

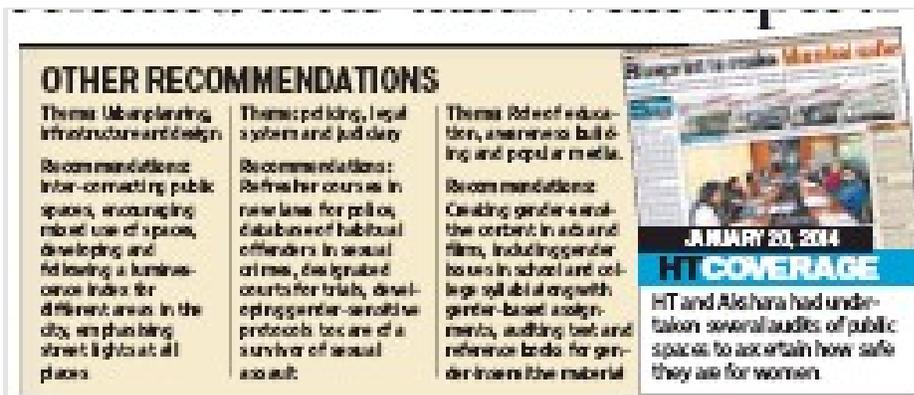
## Action plan formed after talks with experts

MUMBAI: The Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) to make the city safer for women, an initiative of HT and Akshara, was evolved after four round table discussions earlier this year, each on a macro theme and with experts in that field.

The first round table discussion was on urban planning, infrastructure and design. Setting up a mechanism for gender assessment of infrastructure projects in the city, developing and following a luminescence index for different areas and providing well-lit, hygienic toilets in public places and slums were some of the recommendations. The participants included noted planners and architects PK Das and Neera Adarkar, economist and feminist Ritu Dewan, transport policy analyst Ashok Datar and urban policy and governance resource person Dr Amita Bhide.

The second round table was on policing, legal system and judiciary. The recommendations included developing uniform and gender-sensitive protocols to take care of a survivor of sexual assault and posting women constables at all complaint and help desk cells at police stations. The participants included Dr Anjali Dave of the Centre for Equity for Women, Children and Families, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Dr Vijay Raghavan of the Centre for Criminology at TISS, noted lawyer and founder of Majlis, Flavia Agnes, Padma Deosthali of the Centre for Equity into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT) and gender rights activist Hasina Khan.

The third was on the role of education, awareness building and popular media. Recommendations included making it 'uncool' to disrespect or assault women, a highdecibel government campaign to encourage gender equality and having schools and colleges incorporate gender issues in all subjects. Participants included advertising professionals Prasoon Joshi of McCann Erikson and KV Sridhar 'Pops' of Leo Burnett, educationists Farida Lambay and Simantini Dhuru, and Fr Frazer Mascarenhas, principal of St Xavier's College.



The fourth discussion was on politics and political approach. Turning gender issues into sustained election campaign issues and encouraging elected representatives to spend their local area development funds on setting up women help centres were recommended. Participants were former Congress MP Milind Deora; BJP's Vinod Tawde and members of the legislative council Neelam Gorhe [Shiv Sena] and Vidya Chavan [NCP].