

# Indian Town Expansion Survey

The Barbari (India) civic body has decided to outsource surveying and mapping for new areas added to its limits where 54 town planning schemes are lined up. After the merger of new areas, AMC's limits now extend over 466 sq km, up from 192 sq km. Initial mapping involves field survey of areas based on data that the city survey office already has acquired, marking open lands, green patches and existing structures spread over an estimated 8,190 hectares in the areas for which 54 town planning schemes will be prepared in the next three years.

According to Bhupendra Patel, chairman of the municipal standing committee, the idea behind getting this preliminary exercise done by a private agency is to expedite the preparation of pending town planning schemes. The work is to be divided among more agencies that agree to take up the job for the same charges as being paid to the current agency, Systematic Survey and Map Making Agency.

This is for the first time that the civic body had outsourced a survey and mapping job to a private agency. He said the survey would be conducted with the help of latest equipment and techniques.

In 2005, the then municipal commissioner Anil Mukim had ordered an aerial survey of the entire city with latest cameras installed on a special aircraft but the exercise was abandoned midway in the wake of Mukim's transfer to Union Commerce Ministry.

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