

CITY

Porn and propriety in Karnataka

The sensational incident in the Karnataka Assembly of a Minister watching porn comes quick on the heels of his exhortation to women to "dress appropriately": Page 5

**CRPF launches Intelligence**

Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram inaugurated the Intelligence Acquisition Centre, which will acquire an "intel-based strategy".

Suggestions for Delhi Master Plan review uploaded on DDA website

Ranging from complaints, proposals for improvement to prayers, demands

Jiby Kattakayam

NEW DELHI: Some interesting insights into what citizens think of the Delhi Master Plan-2021(MPD-2021) and how it impacts them, its errors and failures, and ways to improve and streamline it can be gleaned from the 500 suggestions received from the public that have now been uploaded on the Delhi Development Authority's website as part of the ongoing review of the Master Plan.

The suggestions include complaints on the MPD-2021 and on Zonal Plans, suggestions to improve the plan by town-planners, and prayers by residents' welfare associations, traders' bodies, religious groups, and individuals making various demands mostly related to floor-area ratio and land use.

In an interaction with

- 2,000 suggestions received since last October
- DDA has provided an online form for suggestions

media persons a few weeks back, DDA Vice-Chairman G. S. Patnaik had said that over 2,000 suggestions had been received from the public following an advertisement placed in October last year.

As part of the praiseworthy web initiative, the DDA has also provided a link on its home page at www.dda.org.in to a web-form for the public to submit suggestions online without having to send mail by post.

Citizens will have to provide their name, contact address, phone number and email, the type of suggestion they wish to make, the paragraph, clause, or sub-clause of the MPD-2021 to which their suggestion relates, and then the suggestion itself.

The type of suggestions allowed include residential, trade, environment, urban design, transport, social and physical infrastructure, and mixed use.

Former DDA official R. G. Gupta points out in his suggestion that in zonal plans prepared and approved in July 2010, the area north of Wazirabad Road in Zone-E has a population of six lakh, but is shown as a green belt. He also states in his suggestion that in the plans prepared by the DDA for the MPD-2021 and in the Zonal Plans "no land use is clearly visible except residential" and that earlier plans prepared since 1865 had much more clarity.

Mr. Gupta has also sug-

gested a division in the land use plan into two parts so as to clearly show the existing position of the residential or commercial land as in 2011 and the proposal for 2012 to 2022 especially in urban extension areas.

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) convenor A. G. K. Menon in his suggestion to the DDA points out that presently, the Heritage Conservation Committee (HRC) has been empowered to allow owners to convert heritage buildings even in non-commercial use zones for office/commercial use or hotels, provided the heritage value of the building is maintained and not spoiled. He goes on to add: "Thus, there is a policy on usage of heritage buildings and its adaptive re-use is permitted, but there are no guidelines in MPD-2021 that would enable the HRC to permit such

an adaptive re-use in a sustained, open, and transparent manner."

Mr. Menon also advocates "a uniform policy" for re-use of heritage buildings as presently these projects are not being considered by the HRC in the absence of guidelines. Another suggestion relating to this by another NGO based at Mehrauli, Friends of Heritage Society, suggests a new nomenclature - "Serai Hotels" - be framed for such heritage properties that the HRC allows to be converted to commercial use.

The Karol Bagh Traders' Welfare Association has sought exemption from punitive action till the redevelopment plan for the area is made and notified pointing out that it was a special area. Other building owners at Karol Bagh have sought an amnesty scheme for their properties which came up before MPD-2021.