

GUIDELINES FOR TWINNING OF CITIES

(Issued vide Ministry of UD&PA's letter No.N-11025/8/80-UCD dated Sept 23, & Nov 25, 1994)

The Ministry of Urban Development have been receiving from the Ministry of External Affairs proposals regarding establishment of twinning links between different cities of the world and one or the other city in India.

2. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) have been consulted. The following guidelines for twinning of cities are laid down:

- (i) The idea of cities is broadly acceptable as it will promote better understanding and exchange of useful information.
- (ii) Twinning is generally relevant to smaller cities. However, the twinning of metropolitan cities also may be considered on merits.
- (iii) The objectives of twinning arrangements should be:
 - (a) to strengthen bonds of friendship between a city in India and the twinned city in another country;
 - (b) to encourage the study of culture, art, literature and language of twinned cities for better understanding between citizens;
 - (c) to invite people of the twinned cities to undertake visits, and specifically encourage families or associations in the cities to accept the families from other cities as guests in order to observe the life style of citizens closely and to identify common problems and solutions;
 - (d) to promote exchange visits of persons in the field of health, education and social services between the cities, exchange material and information regarding different aspects of civic administration and also in the field of culture, and literature;
 - (e) to encourage establishment of links between non-governmental organizations, youth bodies and trade associations in the twinned cities;
 - (f) to promote international understanding, goodwill and enrichment of culture;
 - (g) to make available expertise in the matter of provision of services and shelter, land use, transportation and other urban development matters; and
 - (h) to promote exchanges in the area of trade and investment, also in the areas of technological growth and excellence, the twinning should take place between recognized cities having the informal designation of commercial or business capitals of the countries concerned in keeping with the potential for high level of cooperation and collaboration in the above areas.

- (iv) After it is agreed to twin any foreign city with an Indian city, an agreement may be reached on specific objectives of twinning within the broad framework of objectives mentioned above. The said agreement may also spell out the specific activities to be undertaken, such as visits by citizens, supply of educational and other material cultural exchanges, support of non-governmental organizations, host families, etc.
- (v) Each case is required to be cleared by the M/o External Affairs from political angle and by the Department of Economic Affairs, M/o Finance for foreign exchange implications, by way of receipt of assistance or transfer of sources. Each such case should also be ratified by the Ministry of Urban Development, State Government (State Govt concerned for the city proposed to be twinned) and the local authorities of the cities to be twinned. The Indian High Commission/ Embassy should be kept informed of the agreement and the follow up action taken after the cities have been twinned. Further, the Indian city that is twinned with any foreign city should maintain proper documentation regarding the various activities undertaken in pursuance of the agreement of twinning links and should send annual reports to the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of External Affairs.
- (vi) The categorization of the Indian cities and the maximum number of foreign cities with which they may be twinned is as under:

SI No	Categorization of Indian Cities	Maximum number of foreign cities with which twinning is permissible
1	Mega cities (Except Delhi*)	4
2	Other Metropolitan cities	4
3	Cities with more than 1 lakh population	2
4	Rest of the cities	1

*Delhi being the capital city has been allowed, as a special case, to have twin-city relationship with a maximum number of six foreign cities. This decision was taken on 2.11.2006 in File No.N-11025/25/2006.

- (vii) All proposals of twinning links should clearly spell out the financial implications, especially the foreign exchange involved for clearance of the DEA, Ministry of Finance at the stage of formulation of the agreement, where the twinning links involve grant of major assistance by any of the cities, whether in cash or in kind, should be cleared by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
- (viii) The All India Council of Mayors should be kept informed about the twinning arrangements and they may also informally monitor the various twinning arrangements.
- (ix) The twinning links will be at the local body level and expenditure involved, if any, in establishing the twinning links would be borne by the concerned local body. There will be no financial commitment on the part of the Central Government.

- (x) Visits of foreign delegation in pursuance of the twinning arrangements will follow established procedures relating to visits and obtaining clearance from concerned Departments of the Central Government.

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