



## Kolkata Card

# PARKS & GARDEN: KOLKATA'S LIFELINE NEED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

Report by Anver Kamal Siddiqui



A seminar on Kolkata's parks of gardens was organized by the Centre of Contemporary communication (CCC) at the Palladian lounge of the BENGAL CHAMBER of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY on June 4, 2011- Co-sponsored by TATAs if was chaired by Sri, Debashish Chatterjee mayor in council parks & gardens, Kolkata municipal corporation . The keynote speaker was Dr, Ashish Ghosh, eminent ecologist and president of ENDEV, who emphasized the importance of parks for people, providing a visionary road-map for the future. This was followed by an illuminating survey- report of almost 515 parks of Kolkata by Ms. Mallika Jalan, director of CCC,

It was obvious to those present that most of these parks were not utilized in terms of public inter-action for relaxation or leisure activities or for sharing natural greenery-benefits

because of poor maintenance (in most cases) and limited access - or branding for publicity- by business houses which maintain a few parks but does not control its access for common citizens of Kolkata .CCC has 7000 snaps of around 515 parks of Kolkata.

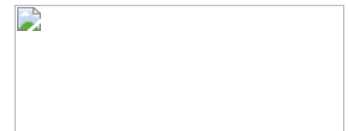
Ms. Mallika Jalan revealed the cause of creating greener spaces and reminded the new government in authority to improve Kolkata like LONDON.

While displaying visuals of London - prominent green spaces which were extensive and easily accessible to the common people around the clock, she pointed out the difference between London and Kolkata. The current green area is only 8% by the KMC has promised to provide 32% by the year 2015.

A map of the Park was submitted to the mayor- in council, Sri, Debashish who promised to improve the parks but was reluctant to take up full commitment before the conserved gathering. Perhaps, due to the lack of proper work force and budgetary constraints at KMC the development of the park is going steadily. However, other prominent speakers like Ms, Bonani Kakkar from the department of urban eco-studies, Calcutta University, spoke about urban environment and the economics of open spaces- with special reference to the parks of Kolkata. Ms. Kakkar was followed by Sri Mudar Patheria, chief positioning officer Try sis communication. Sri Mudar stressed on lily pool.

Director of centre for contemporary communication Dr, Tapati Ghosh presented her remarks along with MR, Vasant G, Kalambi, V, and President Concern from Calcutta- which ended with quite a few unanswered questions as to how the dream of Kolkata to become like London would materialize.

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