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**URBAN LANDSCAPE, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING in COOCH
BEHAR, WEST BENGAL**

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ABSTRACT

Landscape means the arrangements of the form of a town but its terminological uses have been extended to cover all the varied aspects viz- shape, size, and structure both physical and cultural. Landscape of a town or city exhibits the spatial format of urbanization. As a town grows, the socio-economic development bears some imprints of history. As a result, urban morphology is manifested through signatures of time, as a portrayal showing man's achievements, along with the organization system in spatial landscape, a townscape (Smailes, 1953). Morphology of urban centres in contemporary urbanization differs markedly from that of cities in the past. Present day cities exhibit range of varieties from one another because of the different economic, social and political contexts in which they have developed. Nevertheless, certain common characteristics are evident which make possible some generalization.

Urban planning is an art and science of reshuffling and modifying the urban environment in terms of influence of each other and guiding the growth of urban centres in the true direction. As an applied science, town planning must be taken up in close harmonization with architecture, economics, social science, politics and statistics. As an art, it is considered as the feasible approach of future society and direction of differential designs of development. Urban planning considers the urban lay out management, directing the pre-conditions of land utilization and transport organization.