# Failing to plan is planning to fail:

Why urban planning is central to sustainable urbanization and the SDGs

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#### THE CASE OF INDIA

- Less than one-third urban, but its urban population of 377 million in 2011 exceeds the combined population of the US and UK
- Number of slum-dwellers estimated at 93 million
   set to cross 100 million by 2017
- Cities contribute over 60% of national GDP, set to rise to 70-75% by 2020

India no longer lives in its villages...

# A RANGE OF INTERVENTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION

- Slum upgrading
- Affordable housing
- Various national "missions" related to climate change (and others)
- "World class" infrastructure
- Safety infrastructure
- Smart cities....

### **SLUM UPGRADING: MIXED EXPERIENCE**

- Participatory slum upgrading by communities NGOs in partnership with city administrations successful in a few cities
- Scaling up and policy reform problematic, due to
  - Tendency to focus on demo projects rather than scaled-up solutions
  - Lack of willingness to address complex or contentious issues
  - Limited reform of associated laws, policies and regulations

(Innovations: Participatory slum upgrading by Mahila Milan; Indore Slum Networking project; others)

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING: LIMITED VISION**

- Limited availability in government-provided housing
- Limited private sector involvement due to lack of profitability
- No emphasis on development of rental markets (active discouragement...)

(Innovation: Aarusha Homes)

## VARIOUS NATIONAL MISSIONS: PIECEMEAL IMPLEMENTATION

National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
National Water Mission
National Mission for a "Green India"

• Swachch Bharat (Clean India)

- Digital India
- Skilled India... etc

## **BUILDING WORLD CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE:** A POOR TRACK RECORD

- Limited in reach and abysmal in quality, due to:
  - Lack of a vision
  - Archaic laws
  - Bureaucratic loopholes
  - Inefficient and corrupt institutions
- JNNURM experience: Focused on urban infrastructure in 67 "mission cities", but failed to convert any of these into sustainable, livable, or world class cities
- No clear or effective strategy for infrastructure development in smaller towns and rural areas

## SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE: AD-HOC INTERVENTIONS WITH LIMITED IMPACT

- Women's safety and needs never a priority with planners or policymakers
- Emerged as a particular priority after December 2012
- Ad-hoc interventions such as CCTV cameras, streetlighting at desolate spots, GPSs in public buses etc failed to make a serious impact on crime/ safety
- No commitment to strateaic perspective on



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