

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE ARCHITECT WORLD

CRAFTING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN WORDS

SMART *Cities* and Sustainable *Solutions*

Sustainable solution related to a city is a process or system of strategies or governance which enforces sustainability & thus focusses on meeting the needs of the present times without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.



CONTENTS

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE ARCHITECT WORLD
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22 SMART CITIES AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

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39 Digital Cities - Making Magic with Technology

• Pratik Vaidya

40 Manufactured Sand: A Sustainable Solution For The Construction Industry

• Dr. V. Ramachandra

44 UGAM Chemicals

• Nitin Shah

46 Smart City Development

• Ar. Prem Nath

48 Smart Cities and urban Mobility some notable initiatives

• Dr M Ramachandran, IAS (Rtd)

50 Radiation Management Solutions

• Environics

68 EXCON 2019

CII organised and hosted the 10th Edition of EXCON - An International Exhibition & Conference on Construction Equipment & Construction Technology was held between 10 to 14 December 2019 at Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Bengaluru, Karnataka.

OTHER PAGES

04 CONTENTS

06 Editor's Desk

08 Guiding Force Panel

94 VJTI: Post Review

96 DEM Tech India: Post Review

MUNICIPALIKASPECIAL

22 Smart Cities and Sustainable Solutions

• Vijay K. Saluja

26 Nature based Solutions for Smart and Sustainable Cities

• Ashok Jain, MD, Terracon Ecotech Pvt Ltd

32 Lighting and Ventilation Issues in SRA Buildings

• Ar. Ankur Kulkarni, Ar. Niranjhan Dhakshanamoorthy

36 Status of C&D --Waste Recycling in India

• Mohan Ramanathan & V G Ram



51 British Paints

52 Green Buildings by Innovative Masonry Method

• Ganesh N. Kamat & Dr. Anuja Kamat

54 Solar - DC Inverterless Technology

• Venkat Rajaraman

56 Building low Carbon Cities

• Dr. Roshni Udyavar Yehuda

58 PPP In Slum Free City

• Binu Francis

62 Smart City

• Rashmi Kolatkar



64 Green Building in India

- Dr. Abhijit Sarkar

66 Urbanization: A Major Challenge

- Shakti Kumar Leekha

EXCON SPECIAL

68 EXCON: Post Event Review



74 KONE

76 PRD Rigs

77 CASE INDIA

78 PUTZMEISTER-SANY

80 L&T - KOMATSU

82 ATLAS COPCO

84 MB CRUSHER

86 CATERPILLAR: AMIT BANSAL

87 PERI

88 J K TYRE

89 TRIMBLE

90 DOOSAN BOBCAT INDIA

92 MARSHALS: Payal Singh

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Building low Carbon Cities

The world is fast urbanizing – more than 55% of world population now lives in cities - from 751 million in 1950 to 4.2 billion in 2018. The 2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects produced by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) estimates another 2.5 billion people will be added to urban areas by 2050, with close to 90% of this addition happening in Asia and Africa.

By Dr. Roshni Udyavar Yehuda

A recent release on the carbon footprint of 13,000 cities around the world led by Daniel Moran of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, indicates that the 100 highest-emitting urban areas accounted for 18% of the global carbon footprint. In most countries, the report summarizes, the top three urban areas drive more than one-quarter of national emissions. In India, this cluster comprises New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai ranked 30, 49 and 70 respectively in global ranking. While the ranking has much to do with population, it also has to do with affluence and the corresponding consumption and lifestyle.

According to the United Nations DESA report 2018, India has 52 cities with population between 1 to 5 million, and 49 cities with population between 500,000 to 1 million. In the context of this trend, below are five strategies for planning low carbon cities:

Sustainable mobility is a people-centric and low-energy planning of transportation which provides for easy access to basic amenities such as school, office, super market, banking, place of worship, shopping and recreation – walkable to the extent possible – or by using modes of transportation which require low energy input per unit of population transported, such as cycling, mass transit including trains, buses (bus rapid transit system – providing priority to bus lanes), trams/ light rails, waterways and the like. It is imperative for these systems to be of low intensive construction.

Urban farming spaces can to be allocated within city limits – on peripheral buffer zones or rooftops - to provide fresh greens to the city while minimizing carbon emissions from transportation. These agri-



zones built using efficient green-houses and hydroponics will have the potential to use recycled organic waste from city as fertilizer, thereby reducing the use of fossil-fuel based chemical fertilizers and promoting healthy lifestyles in addition to increased biodiversity within city limits.

Circular economy principles to recycle and reuse, utilize waste as resource and follow best practices in utilization of natural resources. This includes use of building construction materials from agriculture and industrial waste such as fly ash, rice husk, and aggregates from building construction debris, use of bamboo and other natural

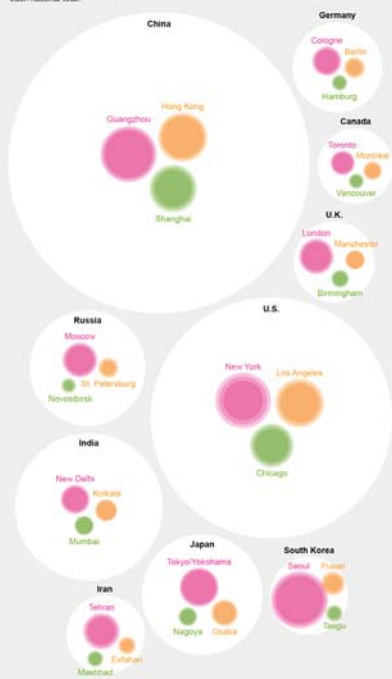
materials in structural and non-structural uses. It will also be applied to all consumer and electronic goods, creating a cycle and culture of segregation, recycle, reuse and reduce.

Energy efficient buildings have low cooling and lighting loads, reduced energy consumption and low carbon footprint. This can be achieved by designing energy efficient building envelope, with U-value or rate of thermal transmission below the maximum value stated in the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC). Currently used external walls made of 230mm clay bricks (average density 1500kg/cu.m) have U value

High-Impact Cities

Within the highest-emitting countries in the world, individual urban clusters are major contributors to the national carbon footprint. Researchers calculated carbon emissions based on household consumption only, so the data below do not include emissions related to building infrastructure or transportation, for example.

The 10 countries with the largest carbon footprints are shown, along with the three urban clusters that contribute the most carbon emissions to each national total.



of 1.5 W/m² 0K, 200 mm Fly Ash block is 1.3 W/m² 0K, and for a 200 mm AAC (Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) block wall is 0.8 W/m² 0K. The most efficient of these, ie. AAC, is only 50% as efficient as that required by the ECBC - of 0.4 W/m² 0K. It is projected that buildings which follow the code will be 30 - 40% efficient as compared to conventional buildings.

In the context of urban high rise buildings,



roof U-value is not significant as comparative area with respect to wall and glazing is much smaller. However, it will be of great significance in buildings of up to 3 to 4 storeys height. Glazing orientation, area, SHGC and u-value are important in all dwelling types. Their appropriate design and shading will ensure a more efficient envelope and natural light within dwellings.

The star labelling scheme of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) provides a guide for energy efficient equipment. Five star rated ACs, geysers and refrigerators, although higher in cost by 10 - 15%, payback capital in less than 5 to 6 months. Similarly, use of LED lamps in habitable spaces and sensor based dimmable LEDs in common areas such as staircases, can have significant savings in electricity bills. Brushless DC fans consume 50% of energy as compared to a regular fan. Efficient building envelope and equipment together can reduce the Energy Performance Index (EPI) of a building by up to 50%.

Net Zero Energy buildings and cities powered by alternate fuel sources - solar, wind, biomass, biogas and bio-diesel - will complete the cycle of energy. Grid-connected solar photovoltaic panels on building

rooftops, public spaces including railway stations, bus stops and public buildings complimented by wind and biomass based energy, can drastically reduce carbon emission of cities.

Low carbon cities have been conceived as in the master planning of Masdar city in Abu Dhabi by Sir Norman Foster. One of the best examples of low carbon city is the city of Freiburg - a quaint little town in South-West Germany that was almost razed during World War II. In June 1992, the Freiburg city council adopted a resolution that it would permit construction only of "low-energy buildings" on municipal land, and all new buildings must comply with certain "low energy" specifications. Low-energy housing uses solar power passively as well as actively. In addition to solar panels and collectors on the roof, providing electricity and hot water, many passive features use the sun's energy to regulate the temperature of the rooms. A typical Passive House here consumes only 15kWh/m² per year.

By systematic planning of green spaces based on ecosystem approach will increase bio-diversity and act as carbon sink even as it will improve the quality of life in these cities.

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