



# The EuroIndia Centre

## Press Notes on the Indian Mission to European Cities & on the 4th EuroIndia Summit in Halle.

**A high level Indian delegation undertook a mission to the European Cities of Leuven, Brussels, Lille and Paris from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of October followed by the 4<sup>th</sup> EuroIndia Summit on “Reinventing Dynamic and Sustainable Cities” at Halle (Germany) from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.**

The Mission and the Summit were organized by the *EuroIndia Centre* and the *Confederation of Indian Industry* who have a long standing partnership in Urban Development and Good Governance.

The Mission and Summit addressed critical issues pertaining to futuristic Urban Planning and Development including supply of land at reasonable prices; Innovative Public Private Partnership models for ensuring that cities are economically viable and vibrant; Promoting energy efficiency and green technologies; Fostering inclusive growth and developing affordable housing ; Promoting multi-modal and cost and energy efficient Public Transport Systems and making our cities environmentally sustainable.

At **Leuven** the focus was on field studies of the brownfield redevelopment project in the canal zone and brewery area; Partnership between the municipal, regional and federal levels with the European Commission Regional Fund for development of the *Gasthuisberg* Medical & Research Centre; the *Haasrode* Research & Development Park for promotion of innovation and incubation of new business ventures; Research on Photovoltaics, Biotechnologies and Biomedical and nano-electronics.

In **Brussels**, the spotlight of interaction focused on attending the historic Plenary Session of **Open Days** 2010, the 8<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities, at the European Parliament on “*Europe 2020: Competitiveness, co-operation and cohesion for all regions*” organized by the *Committee of the Regions*, followed by an introductory meeting with its Chairperson, Mercedes Bresso. The objective of this visit was to understand the consultative process followed by the European Union with multiple stakeholders.

The Indian Mission participated in three workshops and interacted with European Companies at the meeting under the aegis of *Business Europe*. It interacted with representatives of various regions at the seminar on interregional cooperation under the aegis of the State of Saxony-Anhalt.

In **Lille**, France, the Indian mission was taken for a field study trip, including *Euratechnologies*, a dynamic experiment of incubating new ICT companies. This was followed by a detailed presentation on the *French National Agency for Urban Renewal*, the French counterpart of India’s JNNURM, encompassing Public-Private Partnerships, and on the development plans of Lille Metropolis, “The Intense City”

Association loi 1901 - SIRET: 442 752 481 00022

7 rue de la Grosse Horloge, 17000 La Rochelle, France - Tel: +33 (0)5 46 41 2001, Fax: +33 (0)5 46 41 2002

Email: [administration@the-euroindia-centre.org](mailto:administration@the-euroindia-centre.org) - Web site: [www.the-euroindia-centre.org](http://www.the-euroindia-centre.org)

In **Paris**, the Indian mission was welcomed at the *Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea (MEEDDM)*. This was followed by a presentation of the AREP vision of the Greater Paris, and a presentation on the “*The Grenelle Environment Round Table: the French context, future regulations and incentives*”. A lunch hosted by the French Ministry was followed by a presentation on “*The National Sustainable Cities Programme: Case studies related to passive and energy efficient buildings in Paris*”. Thereafter, the Indian mission undertook a field visit to the multi-modal integrated public transportation grid of Greater Paris at La Defense.

The Mission also provided several opportunities for **interaction** with European civic leaders, town planners, architects, engineers, experts on green technologies and top managers of business firms at formal sessions full of interesting presentations and at official receptions.

The curtain-raiser to The **4<sup>th</sup> EuroIndia Summit at Halle (Germany)** began on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 with field visits to the *Francke Foundation* and the redevelopment of the *Neustadt* which was built during the GDR period. This was followed by a dinner reception hosted by the Lady Mayor Mrs. Dagmar Szabados at a beautifully restored Castle housing the *Moritzburg Art Exhibition*.

The two-day *EuroIndia City Summit* on 11-12 October, 2010, witnessed multiple presentations as outlined in the enclosed Summit programme.

The Theme presentation at the Summit at Halle (Germany) from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010, on “*Reinventing Dynamic and Sustainable Indian Cities*” was made by Dr. Harjit S. Anand, Co-president of the EuroIndia Centre. A Presentation on Vision of European Cities was made by Board Member Professor Isabelle Milbert of the Graduate Institute of Development Studies, Geneva.

On the Indian side, presentations on the Indian perspective on futuristic planning and development of Indian cities were made by Mr. Subir Hari Singh, Additional Chief secretary and Principal Secretary (Urban Development) of the Government of Karnataka; Mr. Noor Mohammed, Member Secretary of the National Capital Region Planning Board of the Government of India; Mr. Rajeshwar Tiwari, Municipal Commissioner of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority; and Mrs. Malini Agarwal, DIG of Police & MD of Jaipur City Transport Services Ltd.

On the European side, intellectually stimulating presentations during the mission were made. Refer to detailed programme enclosed.

The deliberations at the 4<sup>th</sup> EuroIndia City Summit were marked by several erudite presentations and an avid debate; a number of Indian and European experts spoke on key themes of the Summit.

The Indian Mission to select European Cities from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October followed by the 4<sup>th</sup> EuroIndia City Summit from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 provided **an excellent platform** for Civic Leaders of Indian and European Cities, Representatives of the Government of India as well as various State Governments of India and their European counterparts, Indian and European Companies, Knowledge Institutions and Professionals to discuss the future of Indian and European Cities in relation to Urban Planning and Development, Inclusive Growth with focus on the urban poor, Urban Infrastructure with special emphasis on Green Energy as well as Public Transport Systems and Environmental Sustainability.

The presence of a number of **Mayors** during the Mission and Summit belonging to Ajmer, Bikaner, Leuven, Halle, Lille, Nysa and Valladolid enriched the debate. Top representatives of a number of Indian and European **Companies** were present: Feedback Ventures Pvt.Ltd, A2Z Maintenance & Engineering services Ltd, M.A. Architects Pvt.Ltd, Jaipur City Transport Services Lt., Glaonet

Knowledge Services Pvt.Ltd. and Jindal Water Infrastructure on the Indian side, Veolia, Philips and several German companies on the European side.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) not only partnered the Mission and Summit with The EuroIndia Centre but its representatives consisting of Mr. Rajesh Menon, Ms. Gunveena Chadha and Mr. Vinayak Chatterjee made significant contributions to the quality of the debate.

Intellectually creative comments by eminent members of the EuroIndia Centre such as Ms. Colette Mathur, Dr. Harjit Singh Anand, Michel Sabatier, Guillermo Rodriguez, Isabelle Milbert, Diana Beaulieu-Milisavljevic, Girish Bhagat and Ludovic Jonard enriched the proceedings.

Thus, the Indian Mission to select European Cities from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October followed by the 4<sup>th</sup> EuroIndia City Summit from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 at Halle (Germany) had set the stage for fruitful civic, economic and cultural cooperation between Europe and India in the coming years.

§§§§§