



Three-day Urban India 2020 conference in state from Feb 8

■ NT Staff Reporter
Panaji, Feb 6

The Union Minister for Urban Development, Mr Jaipal Reddy, the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Mr Kamal Nath, the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the Chief Minister of Delhi, Ms Sheila Dikshit, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ms Vasundhara Raje, the deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Dr Rakesh Mohan and the chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd, Mr Mukesh Ambani, besides delegates from European countries will descend in Goa on February 8 to deliberate on, 'Urban

India 2020: Investing in the future of Indian cities leveraging European expertise for their renewal'.

The three-day conference on European expertise for Indian cities organised by the EuroIndia Forum will be inaugurated by Mr Reddy, in the presence of the Chief Minister, Mr Pratapsingh Rane and Lord Mayor of Lisbon, Prof Antonio Carmona Rodrigues. The president of the Confederation of the Indian Industries (CII), Mr R Seshasayee will also remain present on the occasion.

The opening session will begin with the welcome remarks by Mr Colette Mathur, the co-president of the EuroIndia Centre, followed by

an audio-visual show by Mr Joseph Saint Anne on 'Revisiting the golden age of free trade between Indian and European cities'.

A symposium on 'Heart to mind: Visions of our shared future' participated by Indian and European business leaders will be addressed by Mr Mukesh Ambani, Mr Joachim Bitterlich, ambassador (ret'd) and executive vice-president of Veolia Environnement, Paris, Mr Bertrand Collomb, chairman of Lafarge, France, Mr Elmar Ledergerber, Lord Mayor of Zurich and Mr Jan Stureson, partner and leader of Cities of the Future Global Network, PwC, Sweden, on

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'Unleashing India's urban potential: What are the milestones?', another symposium co-chaired by Prof Isabelle Milbert of Graduate Institute of Development Studies, University of Geneva and Mr N K Singh, deputy chairman, Planning Commission, government of Bihar will follow. The Union Minister for Urban Development and the deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India will attend this symposium.

It will be followed by three workshops on 'Water supply and waste water treatment', 'Urban transportation' and 'Civic governance and town planning'. Another three workshops on 'Investing in urban infrastructure projects', 'Citizens involvement in planning and managing cities' and 'Social Housing' will follow.

The last day of the conference will commence with three workshops on 'Solid waste management', 'City heritage restoration and economic development' and 'Human capacity building through academic co-operation'.

'Meet Indian cities', a symposium will follow, with special address by the Union minister for commerce and industry and remarks by Mr M Ramachandran, the secretary of ministry for urban development, central government.

The final two workshops are based on the themes 'European best practices in city to city co-operation' as chaired by United Cities and Local Governments, Barcelona and 'New towns', partnered by Reliance Industries Limited.

The valedictory session will have a key-note address by the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, government of India.

A corporate get-together for informal networking will bring down curtains on the conference.