



**MUMBAI TO
MANHATTAN**

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THERE was plenty of verbal action and speakers were repeatedly reminded to keep it short on the second day of the Urban Age India Conference yesterday. The highlights of the day were...

London Olympics

Tessa Jowell, minister for the Olympics and London UK Government, gave a thumbs up to London Mayor Ken Livingston for introducing the traffic congestion charge scheme and easing traffic problems. Incidentally, Mumbai is in the nascent stages of planning a similar scheme. Jowell touched on gangs and guns as big city crimes, offsetting that grim picture with the robust vision of London's 2012 Olympic plans and how it will revitalise the community.

Power of Shanghai

Andy Altman, planning director, Washington DC, brought up the buzzword, "Shanghai" (Mumbai banega Shanghai). He said the Chinese city had achieved in 10

Give solutions, not problems!

Day 2 of the Urban Age India Conference states the obvious

years "what New York and London achieved in 100".

Public transport

Speaking on 'Mumbai: Which Way Forward', Cyrus Guzder, chairman, AFL Group, said, "Public transport should be given priority over private transport." Architect Charles Correa's presentation focused on how public transport needs to be developed with possible private investment.

Reinventing Mumbai

Sanjay Ubale, secretary, special projects, Maharashtra, said with businesses going "mobile", Mumbai needs to, "reinvent itself" or it might lose its status as the India's financial hub.

Human cost

Minar Pimple, deputy director (Asia), UN Millennium Campaign, focused on the human aspect of growth of cities, saying people needed to ask questions like: "The biggest challenge of this growth is:



BULLISH ON LONDON: Tessa Jowell will it be ruthless? Is the growth going to be to be futureless, or will it be sustainable growth?"

Dr P S Pasricha, director general of Maharashtra police, struck a different chord when he said development needs to take urban terrorism into account. "We need to think whether the structures and buildings are incorporating that, otherwise what we build may collapse."

Overall though, the Mumbai segment could have focused on what could alleviate Mumbai's problems, rather than reiterate the problems that Mumbaikars are already familiar with.