

## **BRIEF WRITE UP OF WORLD HABITAT DAY-2007- CELEBRATION**

The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

UN-HABITAT has designated Dutch city of the Hague to spearhead the 2007 global celebration of World Habitat Day on Monday 1 October. The theme of the occasion decreed by the United Nations to reflect on the state of human settlements around the world, this year is *A safe city is a just city*.

The United Nations chose this year's theme in order to raise awareness and encourage reflection on the mounting threats to urban safety and social justice, particularly urban crime and violence, forced eviction and insecurity of tenure, as well as natural and human-made disasters. One of the most significant causes of fear and insecurity in many cities today is crime and violence.

This year World Habitat Day was celebrated in India on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2007. The national level celebration has been organized by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Dr. Harjit S. Anand, Secretary Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation was the Chief Guest of the function. Secretaries of the Govt. of India, all States Secretaries, Heads of various NGO's, representatives of all UN-organization, all Ambassadors/High Commissioners of foreign missions in India, officers of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation & Ministry of Urban Development were invited on this occasion. The function was addressed by the Chief Guest Dr. Harjit S. Anand, Secretary, Sh. K.L. Dhingra, CMD (HUDCO), Dr. P.K. Mohanty

(Mission Director, JNNURM), Sh. Pankaj Joshi, Director (Housing) & Ms. Shalini Dewan (Director, UNIC) on behalf of the Secretary General (UNO).

In the technical session four lectures were given by the eminent personalities namely Ms. Sheela Patel, of Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC), Shri Sanjay Sethi, Municipal Commissioner, Nagpur, Dr. Kiran Bedi, DG, BPR&D and representative of Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon, Member National Disaster Management Authority on the topics related to the World Habitat. Prizes were given to the winners of NHB Essay Competition and Painting Competition of physically and mentally challenged children organized by BMTPC. Special publication of HUDCO, BMTPC, NCHF & NHB were released by the chief guest.