



AMDA NEWS

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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 organisations on varied urban issues. As part of our efforts in expanding access to information, AMDA has launched its web site named www.amdaindia.org from July 2004. Readers can now more easily access us by visiting our site. AMDA is also pleased to inform readers that Shri A.K. Mago has been appointed Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra. Our congratulations to him. We would miss him as Chairman AMDA. We are also pleased to inform our readers that his successor as Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA is Dr. Suresh Joshi, who would be the new Chairman AMDA. The AMDA community welcomes Dr. Joshi as its Chairman.

This issue highlights the policies and strategies on the demand of 'States Reorganisation Commission', role of good governance on slums, Sanghai Declaration to reduce poverty, the Urban Millennium Partnership on localizing Millennium Development Goals and the reforms to meet these goals. The need of GIS in urban development, India's concern on Global Warming and ICLIE's Cities for Climate Protection programme are also reported. An interesting view on tourism and an overview of Indian Railways also finds place in this newsletter.

We next present the impact assessment of 74th CAA in Madhya Pradesh and the reforms in water and sewerage charges in Punjab.

The City initiative section reports on the successful experiences towards energy efficiency by Vadodara Municipal Corporation, new garbage techniques by Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the unit area method of collecting property tax in Delhi. Beside these there are reports on first floating hotel of India in Kolkata, how DDA kiosks for monitoring land, videography of public land in Delhi and some suggestions on the transport system for Delhi. A number of news on the development of various urban sectors are also briefly reported.

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. We also request readers to send us any information or news that they might want to share through this newsletter.

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

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AMDA NEWS — INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION & DISSEMINATION



1. POLICY AND STRATEGY ISSUES

1.1 SMALLER UNITS LEAD TO HEALTHIER DEMOCRACY (editorial in the Times of India)

Times View: The demand for a new 'States Reorganization Commission' is consistent with the emergence of new interest groups in the polity. Regions like Telengana and Vidarbha have for long complained about their political and economic interests being ignored by the governments in Hyderabad and Mumbai. The key problem is one of delivering good governance. Smaller administrative units are easier to manage and are better placed to address the local concerns. Moreover, the creation of new states will also provide ample space for smaller players in national politics.

It is a misplaced fear that the emergence of new states would lead to fragmentation of the polity. The creation of new administrative units has been a continuous process since Independence. The first State Reorganisation Committee in 1956 addressed the question of linguistic identities, which was a major concern in the south. In the time, the same logic led to the creation of Punjab in the north and Maharashtra in the western India. The division of Assam in the 1970s as also the creation of Jharkhand, Chattisgarh and Uttranchal in the 1990s was a response to a different demand: Accommodation of strong cultural and ethnic identities. There is no empirical evidence to suggest that these divisions have led to any increase in social tension. On the contrary, the new states have been successful in containing socially diverse tendencies by taking on board the interests of hitherto marginalized sections of population. This has led to a more equitable distribution of political power as well as economic resources. The process needs to be encouraged.

Times Counter View: The principal argument in favour of smaller state is that of regional imbalance. Due to unequal priority given to different regions within a state, some parts remain inevitably neglected. Independent statehood is touted as a remedy for such lopsided development. But there is little evidence to suggest that the creation of smaller states has actually resolved the issue. Part of the reason for this is the nature 'of our political system, which is more unitary than federal in structure. This means that the power to decide on some of the most important issues facing a state, particularly in the fiscal domain, vests with the center. For all practical purposes, then, states are no more than administrative units with little authority to act as agents of change. All that the carving out of new states really achieves is to further empower the political and economic elite of the region.

For the people, this eventually translates into nothing more than having a different set of rulers, albeit ones who are physically less distant than before. On the flip side, the creation of smaller states is usually accompanied, indeed necessitated, by the emergence of powerful local movements based on narrow ethnic identities. This often leads to violent discrimination against the so-called outsiders. The way forward, then, lies not in redrawing of old political boundaries but in genuine devolution of administrative powers and financial resources to panchayati raj institutions. Finally the Indian preference for smaller states comes at a time when the world is moving in the opposite direction. In other words, when established nation-states are increasingly gravitating towards a world of soft borders in which the fluid logic of economic integration far outweighs the old rigid ideas of political sovereignty.

Source: Editorial in The Times of India, New Delhi edition, May 27, 2004.



1.2 COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE WORKING OF WARDS COMMITTEES

A one-day Workshop on "Comparative Study of the Working of Wards Committees and Bhagidari Scheme of Delhi" was held on March 9, 2004 at the Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), New Delhi. The workshop discussed the findings of a comparative study undertaken by the ISS and collaborating institutions. The workshop brought out some interesting findings of the study:

- In Kerala the working of the ward committees is highly participatory. There is a close proximity of citizens to elected representatives.
- In Karnataka there was considerable reluctance to start the wards committees. It was only due to court's interventions that the first generation of wards committees was constituted in 1999 in Bangalore, but these hardly functioned. After elections in the Corporation 2001, the second-generation wards committees were set up in July 2003. No other wards committees have been set up in any other city in the state.
- In the case of West Bengal, the lesson that comes out is that the potential and interest in the working of the ward committees, functioning now for nearly a decade, is high. The political party structure proceeding the constitution of the ward committees has helped in evolving a truly participatory arrangement. Another interesting feature is that the working of ward committees in Siliguri is more satisfactory as compared to other municipalities like Bidhannagar, situated closer to Kolkata. In Kolkata city itself, ward committees have not been set up.

- In Maharashtra, the size of ward committees in Mumbai is too large and the proximity to the citizen is limited. However, civil society groups have been able to find place in ward committees and are involved in the decision making process. On the other hand, the ward committees in Nashik are very active even without the inclusion of citizen's groups.
- Bhagidari scheme of Delhi is an exercise of the citizen government partnership backed by government in addressing citizen's civil needs. The arrangement has worked well, even though limited to Delhi state government activities rather than the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

Source: Nagarpalika Update, Volume 2, No. 2. March April 2004.

AMDA Comments: AMDA is advocating the ward (despite its shifting boundaries based on electorates) as a basic urban planned development unit. At an ideal of 30,000 persons (6000 families) it can offer an LSG people centric framework with the ward committee as an accountable elected representative at the helm of a transparent plan as a platform for change and investments.

1.3 GOOD GOVERNANCE MAY REDUCE NUMBER OF SLUM DWELLERS

The United Nations Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan, emphasized that the commitment of the mayors and the local leaders and their organizations could be an effective instrument towards achieving the goal of significantly improving the lives of least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

He expressed his concern that the number of people living in slums and squatter settlements would rise if local authorities do not take determined and concerted action to address



the needs of the urban poor and the challenges of good urban governance. The challenges of a rapidly globalizing and urbanizing world need to be addressed primarily by the local government. Mr. Annan felt that the participation of local authorities in the discussion by UN-HABITAT's governing family will help to strengthen their partnership with the government in efforts to achieve MDGs and to improve the lives of slums dwellers.

Source: *UN Weekly Newsletter*, Volume 59, No. 19, 8-14 May 2004.

AMDA Comments: In the developing world, the rush to mega cities, other metropolitan area and large cities are increasing. Established slums could be upgraded, reconstructed or resettled but new migrants not catered to in their own rural and small urban habitats would require being adjusted in the large settlements scenario.

1.4 SHANGHAI DECLARATION TO REDUCE POVERTY IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) ended its 60th session in Sanghai on April 28, 2004 with the unanimous adoption of the **Shanghai Declaration** calling for the highest priority to be given to reducing poverty in the vast region that is home to more than half the world's people. The main features of declaration were:

- Emphasis on ESCAP's unique role as the most representative body for Asia and the Pacific and its mandate as the main general economic and social development center within the UN system for the region, particularly in the three thematic areas of poverty reduction, globalization and emerging social issues.
- Reaffirming that the United Nations has a central role in promoting policy coherence on global development

issues including in the context of globalization and interdependence.

- Endorsing the "**new silk-route**", called the **Asian Highway** a multi prolonged 1,40,000 kilometers long network of standardized roadways connecting 32 countries and linking Europe to Asia. (Tokyo to Tehran, from Singapore to Samarkand and from points beyond to those in between). This agreement was signed by 25 countries.

Source: *UN Weekly Newsletter*, Volume 59, No. 18, 1-7 May 2004.

1.5 THE URBAN MILLENNIUM PARTNERSHIP – ON LOCALIZING MDGs

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as promoted by the United Nations have become commonly accepted as a unique opportunity to get better development results and as a framework for measuring development progress.

However, the national focus on achieving the MDG targets and the current framework of monitoring and implementation, do not sufficiently take into account the *urban* and the

REDUCE POVERTY THROUGH CONSERVATION

The UNDP has honored the communities of Colombia, India and Namibia for their efforts to reduce/cut poverty through conservation. On International Day for Biodiversity as celebrated on May 19, 2004, UNDP presented the Equator Prize to communities from Colombia, India and Namibia. The presentation of the prize, which honours outstanding community projects that effectively reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, is part of a celebration and dialogue at Germany's Permanent Mission to the UN.

Source: *UN Weekly Newsletter*, Volume 59, No. 21, 22-28 May 2004.



local dimensions. There is, thus, an inherent danger that even if the targets are achieved, the inequalities within a nation across people and places would still persist. Therefore implementation of the MDGs should also involve the local government sphere.

In response to this need, **UN-HABITAT, UNDP and bilateral donors are designing a proposal for an "Urban Millennium Partnership (UMP) on localizing MDGs"**, to complement ongoing efforts of various UN agencies and their partners. The partnership will work with networks of local authorities at the global, national and local levels, to raise awareness about MDGs, mobilize stakeholders, and establish monitoring and implementation frameworks. In each region, UMP anchor institution networks will conduct city consultations leading to local MDG action plans. They will also coordinate core activities related to knowledge management, policy and institutional analysis, building partnership and networking.

Source: UN-HABITAT, Volume 10, No. 1, March04.

1.6 VITAL REFORMS TO MEET MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Secretary General of United States Mr. Kofi Annan said that the countries can halve extreme poverty and reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 if they implement vital reforms and get adequate external support this year, but it will be too late by 2005.

The MDGs, adopted in 2000, list goals to be reached by 2015 in tackling poverty, lagging rates of education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, environmental degradation and global partnerships. The goals could only be reached by building on the spirit and promise of the 2003 Monterrey Consensus for making trade between rich and poor more equitable.

Mr. Annan requested to focus the national policies, resources and strategies to reach the MDGs. He suggested that the domestic resources were the largest sources of financing for development and could be especially effective if focused on health, education, infrastructure, capacity and institutional building and efforts to improve regulatory frameworks and public administration.

Source: UN Weekly Newsletter, Volume 59, No. 18, 1-7 May 2004.

1.7 GIS IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Need of GIS in Urban Development

Urban GIS application is an essential decision support system for any local urban authority, which handles complex urban issues such as road development, solid waste management, drainage, hospitals, property tax collection and tax assessment. The urban authorities are involved in the planning, development and monitoring of various infrastructure facilities.

The foremost need of these authorities is to have a scientifically prepared digital base map showing existing infrastructure facilities like roads, drains, built up areas and water bodies. These base maps also help them understand the extent of their jurisdiction and define the various divisions like zones, ranges and wards for day to day monitoring and development works. The other requirements of the local authorities are detailed digital maps of local areas/wards, showing the properties/buildings, utilities, etc.

Urban GIS Application Development

There are three phases involved in this kind of project. These are:-

- i) First phase involves a study of the existing system and analysis, to arrive at the objectives of the project;



- ii) Second phase involves data analysis, data collection, data base design and development; and
- iii) Third phase involves implementation aspects like application development, customisation and training.

There are three different sources of data. These are:-

- i) High-resolution satellite images;
- ii) Aerial photographs; and
- iii) Data collected by means of the ground survey.

The different applications are major land use planning, transportation planning, local planning and development, utility service area designations and /or sewer and water service area designations and parcel mapping. It is most useful for local governments in tax collection and for property appraisal.

The experience of many local authorities/ governments in India and abroad shows that remote sensing-based data like high-resolution satellite images and aerial photos is widely used as the digital base and can be supplemented by ground surveys if necessary. The disadvantages of using only ground survey methods are that they are time-consuming; human involvement leads to a lot of errors; and they are subject to local conditions such as weather, resistance from local people, obstructions like traffic etc.

Urban GIS project experience

There have been many attempts by different authorities in urban GIS application development. But none has been successful in India in implementing this for an entire local authority. It shows lack of planning and long term vision. Many of the projects in India failed because the approach was short-sighted. It only dealt with the wishes of a few people and was not concerned about a holistic/mass

approach towards addressing the complex issues faced by the urban authorities/ areas as a whole.

Conclusion

Urban GIS application development involves a lot of resources, cost, time and technical manpower. So it has to be meticulously planned and executed within the affordable limits of the local authority or else it will not solve the problem of the user. While planning a project, the user has to be involved at all the stages. So, there is a need for a more pragmatic approach to the problem, taking into consideration the user needs at the given point of time.

Source: Indian Infrastructure, Vol. 6, No. 9, April.04.

1.8 GLOBAL WARMING - THE WORLD'S PROBLEM IS OURS AS WELL

In a report submitted to the UN, India has expressed its concern about the effects of global warming on water resources, spread of disease and changing temperatures. India ranks way below big polluters like the US, UK, Japan and other industrialised countries, emitting barely 3 per cent of global greenhouse gases (GHGs). By contrast, the US emits more than 25 per cent of the total GHGs. Yet, a developing country like ours, which can benefit economically in the short-run by releasing more emissions, has seen it fit to raise the issue of global warming and its effects.

Global warming is no longer a purely global concern, removed from our realities. The Earth's surface temperature has risen by about half a degree Celsius in the past century. There is strong evidence that most of the warming over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities which have altered the composition of the atmosphere through the build-up of heat-trapping gases like carbon dioxide. In the US alone, burning of fossil fuels is responsible for about 98 per cent of CO₂ emissions. Increased



agriculture, deforestation, landfills and industrial production have contributed a significant share. Add to that the following facts: the 20th century's 10 warmest years have all occurred since 1985, floating ice in the Arctic Ocean has decreased, sea levels have risen up to 20 centimeters, and precipitation over land has increased one percent worldwide. What emerges is a pretty gloomy picture for anyone to see pro-Third World blinkers.

An initial report to the UN on climate changes in the subcontinent has recently been made public by the Indian environment minister; warning of higher temperatures to come and a shift monsoon patterns all the way up to 2050. There are indications that maximum temperatures will increase by two to four degrees Celsius by then, upping the minimum temperatures by four degrees Celsius across the country. Meanwhile, over the past 100 years the annual average monsoon precipitation has increased 10-12 per cent along the West Coast, north Andhra Pradesh and north-west India, while a 6 to 8 per cent decrease has been recorded over east Madhya Pradesh, the north-east, and parts of Gujarat and Kerela. At this rate, periods of rain and their intensity could begin to fluctuate wildly enough to cause severe droughts and floods. For a country dependent on harvesting, concerted action should replace apathy and disbelief.

Source: Editorial – The Times of India, New Delhi edition, June 24, 2004.

1.9 CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAM

“Cities for Climate Protection Program” (CCP Program) is a program of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) that was launched in India in 2001, with support from USAID, by signing a MOU with seven Municipal Corporations namely: Guntur and Hyderabad from Andhra Pradesh; Jabalpur

from Madhya Pradesh; Kolkata from West Bengal; Ludhiana from Punjab; Sangli from Maharashtra and Vadodara from Gujarat.

The CCP Program works with local governments to improve urban management and address economic, environmental and quality of life concerns, and in doing so achieve the side benefit of reducing or avoiding green house gases (GHGs) emissions. The program stresses the selection of actions that address immediate municipal concerns such as improving energy efficiency in, for example, municipal buildings, street lighting, or water treatment and pumping, that will result in cost savings to the local government. Other measures local governments in the program may choose to pursue are: increasing energy efficiency and utilizing appropriate energy resources in community residences and buildings to improve quality of life and cut costs, and measures that improve air quality, address transport and traffic problems, and improve waste management.

The program strives to help municipalities realize the local economic, environmental and urban management benefits, which accrue from reducing fossil fuel based energy resources. These actions can also result in the side benefit of mitigating climate change through minimizing GHG emissions.

In urban areas the primary source of the GHG emissions that cause global warming and global climate change are energy use, transport, and waste management practices. Implementing measures to reduce, mitigate or avoid GHG emissions will reduce air pollution emissions and result in air quality improvements, as well as addressing other municipal environmental and quality of life concerns.

In CCP Phase II, out of 21 cities who requested to participate in this program, 9 cities have been selected. These are Agra, Gwalior, Dehradun,



Madurai, Coimbatore, Udaipur, Shimla, Bhubaneshwar and Guwahati.

Source: *Urban Finance, Quarterly Newsletter of NIUA, Volume 7, No. 1, March 2004.*

1.10 RAIN WATER HARVESTING

For our demand, we entirely depend upon rivers, lakes and ground water. However, the rain is the ultimate source that feeds all these sources. Rain water harvesting means to make optimum use of rain water at the place where it falls i.e. it is conserved and not allowed to drain away and cause floods elsewhere. In general, water harvesting is the activity of direct collection of rainwater. The rainwater collected can be stored for direct use or can be recharged into the ground water to prevent falling of ground water level.

Methods of Rain Water Harvesting

Method 1: The places where the rains are throughout the year, rain water can be stored in tanks. However, at places where rains are for 2-3 months, huge volumes of storage containers would have to be provided. To such places it would be feasible to use rain water to recharge ground water aquifers rather than for storage.

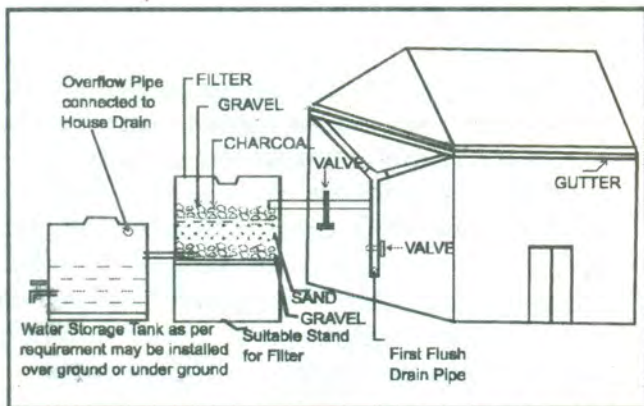


Fig 1: Roof rain water can be stored in tanks for drinking and cooking

As shown in Figure 1 suitable size gutters, pipes, filter and storage tank should be provided. First 10-20 minutes of rain water is flushed off through first flush drain pipe then the valve closed and filter pipe valve opened. The water passing through filter is stored in suitable size storage tank. The first flush drain pipe and overflow pipe should be connected with house drain. The underground storage tank may be of masonry or re-enforced cement concrete, plastic/high density polyethylene or made of Ferro-cement. The size of the tank depends upon requirement, catchment and rainfall. The down pipe should be of at least 100 mm diameter with 850 micron nylon wire-screen at the inlet to prevent dry leaves and debris from entering in it. The underground storage tank should preferably have a suitable pump installed for withdrawal of water or pumping it to an overhead storage tank. Their top should remain at least 300 mm above the ground.

Before the tank is put into use, it should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with a suitable disinfectant such as chlorine, bleaching powder, potassium permanganate etc. Since the water shall remain stored for quite a long time, periodical disinfections of stored water is essential to prevent growth of pathogenic bacteria. When the tank required to be cleaned or stored water is required to be disposed, it should be drained to the nearest nullah or any natural drains or disposed through a properly designed outlet system.

Method 2: As shown in Figure 2 rain water that is collected on the rooftop of the building is diverted by drainpipes to filtration tank for bore well, through settlement tank, from which it flows into the recharge well. As shown in figure 2 the recharge well should be preferable be shallower than the water table.

Dug well should have opening-weep-hole at regular intervals to allow seepage of water

1.11 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COOPERATIVES - 3 July 2004

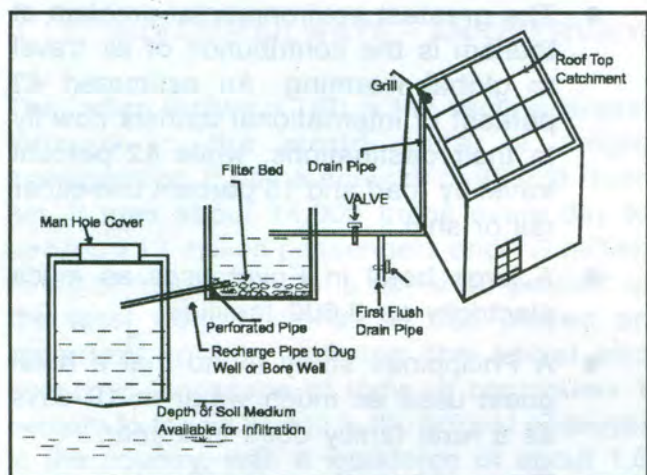


Fig 2: Recharge assembly for dug well with roof top run off

through the sides. Dug wells should be covered to prevent mosquito breeding and entry of leaves and debris. The bottom of recharged dug wells should be de-silted annually to maintain the intake capacity. Any old well which has become defunct can be used for recharging, since the depth of such wells is above water table.

Source: IIA, *The Journal of the Indian Institute of Architects*, Vol. 69, Issue 02, Feb. 2004.

“The theme of this year’s International Day of Cooperatives – **“Cooperatives for fair globalization: creating opportunities for all”** — underscores the important role that cooperatives, together with other stakeholders, play in promoting globalization that benefits all the world’s people, not just a privileged few. Striving for fair globalization means working for a process and outcomes that are fundamentally inclusive, sustainable and people-centered. Together with improved governance, fair globalization can thus promote and facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Traditionally, cooperatives have focused on the local concerns of their members and communities. Today, they need to adapt to the new realities of the wider marketplace. Many are already doing so through product diversity, offering high quality goods and services at competitive prices, and making use of information technology. But more can be done. The development of international linkages

NEW ADVISORY BOARD ON WATER AND SANITATION

United Nations Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan established an Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, which aims to galvanize global action on these issues as part of international efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

Former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan became the Chairman of the board, which will also include a wide range of eminent persons, technical experts and other individuals with proven experience in inspiring people, moving the machinery of government, and working with the media, the private sector and the civil society. Mr. Annan asked the Board to use the unique expertise of its members to raise awareness of water and sanitation issues, to help mobilize funds for water and sanitation projects, and to encourage new partnerships.

An estimated 1.1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water, and 2.4 billion people are without basic sanitation, a World Bank expert has recommended using a “what people want” approach, giving governments the role of creating demand and enabling local industries to meet that demand, instead of providing the facilities themselves. The UN estimates that in order to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for water 2.7 lakhs new connections will have to be made each day, and more than twice as many to meet the goal for sanitation.

Source: *UN Weekly Newsletter*, Volume 59, No. 13 and 18, dated 27 March-2 April 2004 and 1-7 May 2004



among local cooperatives is important for sharing business and financial information, and to broaden marketing opportunities.

Governments and international organizations should ensure that cooperatives and smaller business entities enjoy a level playing field in the economic and political environments. Policies and laws that are conducive and supportive to the growth and adaptation of cooperatives are therefore vital.

By promoting the growth and success of cooperatives world-wide, governments, international organizations and the United Nations can help them play to the full their role in making fair globalization a reality. On this International Day of Cooperatives, let us join forces in that mission.

Source: UN Weekly Newsletter, Vol. 59, No.26, 26 June-2 July 2004.

1.12 TOURISM - A PROFLIGATE CONSUMER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The era of mass tourism in the mountains of industrialised countries began soon after the Second World War, the result of many factors including increase in urban populations, income, vacation time and mobility. Today tourism is world's largest industry. Tourism, which sells luxury and indulgence, can be a profligate consumer of Natural Resources. For example:

- Each year, up to 5,000 hectares of the land surface is cleared for golf courses, an 18-hole course can consume more than 2.3 million litres water daily. A Phillipine study found that the average golf uses 24 million gallon of water per month is enough to irrigate 65 hectares of farmland or to supply a 2,000 room in 4-star hotel.

- The greatest environmental problem of tourism is the contribution of air travel to global warming. An estimated 43 percent of international tourists now fly to their destinations, while 42 percent travel by road and 15 percent use either rail or ship.
- A large hotel in Egypt uses as much electricity as 3,600 families.
- A Philippines study found that a hotel guest uses as much water in 18 days as a rural family does in a year.
- The world's golf courses guzzle a mind-boggling 10 million litres of water a day. That's enough drinking water for almost half of the world's population!

Who really benefits? – Tourism revenue can help to meet the basic needs and help sustain local communities. But more than not, many indigenous communities end up as passive participants in ventures that are promoted and run from the outside, leaving them little say in the changes that tourism brings. Another factor is that where do the tourist dollars actually end up? Do they help the habitats on which they are dependant or do they end up only in the pockets of local elites and multinationals. For example, in Kenya, it was found that only \$7 million of the \$300 million generated by parks was returned to them.

What needs to be done? - Industry groups, NGOs and the public have to be more aware and pro-active to promote sustainable tourism. Governments should ensure that foreign tourists follow strict visitor rules and regulations, buy local food and crafts and stay in lower-impact lodging. For the local economy and people to benefit tourism needs to be managed and operated by local communities as far as possible.

Source: Gobar Times, a Down to Earth supplement, No. 41, April 15, 2004.

1.13 INDIAN RAILWAYS – AN OVERVIEW

The Indian Railways (IR) is the second largest network in the world under a single management. It has a network of 63,028 route km. it runs about 14,000 trains every day to transport 13 million passengers and 1.3 million tones of freight, which is about 40 percent of the total freight traffic. IR has played an important role in defining the social and economic landscape of India. It contributes 1 percent to the GDP and is the largest employer in the country, with a workforce of about 1.6 million, constituting 6 percent of 27 million people employed in the organized sector.

Sources of revenue:

Essentially, IR has two main customer segments: freight and passengers:-

- 1) The freight segment accounts for roughly two-thirds of its revenues. Within freight, bulk traffic accounts for nearly 95 percent, of which about 50 percent constitutes coal.
- 2) Passenger traffic accounts for the rest of the revenues. Of this, 75 percent comes from express long distance, 15 percent from suburban traffic. IR operates three of the largest suburban services in the world – in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkatta. About 60 percent of the originating passengers traveling by rail are suburban in the cities of Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and the ring railway of Delhi

IR's Structure:

- IR is managed by the Railway Board, which handles policy, enterprise and regulations. The board is, in turn, supervised by the Ministry of Railways.
- The control of IR's operations and management is vested in nine zonal

offices. Each zone is further subdivided into 60 divisions, each headed by a divisional railway manager.

- Ministry of Railways has set up several public sector units (PSUs) to deal with different aspects of rail operations. These include Rail India Technical and Economic Services, which offers consultancy services in India and abroad; Ircon International Limited, which is engaged in construction activities in India and abroad; the Indian Railways Finance Corporation, which helps augment financial resources; the Container Corporation of India, which handles international and domestic container cargo; and the recently formed RailTel Corporation of India, which is spearheading IR's foray into the telecom sector.

Declining performance:

Historically, IR has been seen as a provider of essential services with social obligations; it was not intended to be a commercial enterprise. In line with this, it has been undertaking uneconomic operation, such as running trains on non-remunerative routes. The performance of IR declining due to:-

- I. The losses incurred on passenger services are cross-subsidized by profits earned through freight services and upper-class passenger travel.
- II. IR is no longer able to generate operational surplus and unable to deploy adequate resources for maintenance and renewal of assets.
- III. Several key customers are shifting to road because of increasing freight tariffs. There has been considerable loss of traffic in cement, petroleum, iron and steel.



New Initiative:

- An exercise of tariff rationalization is being undertaken. The classes of commodities have been reduced and the ratio between the freight rate for the highest class and that for the lowest class has been brought down by more than half.
- The Golden Quadrilateral connecting the four metro cities and its diagonals has become saturated in most sections. Its capacity is being augmented through multilateral help. At the same time, there will be commissioning of 5,000 km of new lines including gauge conversions and line-doubling projects.
- IR has been restricting the hiring of fresh manpower. Between 1991 and 2001, the staff was reduced by 2.62 million to 1.54 million. The target is to further trim it to 1.18 million by 2010.
- There has also been a focus on technology upgradation. A pilot project for the European Train Control System is in progress on the Mathura-Palwal section. With the operationalising of the Freight Operating Information System, every freight rake moving on the network can be tracked.
- Inland waterways as well as coastal shipping are also being integrated in the transportation mix. Several sops have been given to promote the different modes of transport.

Conclusion:

The positive moves have led to some signs of improvement. The operating ratio has improved tremendously from 98 percent a few years back, to 92.3 percent. IR also met its dividend liability this year. However, it will take concerted efforts and political will for several years to get India's most revered form of transportation back to the pink of health.

Source: *Indian Infrastructure*, Vol. 6, No. 9, April 2004.

2. STATE INITIATIVES

2.1 IMPACT ASSESMENT OF 74TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT IN MADHYA PRADESH

Madhya Pradesh has taken pioneering initiatives for decentralization and good governance, through empowerment of local bodies, facilitating community participation and increased citizen awareness. Notwithstanding difficulties in providing water supply, sewerage, solid waste management, air pollution and resource mobilization.

Center for Knowledge Management and Good Governance at RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration and Management, Bhopal conducted a study on the impact on urban governance as a result of implementation of 74th constitution amendment. The study analyses the impact on political decentralization process, devolution of functions and funds made by State Government and opportunity and

FACTS ABOUT NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)

- National Capital Region (NCR) spreads over 33,242 sq. km.
- It comprises of *three zones* – *Inner Core* (Delhi), *Middle Tier* (Delhi Metropolitan Area including Faridabad, Gurgaon and Noida) and the *Outer Ring* extending to Panipat in the north, Meerut in the east and Rohtak in the west.
- Rate of population increase in the last decade: 50%
- Rate of increase in the number of vehicles: 250%
- There are 2 million inter-city trips every day, which will increase at a rate of 8% in the next 20 years and will climb up to 9 million per day.

Source: *The Times of India*, New Delhi edition, 28 June 2004.

space for people's participation in local governance. The basic conceptual issues related to representative and participatory governance including issues related to making city inclusive has also been dealt in length.

The study was conducted in 42 Urban Local Bodies that included: 6 Municipal Corporations, 12 Municipalities and 24 Nagar Panchayats in the State. The study suggested measures for strengthening the process of decentralization for urban governance in Madhya Pradesh. The main recommendations of the study were:

Legislative Issues

- To define a criterion or a set of criteria within the state laws on municipal bodies for designating a settlement as an urban area in the state. This will bring the trends and process of urbanization and municipalisation together to facilitate issues in urban governance and, it will also ensure uniformity in the type of urban local government that will govern each urban center;
- 243K and 243 ZA should be suitably amended to specify that the responsibility for the conduct of elections should include all preparatory steps for the same including preparation of electoral rolls;
- To strengthen the process of participative democracy the size of ward should be uniform and conform to certain minimum standards of representation;
- The provision of the state Act needs to be reviewed in terms of its constitutional propriety;
- The appropriate size of Ward Committees for increasing the awareness levels of the citizenry and also in influencing the allocation of resources according to the articulated needs.

Institutional Issues

- Advisory committees of the ULBs should have representation of professionals and experts.
- There is a need to define the organic link between the Ward (s) Committee and the Mohalla Samiti. For this the roles, responsibilities and functions of each of these Committees need to be restated to avoid duplication and overlapping.
- The members of the Mayor in Council and the Advisory (standing) Committee should be chosen from among the elected members, instead of through nomination by the Mayor and Speaker.

Functional Decentralisation

- It was recommended that planning including town and country planning be made a core and compulsory function. The responsibility for slum improvement should be included as a mandatory function for the municipal bodies.

Financial Decentralisation

- The functions, functionaries and finances have to go together for any process of devolution to be meaningful.
- The control of the state governments in determining the tax, tax rates or even tax exemptions is significant. There is a need to recognise the concept of a distinct and separate tax domain for municipalities should be recognised.
- The accounting system, especially budgeting, financial reporting and recording of expenditures, should be made uniform and computerized.
- A long-term strategy to improve the fiscal autonomy of the urban local bodies should be developed and inter-governmental transfer to these bodies be undertaken within the larger framework of this strategy.



Conclusions

Decentralization essentially works within a framework of empowerment and signifies a movement from representative to participative democracy. In this sense it works to strengthen and deepen local democratic functioning. It may not be seen as an alternative strategy to cope with the evils of centralization. In Madhya Pradesh, attempt has been made to tune structures and systems, which facilitate in achieving the spirit (democratic), the sphere (functional domains) defined in terms of the ULBs. The parameters of Good Governance have to be widened from efficient service delivery approach to including issues for citizens' empowerment.

Source: Urban Finance, Quarterly Newsletter of NIUA, Volume 7, No. 1, March 2004.

2.2 REFORMS IN WATER CHARGES AND SEWERAGE CHARGES IN PUNJAB

Punjab, the most urbanized state in northern India, has witnessed unplanned and haphazard growth of urban population. The deficiencies in urban infrastructure and municipal services have grown in the state. The urban local bodies (ULBs) of Punjab have been suffering from lack of periodic revision of water supply and sewerage charges. The unjustified loss of revenue on Operation and Maintenance (O&M) has affected the fiscal domain of ULBs and development works for augmentation of water supply and sewerage.

The rates fixed by the state government for the small and medium ULBs were on the lower side and only a fraction of O&M cost was recovered. Not all the ULB's implemented revised water supply and sewerage rates. Though rates in Corporations were revised but still there were deficiencies in pricing mechanism like lack of periodic revision, poor O&M and wasteful expenditure on committed

liabilities. User charges were negligible in Municipal council as well as Corporation towns.

The Government of Punjab rationalized user charges in 2003, and directed all Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats to implement the revised water and sewerage tariffs. Local bodies will also ensure the quality of water and minimum duration of supply. Billing and collection will be privatized in a phased manner. To ensure guarantee of standard of services, computerization of bills, preparation of websites showing hours of supply and status of complaints etc. will also be introduced. Standby sources of power should also be added in addition to existing sources. With the implementation of these rates, it is expected that the O&M cost which was 46.67 percent of income in 2000-01 will be recovered to the tune of 100 percent in the year 2006-07 and there will be surplus generation of resources in 2007-08, which could be used to finance capital works. Therefore the rates recommended by the state government are growth oriented having provision of annual increase. **The system of fixed periodic revision is an innovative method and can be replicated by ULB's in other states also to recover 100 percent of O&M cost in a phased manner.**

BIO-DIESEL BUS

Haryana State Transport Corporation tried a new inventory for the first time in the country by running three buses with bio-diesel. The buses ran from Gurgaon to Chandigarh and Jaipur, on 6th April 2004. In these buses 5 percent of bio-diesel has been mixed with diesel. The bio-diesel is prepared from a tree known as *ratanjeet*. The proportion of bio-diesel will be increased slowly. IOC and Ashoka Leyland have helped to run these buses.

Source: Sangrakshan, A Journal of PCRA, Volume 18, May 2004.



The reforms initiated by Department of Local Government, Punjab through rationalization will enable ULB's to generate additional resources for financing urban infrastructure/ municipal services.

Source: Urban Finance, Quarterly Newsletter of NIUA, Volume 7, No. 1, March 2004.

2.3 PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA

The union minister of state for rural development has approved the proposals put forward in Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Nagaland for Phase-III of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The total length of the roads approved is 7.85 thousand km.

Source: Indian Infrastructure, Volume 6, No. 8, March 2004.

3. CITY INITIATIVES

3.1 AN INITIATIVE TOWARDS ENERGY EFFICIENCY BY VADODARA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Vadodara City collaborated with Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) campaign of International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) during its first phase in India. As a part of CCP program Vadodra Municipal Corporation (VMC) has become one of the first city in the country to implement design based street lightening as per IS 1944 (part 1 &2), 1970 and also carried out energy audit for all pumping installations. The VMC in consultation with various energy experts initiated the setting up of Energy Cell and Revolving fund. Which was formally approved by standing committee on 15th May 2004.

Energy Efficiency Measures by VMC for Street Lightening:

1. Lightening design concept in street light service.
2. Optimizing operational timings with the help of annual programmable timers.
3. Replacement of 250W HPMV into 70W or 150W HPSV luminaries etc.

In Water Supply and Wastewater services VMC has implemented some of the suggestion of energy audit study. VMC's street light department, in its annual report showed saving of almost 52 percent of capital costs on street lightening and 25 percent on pumping installations. Thus reducing upon large amount of carbon emissions.

Energy Cells and its Functions

VMC has proposed setting up of Energy Cell within its organizational structure, which would help build its capacity in energy efficiency. Its main functions are:

- To monitor energy consumption pattern,
- To study potential saving options (no cost, low cost and high cost)
- To study implementation of suitable technology.
- To facilitate single window approval for energy saving projects.

Revolving Fund

To make energy efficiency work self-sustainable, the VMC has decided to create revolving fund with some seed money. The concept of revolving fund is to divert savings achieved by implementing energy efficiency works funded under the scheme back to the fund, instead of keeping as profit or diverting it for other expenses. With cumulative savings achieved through various projects under this scheme the revolving fund will grow over a



PLASTIC WASTE TO MAKE ROADS

Roads expert in the Hi-tech-city Bangalore said that experiments in using plastics wastes for laying roads have shown that they are durable. The Bangalore City Corporation (BCC) has already used it for laying 25 km. of road. The technology has provided an option for the civic body to dispose of the plastic waste in a productive way.

Delhi will become the second city in India, after Bangalore, to introduce the technology. The Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) has come up with an advanced version and is now converting waste to powdered form that blends with bitumen. This increases the tensile strength of the road and makes it more water resistant. CRRI laboratory studies on bituminous mixes and shredded plastic waste have shown that adding 8% plastic waste gives the best properties. If the mix is too stiff the roads, will crack and if there is too much bitumen, the roads become sticky and bleed in summer. The plastic content, on the other hand makes the roads more elastic and flexible. Two tones of plastic will be needed for 1 km of road.

Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi edition, June 28, 2004.

period of time, to finance large-scale energy efficiency projects in various facilities of the Corporations. With the help of energy cell in decision making process the implementation of energy efficiency projects will be easy and revolving fund will make energy cell self-sustaining. It will also help in reducing emissions of green house gases from various VMC activities.

Source: Monitor India, Vol. 4, No. 1, June 2004.

3.2 NEW GARBAGE TECHNIQUES IN DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is all set to consider new technologies to manage waste at various landfill sites across the capital. Delhi produces around 7,000 metric tones of garbage daily. But collection and dumping of garbage at the landfill sites is a problem.

New Collecting Technique: MCD has planned to fix twin-movable dustbins across the city. These twin-dustbins will be of green and blue colour (for recycled and biological garbage), which can hold 1100 liters of garbage. These bins are not only portable but also cheaper. Hydraulic trucks would be used to unload these bins. The GPS and GIS techniques would be used in the truck for monitoring. This would not

only allow timely movement of the truck but also the weight of garbage could be estimated.

New Recycling Technique: 11 percent of the Delhi's waste comprises of inert waste – construction debris, drain silt and dust. The MCD will segregate inert waste from wet waste and set up construction and debris plants(C &D) plants to recycle it. Several sites have been identified for the C &D plants. Construction debris and dust will be treated at these sites, reprocessed and then sold to construction companies.

The MCD has identified three areas to dump inert waste and set up construction and debris plants at Burari, Bakkarwal and Bhatti mines. With Delhi's inert waste containing exceptionally high moisture content of 43 percent, several MCD initiatives for converting waste to energy have been put on hold. In its 20-year garbage master plan, the MCD has proposed five composting plants in the Capital.

Source: Sangrakshan, Volume 19, May 04 and The Indian Express, New Delhi edition, June 24, 2004.

3.3 UNIT AREA METHOD IN DELHI

The Unit Area Method of property tax came into effect in Delhi from March 10, 2004. Under the new system, location, occupancy, age,



structure and use of property and the area vacant or covered will determine its unit area value. Under this system, all similarly placed properties could come to be assessed the same way and subject to the same rate of tax. For this purpose, the city has been categorized into eight categories for the purpose of assigning unit area values. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has brought out a property tax guide, which gives information about the classification formula for calculating property tax.

The method has worked well in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Amidst some protests the MCD has collected a fairly good amount from tax in the first 45 days. Enthused by the response, the commissioner of MCD has taken an unusual step of undertaking a door-to-door drive across the capital in order to persuade residents to pay property tax.

Source: Nagarpalika Update, Volume 2, No. 2, March – April 2004 and The Indian Express, New Delhi edition, May 20, 2004.

3.4 INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEM FOR DELHI

A group of Japanese Traffic experts in Delhi said that their textbooks place Delhi among the world's best-designed cities along with the Australian capital Canberra, but the ground realities are completely different from the classroom version. The quality of transport made all the difference between the two capitals.

Tokyo has four million cars as compared to Delhi's 43 lakhs vehicles as hardly anybody uses private cars to go to office because of congestion and parking problems. It is only on weekends that people use their vehicles. In Japan a person cannot buy a car without statement from a parking lot owner, showing that a parking space has been leased out for the car.

The Japanese traffic expert suggested for other modes of transportation are required as the metro cannot cover all routes. Inter-modal transports, such as buses, are necessary to connect the metro with destinations. If the bus tickets are less than the trains it will help the lower income groups. The experts also recommended that as used in other countries Intelligent Transport System could be introduced in Delhi, which use technology to collect data, access and provide scientific solutions to traffic congestion and accidents. These systems can produce neutral data on different intersections, which is influenced neither by police nor by road-users. This data can then be referred to each other to find solutions, which optimize each intersection with regards to other. In a bid to decongest city roads, the Delhi government is thinking of levying an additional tax on the second car bought by a family.

Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi edition, June 24, 04 and South Delhi Plus, a supplement of The Times of India, New Delhi edition, June 26, 2004.

FIRST FLOATING HOTEL IN KOLKATA

Kolkata has become the country's first city to have a floating hotel, and has registered its name with cities like Moscow, St. Petersburg, Vienna, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Phnompen, Hongkong where 'Floatels' are the major tourist and business attractions.

The four-storied Floatel in Kolkata has been built according to international four-star standards and was under construction for the past four and half years at the Kidderpore docks.

The Floatel has a 24-hour coffee shop capable of accommodating 110 guests and speciality restaurant and is centrally air conditioned with 73 rooms and three suites with attached marble and ceramic bathrooms. The Kolkata Floating Hotel Complex built with 21st Century technology is expected to be in operation within the next three to four months.

Source: The Hindu, New Delhi edition, May 18, 2004.



3.5 DDA KIOSKS FOR MONITORING LAND

In an attempt to make allotments and other routine procedures more transparent in the Delhi Development Authority, the civic body is now introducing the concept of counter-monitoring of land. Under this project, Delhites, as well as DDA officials, can log on to specially set up counters at the DDA headquarters and monitor the positioning of land, the status of allotments, the criteria for allotment etc.

The DDA has identified 11-12 activities under which monitoring of land can take place. These include – mutation during lifetime, mutation after death, sale of land, change of address and the status of various schemes and allotments for both institutional as well as commercial land. The counters will be in the form of kiosks, which will be sanctioned at the DDA headquarters Vikas Sadan. The system has been so successful in housing that it was thought to be extended to land also.

Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi edition, May 25, 2004.

3.6 CAMERA TO WATCH PUBLIC LAND

The encroachments and squatters in Delhi will now have to watch out for the video camera. In an unprecedented move, the Delhi Government has ordered videographing of all large tracts of public land on a monthly basis in order to prevent encroachments and make officials accountable.

The outgoing Chief Secretary of Delhi made this announcement to all the government departments. This will be followed by the intervention of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) on the issue of rampant encroachments on public land. Explaining the rationale behind the move, Central Vigilance Commissioner felt that the public land is being encroached upon with impunity but there is no accountability, if

the video records are maintained, people will have to be more careful.

The order (dated June 7, 2004) also says that all the land owning departments should prepare an inventory of land cleared by them. The departments should have video films made date wise showing the cleared land without loss of time. These videotapes should be updated monthly and preserved in chronological order for reference purpose. According to the order, names and designations of officials, along with locations for which they have been responsible, are to be forwarded to the Chief Secretary. The Director of Vigilance of Delhi Government and the CVC will scrutinize these. The order notes, in case encroachments come up on such land reports will be sent to the two agencies to take action against the officers who did not intercede and allowed encroachments to come up. At that time the video films will be called for also. These video films are to be kept with the Chief Vigilance officer of the Department under lock and key to avoid theft or manipulation.

Source: The Indian Express, Delhi edition, July 1, 04.

3.7 URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE BY MMRDA

The Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA) has finalized a second set of bidders for the Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project (MUIP). Contract winners include the Reliance Group, the Shapoorji-Pallonji Group and Wallecha and Company. The first phase will see the creation of infrastructure such as 83 roads, seven elevated roads, 36 flyovers, four rail-overbridges, 10 subways and 25 pedestrian subways. The entire project involves total infrastructure creation of 134 roads spanning a distance of 462,28 km, 10 elevated roads, 41 flyovers, 16 rail overbridges, 10 vehicle subways and 56 pedestrian subways.

Source: Indian Infrastructure, Volume 6, No. 8, March 2004.

3.8 DELHI IN ASIA'S DIRTY NINE

The air of Delhi may appear clean to its citizens. But it is not so clean if pollution levels of some other Asian are looked at. A study done by a Boston-based institute for air pollution of nine cities of Asia, namely Delhi, Chongqing, Shanghai, Tokyo, Mumbai, Kolkata, Manila, Singapore and Jakarta.

As per the study Delhi is still one of the most polluted cities of Asia, though the pollution levels have fallen since introduction of CNG. The worrying factor is that while sulphur dioxide and nitrogen levels are lower than in many other cities, the total suspended particulate (TSP) in the air still remains high. High TSP causes breathing problem. The TSP in Delhi is 340-mgm/cubic metre, this figure is 250 in Chongqing and Jakarta, 230 in Kolkata, 220 in Mumbai, 170 in Shanghai, 150 in Manila, 40 in Tokyo and 30 in Singapore. The reason for more pollution in Delhi compared to other cities with similar economic activities is because regulations in Delhi are less than other cities. The main objective of the study was to understand the impact of pollution on the health.

The study was a part of the Public Health and Air Pollution in Asian Cities programme, was released in New Delhi on May 19, 2004. Asian cities are a major contributor to pollution related deaths. Of the total 7.99 lakh outdoor pollution deaths, about 61 per cent are in the Asian cities. The indoor pollution is even more killing. Of the 16.9 lakh deaths worldwide, about 63 per cent are in Asian cities.

Source: Hindustan Times, New Delhi edition, May 20, 2004.

4. NEWS IN BRIEF

4.1 BANGALORE'S NEW AIRPORT FOR TAKE OFF

The Ministry of Civil Aviation gave its 'in-principle' clearance to the Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) to start construction at Devanahalli, sending a positive signal from the government to greenfield airports being planned in the country.

The no-objection certificate issued by the Director General of Civil Aviation to BIAL also lays down certain pre-conditions like removal of encumbrances before the start of work. This includes relocation of several temples in the 4000-acre plot marked for the airport.

The important issue in the clearance was subject to Karnataka Government's approval for using the land. The state being the owner of the land it was necessary to have land user's certificate for BIAL.

This is the first greenfield airport project of the country with 74 per cent stake held by a private consortium comprising L & T, Siemens and Zurich Airport. The remaining 26 per cent is jointly held by the Karnataka Government and the Airport Authority of India.

Source: The Indian Express, Delhi edition, May 26, 04.

4.2 MASTER PLAN TO MAKE DELHI SLUM FREE

A master plan will be prepared to make Delhi slum free and relocate slum dwellers within a timeframe. The ministry of Urban Development has constituted a seven-member committee to prepare a Master Plan, which will include a roadmap for relocation and alternate policies for rehabilitation. The committee will examine issues like preparing an action plan for rehabilitation of slum dwellers in terms of the existing policy within five years. It will also



explore the possibility of *in situ* regularization keeping in view parameters like environment and land use. The committee will address issues like provision of social infrastructure, strategy to prevent encroachment on government land and recommend models for slum relocation.

Source: The Times of India, Delhi edition, 26 Jun. 04.

AMDA Comments: Slum free is an UNCHS goal incorporating slum upgrading, in-situ reconstruction and slum relocation.

4.3 OFFICIALS TO BE FINED FOR DELAY IN WORK

Taking inspiration from civic agencies of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Goa, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) plans to impose a fine of Rs. 50 per day on officials who are found negligent in redressing public grievances. Officers responsible for delay will have to pay the penalty and the money collected will go as compensation to the complainant. It is expected that the redressal of grievances will take place faster and will also improve the work efficiency of the officials.

Source: Nagarpalika Update, Vol.2, No.2, Mar. Apr 04.

4.4 INTEGRATED BOROUGH SCHEME

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation has initiated the 'integrated borough scheme' for creation of capital assets under road, water supply, drainage, street lightning, slum improvement etc., by the Borough Committee. Such schemes would cover more than one ward within the borough.

Source: Nagarpalika Update, Vol. 2, No. 2, Mar. Apr.04.

AMDA Comments: Generally in Kolkata 8 to 12 wards constitute a Borough with all ward councilors as members and one of them elected as the Borough Chairman.

4.5 LAND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

The National Informatics Center (NIC) has developed a land management information system (LMIS) for the government of Maharashtra. The system is capable of storing land parcel details including ownership details and giving output in desired format as given in the land revenue code. The ownership records can be centrally updated.

Source: Nagarpalika Update, Volume 2, No. 2, March - April 2004.

4.6 TRAFFIC RISE AT MAJOR PORTS

Traffic at major ports rose by 9.89 percent in 2003-04. The ports handled 344.5 million tonnes of cargo as against 313.52 million tonnes registered in 2002-03. Iron ore cargo increased by 16 percent to 58.86 million tonnes from 50.66 million tonnes registered in 2002-03. Petroleum, oil and lubricants increased to 122.21 million tones from 109.5 million tones in the same period. Container traffic is increased by 16 percent between March 2003 and March 2004.

Source: Indian Infrastructure, Volume 6, No. 9, April 2004.

4.7 CRUISE LINER TERMINAL IN GOA

The state of Goa is planning to float a global tender for the construction of a cruise liner terminal. It also proposes to expand its iron-ore handling facility. The project is estimated to take two years. It will be run on built-own-transfer (BOT) basis, with the developers handing over the facilities after 30 years. The terminal would be 450 meters long and able to handle 300 meter-long liners.

Source: Indian Infrastructure, Volume 6, No. 9, April 2004.



4.8 NEW BRIDGES

The Indian Railways have taken up works of road overbridges (ROBs) and road underbridges (RUBs) at 61 rail crossings on national highways on a cost-sharing basis with the NHAI. In addition, works of ROBs and RUBs at 41 rail crossings have been taken up on a built-operate-transfer (BOT) basis. In total 104 ROBs and RUBs have been taken up across the national highways. The railways have 572 level crossings across the national highway network. Of these, 265 level crossings have train vehicle units of more than 0.1 million.

Source: Indian Infrastructure, Volume 6, No. 9, April 2004.

4.9 INLAND WATERWAYS TRANSPORT IN INDIA

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has given in-principle approval for a \$300 million loan for development of Inland Waterways Transport In India. The loan will be given in two phases. ADB is presently working on a feasibility project for the use of inland waterways in transporting goods. The Central Inland Waterway Authority of India entrusted this task to ADB in 2003.

Source: Indian Infrastructure, Volume 6, No. 9, April 2004.

4.10 FREE FLOW OF NATURAL GAS

In a major judgment, the Supreme Court has ensured the free flow of natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) across the country by ruling that states cannot enact laws to regulate its supply through pipelines passing through their respective territories. This cleared a major hurdle for the Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill, which was to be introduced in the 2003 winter session of Parliament but was held back following protests by the Gujarat Government. The state government wanted the

introduction of the bill to be postponed till the Supreme Court decided on the presidential references made to it regarding powers to legislate in matters related to natural gas and LNG.

Source: Indian Infrastructure, Volume 6, No. 9, Apr.04.

5. BOOK REVIEW

5.1 BUILDINGS, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT: INFORMING LOCAL AND GLOBAL PRACTICES

Edited by: Raymond J Cole and Richard Lorch

Publisher: Blackmell, Oxford.

One of the significant aspects of globalisation is that designers, clients and researchers of the built environment are bombarded with huge amounts of information, products, codes and standards. These promise technological solutions to urgent problems but fail to account for the social and cultural context. Many design strategies and technologies currently fail to be implemented because of the inability of their designers to understand the needs and expectations of end users.

This book offers an alternative approach. The design and maintenance of the built environment must be embedded in local and regional culture if it is to be successful in social, technological and economic terms. Using the urgency of environmentally sound design as case studies, this multidisciplinary book provides a new understanding of why we have consistently failed. It offers a thought provoking approach to a number of complex habitations and built environment issues from various perspectives. The book suggests a positive path forward to form a framework and critically engage with local culture and social expectations into solutions for the built environment.

Source: Habitat Debate, Volume 10, Number 1, March 2004.



5.2 RENTAL HOUSING: AN ESSENTIAL OPTION FOR THE URBAN POOR IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Edited by: UN-HABITAT Publisher: UN-HABITAT

The study examines that despite the fact that a large proportion of residents in the cities and towns of developed and developing countries are tenants, the government's efforts to support rental housing development is rather small. In fact, the important role played by the rental sector is barely, if at all, acknowledged in many national housing policies. A major reason for this bias against rental

housing is the general ideology that home ownership is essential for housing development and that owners are better citizens than renters. The study demonstrates that most of the arguments leading to this bias against rental housing are highly flawed. It is true that owner occupation offers families a great deal, but the advantages are often exaggerated. Criticisms of rental housing are equally exaggerated – ignore both the advantages that rentals offer tenants and landlords alike, and perpetuating false myths about landlords.

Source: *Habitat Debate*, Volume 10, No. 1, Mar. 04.

FACTSHEET

- ◆ As the world moves from the **International Year of Freshwater** (2003) to the **UN Decade of Freshwater** (2005-2015), **two billion people** in over 40 nations face **freshwater shortage**.
- ◆ Global **population tripled**, but **freshwater use** increased **six fold**.
- ◆ **2.5%** of **Earth's water** is **freshwater**, less than **1%** is **usable**.
- ◆ 1 litre of **wastewater pollutes** at least **8 liters** of **freshwater**.
- ◆ **Per capita water consumption** in **industrialized** countries (500-800 litres per day) is on an average **10 times more** than that of the **developing nations** (60-150 litres per day).
- ◆ Worldwide, **57-69 percent** of **industrial water use** is for **hydro/nuclear power generation**, 30-40 percent for industrial process and 0.5-3 percent for thermal power generation.
- ◆ People having **low incomes** end up **paying 2-50 times more** for a **litre** of water than higher income groups.
- ◆ The amount of **water used** by **60,000 villagers** in Thailand, on average, per day is **6,500 cubic meters**. And the amount of **water used** by **one golf course** in Thailand, on average per day is **6,500 cubic meters!**
- ◆ The **profile** of **urban water investment projects** typically involves a **high initial capital** outlay, followed by a **very long payback** period for long-lived assets. As a result, the **risk of repayment defaults** is **high**, relative to many other projects.
- ◆ Data shows that the **private sector** is more **reluctant** to **invest** in **water** compared with other forms of infrastructure. The root of the **finance problem** in the water sector, which also suffers from a high level of political interference, is **poor governance**.
- ◆ **Financial flows** into the water sector from all sources would **need to roughly double** in order to **achieve** commonly agreed upon international water **targets**.
- ◆ The **people of UK** would like **non-biodegradable products** taxed as a **sin** to society.
- ◆ **25 million environmental refugees** on move worldwide!
- ◆ **150 million** may be **displaced** by the impacts of **Global Warming** and consequent **sea-level rise** by 2050.
- ◆ **One-metre** rise in the **sea-level** would inundate **three million hectares** in Bangladesh, **displacing** between **15 to 20 million** people.
- ◆ **One-quarter** of the **people** in developing countries i.e. **1.3 billion** in all-survive on **fragile lands**, areas that present significant constraints for intensive agriculture and where the people's links to the land are critical for the sustainability of communities, pastures, forests and other natural resources.
- ◆ Official development assistance (**ODA**) **flows** have continued to **decline**, and are **now** at their **lowest level** in recent years. Commercial **lending** and private **investment** have also been **scaled back** significantly as the **private sector** has become more **risk averse** vis-à-vis the **water sector**.

Source: *Down to Earth*, Vol. 12, No.24, May 15, 04, *Gobar Times*, No. 43, Jun 15, 04. and *Down to Earth*, Vol. 13, No. 3, Jun 30, 04.



PERSONNELLIA

Dr. Suresh Joshi, IAS, Metropolitan Commissioner, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority has taken over as Chairman AMDA, as Shri A.K. Mago, IAS, ex-Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA, has been appointed Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra. Prior to joining MMRDA, Dr. Joshi was Principal Secretary in Housing Department of Govt. of Maharashtra for last 4 years. He has also served as special advisor to Afghanistan Government and Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Govt. of Maharashtra. He has also served as Joint Secretary, Rural Development at the Centre. Dr. Joshi belongs to the 1970 batch of IAS.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **International Climate Protection Conference**
July 19-21, 2004
Mexico City,
Organizer (s): ICLEI and Mexico City
For details contact:
Ms. Victoria Ludwig, Program Manager,
ICLEI e-mail: vludwig@iclei.org
- **14th Congress of the International Union of Women Architects**
September 01-05, 2004
Toulouse, Paris
For details visit: www.ulfa.org
- **Second World Urban Forum on Cities: Crossroads of Cultures**
September 13-17, 2004
Barcelona, Spain
For details contact: Web: www.unhabitat.org
- **40th ISoCaRP Annual Congress on Management of Urban Regions: Experiences and New Intervention Possibilities.**
September 18-22, 2004,
Geneva, Switzerland.
For details contract:
e-mail: secretariate@isocarp.org
- **XXXII IAHS World Congress on Housing**
September 21-25, 2004
University of Trento, Trento, Italy
For details contact:
E-mail: Antonio.frattari@ing.unitn.it
Or e-mail: ural@itu.edu.tr
- **19th EAROPH – World Planning and Housing Congress on “Reform and Change in Housing and Planning – Towards Sustainability in the Asia Pacific”.**
September 26-29, 2004.
Melbourne, Australia.
For details contact:
e-mail: earoph@meetingplanners.com.au
- **World Habitat Day 2004 on Rural Urban Linkages**
October 4, 2004
Nairobi, Kenya.
For details contact: Web: www.unhabitat.org
- **International Mayor’s Assembly on EcoProfit**
October 28-30, 2004
Graz, Austria,
Organizer (s): ICLEI’s International Training Centre,
For details contact: Kristen Wolfrath,
e-mail: training.centre@iclei.org

AMDA WEB SITE

www.amdaindia.org

Its pleasure to inform you that AMDA has launched its web site from July 2004. The web address of AMDA is www.amdaindia.org.

The basic objective of this web site is to disseminate information of urban development to its members and professionals.

Readers are invited to contribute their experiences in surfing the Net in the context of urban development and urban management ect. giving the full address of the site and the general contents so the others may also benefit from it. Please send your write-up to :



The Director

ASSOCIATION OF URBAN MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES
(AMDA)

7/6 Sirifort Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110 049, India.

Phone: 26494486, 26496487, 26497973, 26496837 Fax: 91-11-26491675

www.amdaindia.org E-mail : India738@nda.vsnl.net.in

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

1. 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:-

1. Full Day : Rs. 1200/-
2. Half Day (pre lunch or post lunch) : Rs. 800/-
3. 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.