

PLANNING FOR THE PERI URBAN - THE CASE OF DELHI

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ABSTRACT

India has a long history of urbanism and during different periods, the peri-urban areas have been playing different roles in the urbanisation scenario. Today with 1.3 billion people and more than 50 cities with over 1 million inhabitants, the Indian metropolis is facing totally new kind of challenges in dealing with peri-urban development.

The paper looks at the Delhi Metropolitan area and further at the National Capital Region to understand an important trend in India of planning the Metropolitan Region as the development unit. Once outside the traditional definition of the urban area, the issues in the peri-urban settlements shift to new domains, including that of urban agriculture, sustainability and even more importantly provision of urban infrastructure with related water management, energy, waste disposal and pollution. Now, out-of-the box solutions have to be found to deal with India's run-away economic growth and the parallel profusion of urbanisation patterns. Coupled with the new thrust on participatory development, the planning for the peri-urban area has become even more complex. Obviously, there are more questions here, than answers.

BIOGRAPHY

K.T. Ravindran is Professor of Urban Design at School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. He is the founder President of the Institute of Urban Designers- India, a professional association of qualified urban designers. He is member of the academic boards of number of universities in India. He has been a regular contributor to books, professional magazines and newspapers on subjects relating to urban design, planning, architecture and urban conservation. His practice includes design of greenfield cities, cultural buildings and Memorials, as well as Urban Conservation. He was the Vice Chairman of the Environmental Impact Assessment Committee of the Government of India for the last four years and is a member of the Advisory Board for the United Nations Capital Master Plan at New York. His research interests include contemporary urban history, indigenous urbanism, vernacular building traditions and sustainability and urban form. He is a frequent speaker at many national and international forums and universities.

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