



DINA

CEPT will join study of cities' unplanned growth

The idea is to balance rapid urbanisation with sustainable development

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Ahmedabad's Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT), and School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) will be part of a pilot research team which will study various problems arising out of unplanned expansion of cities. The research project would be conducted in two cities and would look for a better form of development of the cities with better sustainability. Apart from the students of the two institutions, the team will also consist of students from the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in Delhi along with experts from the country and UK.

A seminar organised jointly by the British Library, Ahmedabad and CEPT University on Monday in the CEPT premises, entitled 'City Form - India, Sustainable Development for Indian Cities' discussed the effects of the relatively fast growing cities on various

Urban scan

The research would be conducted by the students of CEPT, SPA and NIUA along with experts from the country and UK to find out how sustainability can be achieved in urban areas which is important to address economic, social and environmental problems such as poverty, social inequality and depleting natural resources

walks of life. The seminar was delivered by researchers duo - Shibu Raman and Nicola Dempsey - from Oxford Brookes University, UK, who have done extensive researches in some of the European cities. They now look towards the Indian cities for more in depth research work.

While deliberating on the topic, Raman, a research fellow in Oxford Brookes University said, "With its current population of 286 million people which is expected to double by 2030, the Indian cities are growing rapidly in a different and complex manner. It is critical to examine the urban form's contribution towards the sustainability of Indian

cities as these areas are growing at a rapid rate."

Dempsey, a post-doctoral researcher in Oxford Brookes University said, "It is yet to be determined how much and to what extent such urban forms in India can provide sustainable living environments for its residents." Finding out how sustainability can be achieved in such areas is therefore critically important to address economic, social and environmental problems such as poverty, social inequality and increasing pressure on natural resource," she said.

The project would be supported by the British Council and the ministry of urban developments in India. "We have also applied to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) in UK. The project would take one year's time to complete and will be included in the students' curriculum," Raman said.

One of the two cities to be studied would be either Ahmedabad or a city near to it and the other city would be in or around Delhi. A suitable city would be chosen by keeping in mind the students' convenience of mobility, the researchers said.