

# Integrated growth of small towns needed, says former bureaucrat

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To prevent unplanned urbanisation around main cities, there is a need to undertake integrated development of small and medium towns, said Prof DS Meshram, president of the National Institute of Town Planners (ITPI), today.

Highlighting that the step would discourage migration to bigger cities, Meshram said it was practically impossible to stop migration to bigger urban conglomerates.

Meshram, who is a former Chief Planner in Town and



Experts address a press conference on the eve of the 67th National Town and Country Planners Congress in Chandigarh on Thursday.

Country Planning Organisation, Union Ministry of Urban Development, was speaking on the eve of the three-day 67th National Town and Country Planners Congress beginning tomorrow. The theme of

the meet is 'Urban Land Policies and City Planning'.

When asked about the state government's populist decisions to regularise illegal structures, he refused to be drawn into the controversy.

He said there was a need to decentralise urbanisation if bigger cities were to be declustered. He said despite India being ranked 7th in the world for land cover, the population pressure was resulting in reduction of the land to man ratio. From 1.28 hectares land to man ratio in 1901, it is now just 0.36 hectares. By 2051, the ratio will fall to 0.17 hectares.

Pradeep Kapoor, Chief Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Department, Rajasthan, spoke on various topics to be covered during the next three days in the conference.

# 3-day town planners' conclave from today

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**CHANDIGARH:** A three-day national town and country planners' congress will begin at Hotel Shivalikview, Sector 17, in Chandigarh on Friday. During the 67th edition of the congress, participants will address the issue of 'urban land policies and city planning' and focus on problems related with land acquisition.

Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI) president DS Meshram said, "Most of the land in the country is privately held and land acquisition for even public purposes poses severe challenges. Experts and professionals

from across the country will deliberate on issues related to policy for industrial development, land procurement methods and redevelopment, and land acquisition and assembly."

ITPI, established in 1951, is the apex body of qualified professional town and country planners.

ITPI secretary general Pradeep Kapoor said, "In addition to land acquisition under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, land can also be procured through various methods like town planning schemes, land pooling schemes. Experts will also share success and failure stories regarding these in sessions and workshops to be organised during the congress."

## LINEUP

UT administrator VP Singh Badnore will inaugurate the congress. The inaugural session on 'Urban land policies and city planning' will be chaired by Vijay Inder Singla, minister for public works and information technology.

On the first day, a workshop on 'Policy for industrial development' will be held. On the second day, workshops on 'land procurement methods and redevelopment' and 'land acquisition' will be held. On the concluding day, the congress delegates will have field visits.

# Three-day national town, country planner's Congress from today

DW BUREAU / CHANDIGARH

THE TOWN planners from across the country would gather in Chandigarh for three days from January 4 to 6 for the 67th National Town and Country Planners Congress.

Disclosing this, here on Thursday, DS Meshram, president, ITPI, said that the experts and professionals from various parts of the country will deliberate the various issues concerning "Urban Land Policies and City Planning" and share their experiences specifically the successful stories during the three day Congress. He said that failure stories would also be shared, to understand as to why these challenges are occurring so as to take proper precautions while adopting the various technological innovations.

Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore would inaugurate Congress and deliver inaugural address on Friday. Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Rural Development and Panchayats, would be the guest of honour along with Vini Mahajan, Additional Chief Secretary Housing and Urban Development, Industries and Commerce, Information Technology and Investment Promotion, during the inaugural session and will address the delegates.

After the inaugural session, Balbir Singh Sidhu, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister, would inaugurate an exhibition which would be a special attraction of the event.

Meshram further said that Vijay Inder Singla, Minister for Public Works and Information Technology, would preside over the plenary session on the theme, 'Urban Land Policies and City Planning', which would be held after the inaugural session.

On the first day, a workshop on, 'Policy for Industrial Development' would be held during which Charanjit Singh Channi, Minister for Technical Education and Industrial Training and Employment Generation, would be the chief guest.

On second day of the Congress, morning session Workshop would be held on, 'Land Procurement Methods and Redevelopment' during which Revenue Minister Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria would be chief guest. Afternoon session would be held on, 'Land Acquisition and Assembly (Local Sub Theme)' during which OP Soni, Minister for School Education and Welfare of Freedom Fighters, would be the chief guest Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Minister for Cooperation and Jails, will be the chief guest during the valedictory session and deliver the valedictory address on January 5 On the third concluding day of the Congress, the delegates would be taken for field visits.