

Regional Science will evolve as a strong discipline to train young minds: Governor

BY A REPORTER

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Panaji: Governor Dr Mridula Sinha expressed confidence that Regional Science will evolve as a strong disci-

pline to train young minds in accepting and solving developmental challenges.

Dr Sinha was speaking at the 12th World Congress of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) and 49th Annual Conference of Regional Science Association, India celebrating 50 years of Regional Science in India organised by Regional Science Association International (RSAI) and Town and Country Planning Department of India in association with Town and Country Planning Department Government of Goa and BITS-PI-LANI Goa at BITS K K Birla Goa campus on Tuesday.

Stressing that Regional Science as a discipline, concerns the careful and patient study of social problems with regional or spatial dimensions, employing diverse combinations of analytical and empirical research, the Governor informed that the Government of India has proposed to establish 18 new schools of planning and agriculture in the country, hoping that there will be one in Goa too.

She appealed to all those

involved in this initiative to ensure that these institutions constantly shape talent and thinking of the young minds to facilitate a sustainable spatial transformation of India.

Dr Sinha said Regional Science emerged as a discipline in the 1950's when some economist collectively were dissatisfied with the low level analysis of regional economics and felt necessary to elevate its standards. Late Prof Walter Israd along with his fellow researchers and supporters vehemently promoted the science and objective analysis of regional economics and regional development in different parts of the world, she added.

She said, "The importance and power of spatial thinking as a skill set is being realized and is being taken seriously by policy makers, academic establishments and the industry. Spatial thinking isn't really

something new neither did it evolve after the introduction of computers and data visualizations. The ability



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to think spatial was something very important right from the evaluation of human civilization".

Important of Spatial Information and Technology is increasing in modern world. Satellite images bring daily weather reports and provide farmers with information for precision agriculture. The capability

of remote sensing data has already been demonstrated to delineate the features like land use, soil, geology, etc, on regular basis, Dr Sinha pointed.

Dr Budy Resosudarmo, President of RSAI, ANU, Australia; Dr G Raghurama, Director, BITS, Goa; Dr Chitta Ranjan Pathak, Secretary, RSA India; Dr Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan, Convener, RSA India; Dr Debasis Patnaik, Convener, BITS Goa; Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India were among those prominent persons present on the occasion.

Dr Sinha released the NATMO Atlas, Map of Goa and Town Map of Panaji presented by Dr Tapati Benerjee, Director, NATMO.

Dr S T Puttaraju, Chief Town Planner (LU), Government of Goa welcomed the gathering while Dr Sumana Bandyopadhyay, president of RSA India and chairperson, Local Organizing Committee, 12th WCRSAI proposed a vote of thanks. The function was compered by Alan Pinto.