VISION BHOPAL-BHOPAL MASTER PLAN 2031

OVERVIEW- PAST

EDITORIAL:

It is natural for people to ask why there is a need to bring out a supplement on Master plan. To which my answer is public issues are too important to be left to politicians alone. Besides, the mainstream media cannot take it up due to commercial and other reasons; the alternate media is not materially equipped to bring out such a supplement; further, hence, it is left to the Independent media to take it up.

Our endeavour would be to provide a space to philosophers and intellectual and voice to creative and spiritualists. For, more often than not these people are off radar in the mainstream media; that space is hogged by experts the only that experts and experienced are good at incremental short term stuff; intellectuals and relatives are best suited for differential middle term aspects – for quantum, long term aspects one needs Philosopher and spiritualists. It is they who know the limits and limitations - what can be done and what ought not to be expressed. Another reason why this attempt is different is that it is far more rigorous and vigourous than what mainstream media can be. What we wish to do is to modulate the process; to alter the methodology; to make it more vigorous and rigorous -stratified & differentiated; to pinpoint limits and limitations - also the way to get around them by innovation & improvisation, Jugaad & inspiration; to encourage people to give proposals; to align the draft design; to finetune the draft proposals; to oppose & contest the flaws in design /parts; to protest / question the inappropriate draft proposals; to check “reverse” & perverse Planning; To make it more transparent & inclusive...

Ours is an endeavour in public awareness & social education; by doing this we hope to enhance the public stakeholding in the plan and thereby ensure its better drafting and subsequent implementation. We’ll bring out another supplement when the plan is published to analyse and interpret it.

URBAN PLANNING IN ANCIENT INDIA:

Ancient town planning in India Indus Valley Civilization also referred to as Harappan civilization or even Saraswati Sindh Civiliza
tion. Mohenjodaro was one of the major settlements in this area. - Sophisticated and advanced urban culture: - Streets in perfect grid patterns in both Mohenjodaro and harappa. - World’s first sanitation system - Individual wells and separate covered drains along the streets for waste water. - Houses opened to inner courtyards and smaller lanes. - Impressive dockyards granaries, warehouses, brick platforms and protective walls. - Massive citadels protected the city from floods and attackers. - City dwellers were mainly traders and artisans. - All the houses had access to water and drainage facilities. Development of cities: Cities grew out of earlier villages that existed in the same locality for less than 100 years. Grew in size and density and were surrounded by various towns and villages. Cities interlinked with trade and economic activities, religious beliefs and social relations etc.

Vast agricultural lands, rivers and forests by pastoral communities, fisher folks and hunters surrounded each city. Mohenjo-
daro-No fortifications Major streets in North-South directions Intersection at right angles Streets within built up areas were narrow Distinct zoning for different groups. Religious, institutional and cultural areas around monastery and great bath in the western path. North - agriculture and industries South - administra
tion trade and commerce construction techniques: Buildings - masonry construction with the help of sun dried bricks. Ranging from two to three rooms to houses with many rooms. Under ground sewerage and drainage from houses Helical pumps for pumping water in great bath. Principal buildings: Monastery and Bath indicating religious culture. HARAPPA CIVILIZATION.

Earliest city may have been formed during 2800-2500 BC. Earliest city covered an area of 25 hectares! It became a center for trade network extending from baluchistan and afghanistan to the west of the sea coast in the south. Town built over raised mud brick platforms. Town planning: - lower town surrounded by massive brick wall. - Citadel had square towers and bastions. - Large open areas inside the gateway may have been used as a market or check points for taxing goods coming into the city. - Cluster of houses outside the city. - Maily used as rest points for travelers or caravans. - No division of society is reflected in the layout of the city since large public buildings, markets, areas, large houses, small houses as well as craft workshops has been found on the same neighborhood. Drainage! Discharge shaped bricks to form a structurally sound cylinder.

WATER RESOURCE PLANNING OF RAJA BHOJ:

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Bhopal got a few good schools, many emergency centres, and better accessibility. Hosting events and feasts in the third millennium ushered in a new dimension of migrants from the state's hinterland. It was an outpouring of the Parmac Kings at the outset of the second millennium, when the boundary of the Gond kingdom. In the early 19th Century, an Afghan interloper Dost Mohammad landed up in Bhopal, which, with the help of some munificent benefactors, turned into an important commercial and industrial centre. The city has come on the radar of the metro landsharks and has been caught in the crossfire of the hinterland moneybags and spitting with stolen public money. This two pronged attack has hit Bhopal's culture and environment whereby the city feels stuck between a rock and a hard place.

At this point in time, it remains in a confused state with short-sighted politicians and scatterbrain businessmen. It is precisely for the reason that another clean drive is needed to establish Bhopal as an intellectual hub by having resident intellectuals, centres, libraries, research, workshops, establishing chairs etc. We are now in the know of the norms established and are working to this end. The city of Bhopal is due for the next phase of growth. However, it is too important an issue to be trusted in the hands of politicians, bureaucrats and corporates /builders /businesses. Now that Bhopal is due for the next phase of growth, it is a critical juncture to intervene. The city must decide what it can be and what it can’t do, it must not waste its resources and capabilities. Consequently, Garba – Dandiya and Bhangra have become a regular feature of Bhopal's calendar as have Shadiya Teras and Anushthans. It is precisely for the reason that Bhopal is a cultural melting pot that parades from metros and the gatecrashers from Osiand land itself as a carpet for the city. Garba-Dandiya and Bhangra are a regular feature of Bhopal's calendar as have Shadiya Teras and Anushthans. It is precisely for the reason that Bhopal is a cultural melting pot that parades from metros and the gatecrashers from Osiand land itself as a carpet for the city. Garba-Dandiya and Bhangra have become a regular feature of Bhopal's calendar as have Shadiya Teras and Anushthans. It is precisely for the reason that
BHOPAL CDP 2031 – A COUNTERPOINT:

The revision plan was to come out in 2012

that it is the urban areas that generate most

of the revenues for it to play around with for

whatever it tries to do with the advance-

ments of the state. With the delay the longer

the state remains “BIMARU”.

The revised plan was to come out in 2012

but was again subjected to delay and this

year 2013 is now being taken to unveil it only

after the Assembly elections later in the

year. Speculations were set off – and quite

rightly so – that the politician-builder nexus

did want to utilise the interregnum to max-

imise their income by using up the available

Technology for conservation and develop-

ment of the Upper Lake and its catchments

has been postponed as the yields from the

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In our view the master plan ought to be drafted in two parts: the intellectual part ought to be drafted by Philosophers first; whetted by experts next and final alignment to be done by officials first the senior officers and ultimately the juniormost. Even in the final alignment the highest proposal of philosophers needn’t be touched; the mid-level proposals of experts shouldn’t be tampered with and the lowest proposal, the nuts & bolts of officials ought to be accepted. Finally, a public debate and voting (which needn’t be binding). Ultimate integration to be done by the political leadership.

### Details of the Proposed Plan (Incl: the One Which Was Cancelled)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake Plan</th>
<th>Regional Plan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salient Features</strong></td>
<td><strong>Of Various Plans:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW MARKET REDENSIFICATION PLAN:</td>
<td>CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN:</td>
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| DETAILED FEATURES OF VARIOUS PLANS:

- **Mahanagar Plan:**
  - Gated Community
  - apartments
  - mixed-use spaces
  - commercial

- **Lake Plan:**
  - open areas
  - public transport
  - green belts

- **Regional Plan:**
  - urban planning
  - transport
  - public facilities

- **Zonal Plan:**
  - urban design
  - housing
  - economic development

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In our opinion aspects concerning the social-environmental-cultural should be initiated beginning with Darshniks (those who’ve dedicated their lives to it), followed by suggestions of social bodies (they be asked to send proposals after having consensus on ground); after collating that, it ought to be finetuned by senior officials followed by eventual finetuning by experienced officials at the field/ bottom and longest serving. However, even in the final finetuning the immediate short term/social proposals of lowest employees ought not be touched, mid term/cultural propositions of experienced ought to be accepted and long term spiritual/humanistic advice of Darshniks to be incorporated. At the end of it voice vote (those propositions which do not have a consensus/majority to be dropped, redrafted, kept pending). Ultimate finetuning by the Jananetas.

Just as you have Indophiles & Indologists you have Bhopalites & Bhopalis. The former is someone who has invested something in Bhopal and the latter is somebody who has stakes in Bhopal.
1. Someone who was born here (And at least spent the early years). Ideally three generations.
2. Can make small talk in Bhopali-pidgin Urdu.
3. Knows the history.
4. Has imbibed Bhopalyat - an attitude, a way of life - particularly exhibited in the Bhopali Kind of street humour. Eg.- Soorma Bhopali, Sadda Mian Must’ve done something for the city; contributed in some way.
1. Written about it.
2. Paid huge taxes.
3. Taken part in the protests whenever Bhopal’s interests were threatened. Eg.- M.N. Buch, Charles Correa, Khuswant Singh

COMMENTS ON THE PRESENT APPROACH:

EXAMPLE OF REVERSE - PERVERSE PLANNING:

COMPARISONS WITH LIKE SIZED CITIES- AHMEDABAD, JAIPUR ETC.:
OVERVIEW - FUTURE CONTINUOUS

THE IDEA OF BHOPAL:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAND</th>
<th>ECONOMY</th>
<th>ARCHITECTURE</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Digitisation &amp; ground survey of maps must be tackled.</td>
<td>Funds directly to the Corporation v.i.z. From JNU-RUM. 1. Commercial loans only for Public services Social Borrowings (By Municipal bonds for residents – At mutual fund rates &amp; Tax concessions).</td>
<td>1. High rise in valleys and low roofs in – Citizen’s forum. 2. Skyline to be protected - Bhopal citizen’s forum’</td>
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<tr>
<th>WATER</th>
<th>TRAFFIC</th>
<th>TOWNSHIP</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Create more artificial lakes for storage of water/collecting rainwater.</td>
<td>1. Two BRTS corridors suggested connectivity of Obaidullahgunj, Mandideep etc. to the Airport</td>
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SECTORWISE SUGGESTIONS OF EXPERTS:

OUR TAKE

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
### FUTURE CONTINUOUS-ESSENCE

**BHOPAL OF OUR DREAMS:**

### SECTORWISE SUGGESTIONS OF EXPERTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HERITAGE</th>
<th>SEWAGE &amp; WASTE DISPOSAL</th>
<th>ENVIRONMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any thing that has stood for over three generations (100 yrs) and hasn’t hurt environment shouldn’t be touched.</td>
<td>1. more focus on sewage disposal than water distribution suggested in the meet on the state of environment in M.P. co-chaired by CSE director &amp; CM.</td>
<td>Sam Pitroda: make it a global Environment city in five not thirty years.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CULTURE</th>
<th>SOCIETY</th>
<th>SOCIO-CULTURAL ZONES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revive - Patang Baazi, Ganga - Jamuna - Saraswati Tehzeeb</td>
<td>Revive Patiye – Informal socio-cultural spaces</td>
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### OUR OPINION
FUTURE

BHOPAL 2031 - AS PLANNED
(MASTER PLAN 2031)
V/S
BHOPAL- INDEPENDENT PLAN – PROPOSALS
(MASTER’S PLAN-PEOPLES’ PROPOSALS)

ISOLA CITIES OF TOMORROW:
The Conference was held on 31st August and 01st September 2012 at the Noor-Us-Sabah Palace, Bhopal. In order to explore new territories and expand the profession to hitherto un-explored areas, the conference was for the first time held in Central India in Madhya Pradesh, and there was an overwhelming attendance by landscape architects, related professionals, architects, students and stake holders. The EC took upon itself the task of organizing the conference with the local support of the Department of Architecture, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology and School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal.

The Annual ISOLA 2012 Honours and Awards were conferred upon Prof. Mohammed Shahir (ISOLA Medal 2012), Sanskriti Kendra, New Delhi (Landmark Award), Ms. Anuradha Rathore, Sujata Hingorani & Shilpa Chandawarkar (General Design: Award of Excellence) and the ISOLA Students Award went to Harsh Mittal and Anupama Bapat.

BY: Savita Raje
ISOLA Core Committee member
& Professor Architecture at SPA Bhopal

SUGGESTIONS ABOUT: HOW EXPERTS HAVE ENVISAGED IN GENERAL, INDIA’S FUTURE CITIES TO BE?

RENAME BHOPAL TO BHOPAL-BHOJPAL:
In the wake of the New Bhopal Master Plan 2031 being drafted, we suggest that its scope and perspective be expanded and extended. It need not be limited to physical/financial planning – instead, it should be a vision document; likewise, it ought to make a mission statement, transcending the limitations of environmental/heritage protection.

FAQs:
1. Why does one need an ideal/philosophical overview?
   An ideal is needed so that when one begins implementing, it slips at worst to the practical level; however, if you begin with the practical level at the planning stage, while implementing over time it invariably becomes corrupt/distorted due to environmental/circumstantial pulls & pushes.
   (Philosophical overview could be altering the name of Bhopal to Bhopal-Bhojpul with associated ideals or it could be something else.)
2. Why have a vision-mission?
   Before answering that, I must quote Mr. Buch from one of his pieces Mr. Buch: “Before the planning exercise begins there must be a picture of the future city before us, to achieve which we use planning as the instrument. For example, how do we envisage Bhopal in the future?

POINTERS ABOUT WHAT INDIA & THE WORLD IS LIKELY TO BE AROUND 2031:

OUR TAKE: OUR SUGGESTIONS, PROPOSALS (FOR VARIOUS ASPECTS):

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<td>Govt. must remain the biggest landowner.</td>
<td>The skyline will never surpass the Legislative.</td>
<td>A spectrum of public transport – starting from battery operated Rickshaw (a la Delhi) in Old City to TATA magic in bylanes to mini buses in the inner ring road to low floor buses in BRTS.</td>
<td>Commercial loans only for Public services.</td>
<td>Any thing that has stood for over three generations (100 yrs) and hasn’t hurt environment shouldn’t be touched.</td>
<td>It could be a Unique global Enviroment city – js that it has the strictest Pollution control and best natural environment.</td>
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Aspectwise compilation of proposals by citizens & residents

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