cengr@del2.vsnl.net.in Website: www.ceaindia.org

➤ **Symposium Design for the City, Globalisation and Local Identities**

7-9 April 2005

Bordeaux, France

Website: www.bordeaux.archi.fr/bmb/

➤ **A National Seminar on an Intellectual Exercise – “The Earth Vision 2020”**

16-17 April, 2005

The Queen Hills, Ooty,

Sponsored & Organised by

Good Shepherd International School, Ooty.

For details contact: National Seminar Secretariat

C/o Good Shepherd International School,

Ootacamund, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu,

Website: www.theearth-vision2020.org

➤ **United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific Regional Section (UCLG-ASPAC)**

April 26-29, 2005

2005 Conference

Daegu, Korea.



*Wishing you A Happy
and Prosperous
New Year*

AMDA

GUEST HOUSE AND CONFERENCE FACILITIES

AMDA has a Guest House in its building at 7/6, Sirifort Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi 49. The basic aim of running the guest house is to provide accommodation facilities to the officers of Member organizations who visit Delhi. The Guest House has 10 Air-Conditioned rooms i.e. 3 single bedded, 5 double bedded, 1 tripple bedded and 1 four bedded. All the rooms have attached bathrooms with 24 hour hot/cold water supply. There is one common sitting/dinning lobby where a Colour T.V. has been provided. The Guest House also has one Kitchenette to provide bed tea/coffee to the occupants. Break-fast / lunch / dinner can be arranged on request. Good quality restaurants are situated at 5-minute walkable distance. The **REVISED TARIFF** for the Guest Rooms (w.e.f. April 1. 2003), is as under :-

S. No.	Category	Charges for rooms for each 24 hours or part thereof			
		Room with Single Bed	Room with Double Bed	Room with Three Beds	Room with Four Beds
A	Guests not on duty	500	700	800	900
B	Guests on duty from member Authorities and from ASRTU.	250	350	400	450

- For Category B, a letter of authority for room allotment from the member organisation is required.

AMDA also has a Conference Room with a seating capacity of 25. The Conference Room is compact and provided with Overhead Projector and Slide Projector. It also has a dining lobby with small Kitchenette to serve lunch / tea / coffee etc. to the users of the Conference room. The tariff for Conference room is as under:-

- Full Day : Rs. 1200/- per day*
- Half Day (pre lunch or post lunch) : Rs. 800/-
- For Members and ASRTU : 50% of above rates

*Sunday and holidays 15% extra.

For booking of the above Guest House and Conference Room facilities, requisition can be sent to Shri S.R.Kashyap, Administrative Officer at AMDA office.

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS OF AMDA

- Urban Services Delivery in India : Toolkit for Contract Management. (Rs. 250/-)
- Simplification of Urban Development Control Regulations and Incorporation of Heritage Regulations in Urban Development Plans; AMDA Annual Conference 2000. (Rs. 500/-)
- Urban Governance and Management of Urban Environment. Proceedings of Consultation Organised by AMDA. (Rs. 300/-)
- Infrastructure Financing : Mechanisms and Issues Proceedings and Papers Presented at Seminar Organised by AMDA (Rs.300/-)
- Knowledge Base for Good Urban Governance: Proceedings and Papers Presented at Seminar Organised by AMDA (Rs.100/-)
- The Future of Metropolitan Planning Committees - AMDA annual conference 2001 proceedings (Rs. 200/-)
- States/UTs of India - a Profile - an AMDA in house research study (Rs. 1,000/-)
- Catering to a Metropolitan Area Vision - 2021 - AMDA Annual Conference 2003 proceedings (Rs. 300/-)
- The Municipal Ward as the basic Urban Planned Development Area - an AMDA seminar proceedings (Rs. 200/-)

Interested Organisations/Individuals/Professionals who wish to purchase publication(s) may send the Demand Draft drawn in favour of "Association of Urban Management and Development Authorities" adding postage charges of Rs.50/- inland and US\$ 12 for overseas per report to the Director at :



ASSOCIATION OF URBAN MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES (AMDA)

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AMDA NEWS JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2005