

PRESS CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

**NON-TRANSPARENCY IN DRAFTING
OF THE DELHI CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
UNDER JNNURM**

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CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY
K-36, Hauz Khas Enclave, New Delhi 110016
Tel:011-26537456/26521882 Fax: 011-26512347
Email: ccs@ccs.in Website: www.ccs.in



CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

K-36 Hauz Khas Enclave, New Delhi 110 016
Voice: 2653 7456/ 2652 1882 Fax: 2651 2347
Email: ccs@ccs.in Website: www.ccs.in

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PRESS CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

‘CIVIL SOCIETY LAMBASTS DELHI CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN’

Over Rs. 9000 crore to be spent on Delhi without any consultations with people

Centre for Civil Society organised a press conference to highlight the ‘**Lack of transparency in drafting the Delhi City Development Plan under National Urban Renewal Mission**’, on Friday, 16 March 2007 from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm at the Press Club of India.

- ❖ The Delhi City Development Plan (CDP) was prepared by IL & FS Ecosmart for the Delhi government after perfunctory consultations before the CDP was made but none on the CDP itself.
- ❖ **To make matters worse, the Delhi government has refused to make the CDP public in the response to an RTI request for the same.**



(L-R) Alpana Kishore, V C Tandon, Vijay Jolly, Shreekant Gupta, Kalyani Menon-Sen, Promod Chawla

The panellists were:

1. **Mr. Vijay Jolly** – MLA, Saket
2. **Mr. V. C. Tandon** - President, Delhi Residents Welfare Association Joint Front
3. **Dr. Shreekant Gupta** – former Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs and Professor, Delhi School of Economics
4. **Mr. Promod Chawla** - Convenor, URJA Bharat 2000
5. **Ms. Kalyani Menon-Sen**, Jagori
6. **Ms. Alpana Kishore** – Convenor, New Delhi People’s Alliance (NDPA)

Mr. Vijay Jolly (MLA, Saket) commented that:

- ❖ **he was dismayed and utterly surprised at the Delhi government for not inviting suggestions on the CDP.** This could have been done through the Bhagidari initiative
- ❖ the legislature, the MCD, NDMC and millions of Delhiites have been completely bypassed
- ❖ city has a right to decide where **9031.60 crore** is going to be spent. Non-transparency will enrich the contractor-politician mafia
- ❖ it is obnoxious on the part of the government to push the CDP made by an consultant for a huge sum of Rs. 18 lacs in a hurried manner
- ❖ **the CDP be recalled and debated in the public domain**
- ❖ he whole-heartedly supports this cause of making the drafting of the CDP a participatory process



Mr. V. C. Tandon (President, Delhi Residents Welfare Association Joint Front) demanded that:

- ❖ **the CDP should not be a secret document**
- ❖ people should be consulted in advance and not after the plans have been approved
- ❖ The Delhi government should listen to the voice of the RWAs
- ❖ the Chief Minister fulfil her promise made two years ago that a system of interaction will be set-up to consult the RWAs
- ❖ the Delhi government should not repeat the sorry history of the Master Plan for Delhi, where 7000 suggestions were disposed off in three days



Dr. Shreekanth Gupta – former Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs and Professor, Delhi School of Economics observed that:

- ❖ **the CDP is a slap in the face of Delhi.** The CDP should be recalled, debated and discussed with the people, modified and then resent to the Government for approval. It should not be a vision of a consultant
- ❖ **the CDP ignores the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) and the MPD ignores the CDP. Both are oblivious to each other's existence**
- ❖ **CDP should be translated into different languages like Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu for it to allow the masses to participate**
- ❖ lack of openness will make JNNURM a program of the bureaucrats, by the bureaucrats, for the bureaucrats
- ❖ it is a joke that the list of Detail Project Reports for Delhi are public, but the CDP is not
- ❖ it is matter of great regret that Delhi, with all its intellectual capital, has been left out of the planning process.



Ms. Kalyani Menon-Sen (Jagori) raised the following issues:

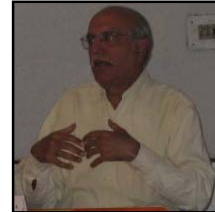
- ❖ **Stakeholders in urban planning have not been defined**
- ❖ **There is no space for migrant women and women in recently authorised colonies to participate in urban planning**



- ❖ Only the educated and the powerful get to influence the planning process
- ❖ What is the private consultant's (IL & FS Ecosmart) perspective on women issues?
- ❖ **How is the CDP a confidential document before being approved and a public document once approved?**
- ❖ The CDPs of different cities are in the same format. Are they being blindly replicated?

Mr. Promod Chawla (United Residents' Joint Action Bharat 2000)
criticized the government for:

- ❖ **not being transparent about huge projects like JNNURM, Yamuna clean-up and Commonwealth Games**
- ❖ not carrying out a social audit of the effectiveness of its programs
- ❖ being non-transparent in its expenditure. Civil Society should monitor this
- ❖ not forming a group of concerned citizens who could participate in city planning



Ms. Alpana Kishore (Convenor, New Delhi People's Alliance)
censured the government as:

- ❖ **the CDP has completely bypassed the citizens of Delhi**
- ❖ **consultations are held after the decisions are made and contracts have been awarded. Those who object are seen as irritants and anti-progress for delaying the project and increasing loan interest rates**
- ❖ **A reasonable time, say like six months, is not given for public debate and discussion**
- ❖ the citizens have had no say in the projects like the Metro and BRTS
- ❖ **'public consultations' has not been defined**



For details, please contact:

Makarand Bakore

Centre for Civil Society, 9312444725, 23537456/26521882, makarand@ccs.in