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## Report on the World Habitat Day Celebrations held at Integral University, Lucknow on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2016

To commemorate the World Habitat Day, Integral University, Lucknow organized various activities relating to urban planning specially the habitat.

The Inaugural Event was presided over by Honorable Vice Chancellor of Integral University- Prof. S. W. Akhtar and was graced by following Guests of Honor:

1. Mr. M.S. Khan- Chairman, State Environment Appraisal Committee, Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of India; Chairman, U.P. Chapter of the Institution of Town Planners; Advisor to Bundelkhand University, Jhansi and Former Chief Town and Country Planner, Uttar Pradesh
2. Prof. Jagbir Singh, Principal, Faculty of Architecture, Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow
3. Ar. D.S. Bhui, Senior Practicing Architect and Urban Planne; Director, Cosmic Designs Pvt. Ltd., Lucknow.

The activities included a Poster Competition amongst the students of various architecture institutions of the town; a seminar, on the topic of ' Built Environment in Changing Cities'; an exhibition showcasing the works of architecture students of Integral University and a Panel discussion amongst senior architects and urban planners of Lucknow.

During the half day deliberations, the issue of affordable housing was discussed in detail, whereby it was found that there is a complete mismatch between demand and supply. While there is an ample need for lower segment housing, more and more houses have been built in the higher category leading to large stock of unsold and unutilized housing units across the country. It was resolved that in future; housing must be created as per factual need and demand; not as per governmental ambitions and priorities.

The participants, 300 in number, included academicians, practicing architects and urban planners/ designers, civil engineers and students.

