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Lighting of the lamp by TPr. Anoop Srivastava, Vice President ITPI, TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha, Secretary, General, ITPI, TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, Coordinator, ITPI, Prof. Dr. Ramesh Srikonda and Chief Guest, Honourable Dr. P. Narayana Garu, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh (from Left to Right)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TECHNO-TRADITIONAL INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS FOR ECO-SENSITIVE COASTAL SETTLEMENT PLANNING, SPA VIJAYAWADA

A two-day 'National Conference on Techno-Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems for Eco-Sensitive Coastal Settlement Planning' was organised by the School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada (SPAV) in collaboration with the Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI) and ITPI Andhra Pradesh Chapter. The conference was conducted at the School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada on 26th and 27th September 2024.

The conference brought together professionals, practitioners, academicians and researchers

working in the realm of coastal corridors and embracing aspects of traditionality and vernacularity in settlement planning and design, a theme highly pertinent in the current scenario. The conference offered a dynamic platform to explore the synergy between modern technology and ancient wisdom in fostering sustainable development and resilience along India's coastal regions.

The Conference had a total of 71 registered participants, 14 paper submissions, and 2 poster presentations, hosted 7 technical sessions chaired by eminent person from the field of planning and architecture featuring 13 expert speakers and 9 young planners. The experts and stakeholders delved into innovative technical and methodological approaches that integrate digital mapping, GIS applications, and early warning systems with indigenous knowledge systems. Discussions revolved around reviving traditional practices and traditional knowledge systems that enhance disaster preparedness and promote sustainable livelihoods in coastal corridors. Through case studies and collaborative sessions, the conference aimed to empower coastal communities, bridging the gap between innovation and heritage for a resilient coastal future.

Inaugural Session

The event began with a warm welcome extended to dignitaries, esteemed guests, participants, and students, emphasizing the significance of the conference theme, which aimed to integrate traditional knowledge systems with modern technology for sustainable coastal settlement planning.

TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, Coordinator ITPI; TPr. Anoop Srivastava, Vice President, ITPI; Prof. Dr. Ramesh Srikonda, Director, SPA Vijayawada; TPr. V. P. Kulshresth, Secretary General ITPI, Prof. Dr. Ayon Tarafdar, Dean Academics, SPA Vijayawada, Shri K. V. Uma Maheshwara Rao, Registrar, SPA Viyayawada; Dr. P. Narayana Garu, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh addressing the delegates. (From Left to Right)

The Chief Guest, Honourable Dr. P. Narayana Garu, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh, was welcomed with great respect. Dr. Narayana Garu, in his inaugural address, highlighted the importance of sustainable urban infrastructure and shared insights from his tenure as the Minister for Municipal Administration & Urban Development. He discussed the critical need for planning approaches that balance environmental sustainability with urban development, particularly in coastal regions, and appreciated the role of Indian traditional knowledge in this endeavour.

TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha, Secretary General of ITPI, delivered the welcome address, setting the tone for the conference by underlining the importance of collaboration between traditional practices and contemporary technological advancements. Following him, Prof. Dr. Ayon Kumar Tarafdar, Dean Academic at SPA Vijayawada, highlighted the relevance of the conference by discussing the vulnerability of Andhra Pradesh's and India's coastlines to disasters like cyclones and rising sea levels. He emphasized the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern technology to address these challenges, noting how the conference would benefit both practitioners and students in developing sustainable coastal planning strategies.

TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, Council Member and Ex-Secretary General of ITPI, shared his thoughts on the changing dynamics of urban planning in India, especially the growing importance of eco-sensitive planning. He stressed the need for planners to be

adaptable and responsive to both natural and human-made challenges faced by coastal settlements.

Prof. Dr. Ramesh Srikonda, Director, SPA, Vijaywada, delivered the inaugural address, emphasizing the institution's commitment to sustainable planning strategies for coastal regions. He highlighted SPA Vijayawada's role as a leading centre for urban and regional planning education, noting its focus on addressing real-world challenges through research and academic rigor. Dr. Srikonda applauded the interdisciplinary nature of the conference, which brought together experts, young planners, and scholars to exchange knowledge, explore innovative ideas, and develop practical solutions for eco-sensitive coastal settlement planning.

TPr. Anoop Srivastava, Vice President of ITPI, delivered the Presidential Address, emphasizing the critical role of integrated planning in addressing the vulnerabilities faced by coastal settlements. He reiterated the significance of combining scientific innovations with indigenous wisdom to create resilient urban frameworks.

The ceremony concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Mr. K. V. Uma Maheswara Rao, Registrar, SPA Vijayawada, followed by the National Anthem, marking the successful start of the two-day conference.

Day 1 of the conference focused on the theme of intersection of current and upcoming technology with traditional knowledge embedded in coastal areas in the context of planning for these areas and three broad technical sessions were drawn.

(Day 1) Technical Session 1: Reviving Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems - Lessons from Coastal Communities Addressing Functional, Spatial, Economic, and Social Needs

This session provided a comprehensive exploration of how coastal communities have historically leveraged indigenous knowledge to overcome various challenges. The discussion was framed around four key dimensions: functional adaptations, spatial configurations, economic resilience, and social & cultural strength, underscoring the relevance of traditional practices in contemporary coastal settlement planning.

In his presentation, Dr. Mohamed Irshad discussed how climate change, particularly ocean warming, affects fish stocks and the livelihoods of fishing communities. He noted that rising sea temperatures,

Dr. Iyer Vijayalaxmi Kasinath, Professor, SPA Vijayawada, Dr. S. Mohammed Irshad, Faculty, Centre for Disaster and Development, Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, Dr. Janmejoy G, Dean Research, SPA Vijayawada; Ar. Sheetal Kalbandhe and Ms. Srajati Tiwari (Young Planners); Mr. Rajeev, Faculty, SPA Vijayawada (From Left to Right).

pollution, and unscientific coastal development are driving pelagic fish away from shallow waters. The emphasis on the blue economy exacerbates risks for vulnerable coastal areas, while the shift from traditional fishing to fish cultivation alienates Indigenous knowledge systems, diminishing their effectiveness in managing these challenges.

Dr. Janmejoy Gupta's presentation explored how coastal communities, particularly in Eluru, have historically adapted to environmental challenges while maintaining economic resilience. He highlighted the integration of ecological wisdom with sustainable economic practices, offering valuable lessons for contemporary coastal settlement planning. Through this example, Dr. Gupta emphasized the importance of preserving traditional knowledge systems to address modern environmental and economic challenges.

Young planner Ms. Sheetal Kalbandhe's presentation, Reviving Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems for Enhanced Coastal Planning, highlights the vital role of indigenous knowledge in disaster preparedness. She explained how coastal communities in regions like Bangladesh and the Andaman Islands utilize natural signs-such as animal behaviours and changes in weather-to anticipate cyclones and tsunamis. Ms. Kalbandhe advocated for blending these traditional practices with modern disaster management techniques to enhance resilience in vulnerable coastal areas and emphasizes the importance of preserving and sharing this valuable knowledge for improved climate adaptation.

Young planner Ms. Srajati Tiwari's presentation, titled Integrating Renewable Energy for Sustainable Coastal Urban Development: Case Area - Visakhapatnam, highlights the benefits of combining renewable energy technologies with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) for sustainable urban coastal planning. Tiwari examined how wind, solar, and biomass energy can be integrated into Visakhapatnam's infrastructure, using TEK to optimize resource management, energy placement, and community resilience. Drawing from case studies, including cities like Singapore, the presentation underscored the role of Smart Grids in improving energy efficiency and disaster resilience. Tiwari identified potential challenges, such as regulatory barriers and infrastructure needs, and advocated for collaborative efforts among policymakers, industry leaders, and communities to establish resilient energy strategies, creating a model for other coastal cities.

Mr. Rajeev summarized the session as providing key insights into how coastal communities have effectively addressed various challenges for centuries, stressing the value of reviving traditional knowledge systems. These systems offer holistic solutions that align with the functional, spatial, economic, and social needs of coastal settlements.

A reflection on the learnings of the session revealed that integrating traditional knowledge with contemporary technology presents a powerful opportunity for sustainable coastal settlement planning. It is apparent that this needs to be approached with a respect for the depth of indigenous wisdom, ensuring that it complements modern tools and science.

In conclusion, this session reinforced the idea that coastal communities, often viewed as vulnerable, are in fact sources of resilience and innovation. Their traditional knowledge addresses not only functional and spatial needs but also economic and social sustainability. By reviving and integrating these insights into modern planning, we can develop eco-sensitive, resilient coastal settlements in the face of climate change.

Technical Session 2: Technological Innovations in Coastal Settlement Planning – Opportunities and Challenges

This session focused on Technological Innovations in Coastal Settlement Planning, a crucial topic in the light of growing environmental challenges and coastal vulnerabilities. This session emphasized the integration of both traditional knowledge and modern technological innovations to enhance coastal resilience and create sustainable coastal settlements.

The session began with an insightful introduction to the session by Dr. Sanjay Gupta, who gave some interesting statistics on urbanization along the coastlines and the consequent deterioration of coastal ecosystems. He talked about the importance of utilizing simulation models in coastal development and emphasized that spatial and hydrodynamic models are key in understanding and predicting coastal dynamics, which are critical in planning for sustainable coastal development. Dr. Gupta also discussed the concept of Digital Twin Models, a cutting-edge simulation process that integrates both physical habitats and environmental factors. These models simulate real-world coastal conditions, providing a digital replica that can be used to test different planning strategies and assess their potential impact on the environment. This approach ensures that planning is informed by data-driven insights, which can improve decision-making and the sustainability of coastal development.

Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Professor, SPA Delhi; Dr. Ajay Katuri, Consultant, Climate Change and Technical Facilitation Expert; Dr. R.N.S. Murthy, Faculty, SPA Vijayawada; Ms. Akkala Bhavitha (Young Planner); Dr. Arpan Paul Singh (From Left to Right)

Dr. Ajay Katuri discussed the recent floods in Vijayawada and the alarming rate of water body loss in the region. He emphasized the need for state-level strategic plans and the development of Model DCRs (Development Control Regulations) to guide sustainable coastal development. One of the key takeaways from his presentation was the importance of traditional delineation methods which can help better understand the natural landscape and inform planning. Dr. Katuri also advocated for the use of modern tools such as Google Earth Engine and QGIS and also ideas like sponge city planning, a concept that emphasizes water absorption and management in urban areas to prevent flooding. He also discussed the use of LIDAR surveys, a technology that provides high-resolution topographic data, which is essential for understanding coastal landscapes. Additionally, he introduced the concept of utility tunnels, which has been successfully implemented in GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City). Utility tunnels are an innovative solution for managing urban infrastructure and can play a significant role in making coastal cities more resilient.

Dr. R. N. S. Murthy provided an interesting perspective on the benefits of cyclones for coastal human settlements. He argued that while cyclones are often viewed as destructive forces, they also offer ecological benefits such as nutrient replenishment for the soil, vegetation clearing, and even drought relief in some cases. Drawing from examples in Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Murthy shared insights into how these natural events can contribute to the regeneration of coastal ecosystems and create conditions that benefit human settlements in the long term.

Young Planner, Ms. Bhavita followed up with a presentation on future-proofing coastal settlements through technological innovations. She emphasized the use of bio-fencing, a method that utilizes natural barriers such as mangroves to protect coastal areas from erosion and storms. Additionally, she discussed the importance of traditional housing methods that have stood the test of time in coastal regions. These houses are often designed to withstand harsh weather conditions, offering a blueprint for modern construction in vulnerable areas. Ms. Bhavita also touched on emerging technologies such as virtual realities and blockchain technologies, which could be instrumental in mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts in coastal areas. She too highlighted the significance of Digital Twin technology in planning for climate change adaptation and called for an integrated adaptation approach that combines both technological and traditional methods for holistic coastal resilience.

Dr. Arpan Paul Singh summarised key points presented by the speakers of the session. He highlighted where and how the different tools

and strategies can be implemented in buttressing resilience, development, and climate change mitigation and adaptation in coastal areas, as well as decision-making processes in coastal planning.

In conclusion, the session emphasized that integrating technological innovations with traditional knowledge is key to enhancing coastal settlement planning. This dynamic and informed approach allows for the development of strategies that are not only sustainable but also adaptive to the evolving environmental challenges faced by coastal regions. By leveraging both modern technologies and time-tested practices, coastal communities can be better equipped to face the impacts of climate change and ensure the long-term resilience of their settlements.

Technical Session 3: Sustainable Resource Management - Combining Modern Technology with Indigenous Practices

This session highlighted the critical need for sustainable resource management through the integration of modern technology and indigenous practices, especially in the light of rapid urbanization and climate change.

The session chair TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha underscored the importance of identifying and understanding existing indigenous practices and modern technology before an attempt at combining them. He stressed upon the need for the integration of the two especially for coastal regions which are highly eco-sensitive. To illustrate his point, he took up the case of mangroves and wetland areas and the crucial role the digenous practices play in their conservation and restoration. Further, he advocated for community engagement and a participatory approach, particularly with growing settlement sizes along the coast. He noted how a fusion of traditional practices and modern technology in Andhra Pradesh's coastal planning can create a balanced, resilient, and sustainable model of development. This approach will not only preserve the cultural heritage and ecosystem, but also prepare these areas to face modern challenges like climate change, resource depletion, and natural disasters effectively.

In his presentation, TPr. Rajneesh Sareen examined key national policies, including the Energy Conservation Building Codes (2017-18) and the India Cooling Action Plan (2019), addressing their role in managing urban heat. Sareen emphasized the limitations of current Heat Action Plans, which often fail to account for local contexts, and advocated for the creation of comprehensive Cooling

TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha, Secretary General, ITPI; TPr. Rajneesh Sareen, Program Director, Sustainable Habitat Programme, CSE, New Delhi; Ar. Xavier Benedict, AARDE Foundation; Ms. Shreedha S. (Young Planner); Dr. Subhashish Banerjee, Joint Director, Town & Country Planning, Indore, M.P. (From Left to Right).

Master Plans. These plans would integrate heat management strategies directly into urban planning, ensuring cities are better equipped to handle rising temperatures and reduce heat-related vulnerabilities.

Ar. Xavier Benedict emphasized the socio-economic and environmental significance of Pulicat Lagoon. He highlighted the lagoon's crucial role in supporting both the local ecosystem and the livelihoods of the surrounding communities. Benedict also discussed the importance of empowering local communities, particularly women, through traditional crafts, which play a vital role in sustainable development efforts. The preservation of Pulicat Lagoon, he argued, is essential for maintaining the environmental balance and promoting socio-economic well-being in the region. Her presentation showcased case studies that illustrated how integrating indigenous practices with modern technology can significantly improve resource management in coastal settlements. By leveraging geospatial tools alongside traditional knowledge, she demonstrated how this combined approach can enhance disaster preparedness, mitigate flood risks, and promote sustainable development in vulnerable coastal areas.

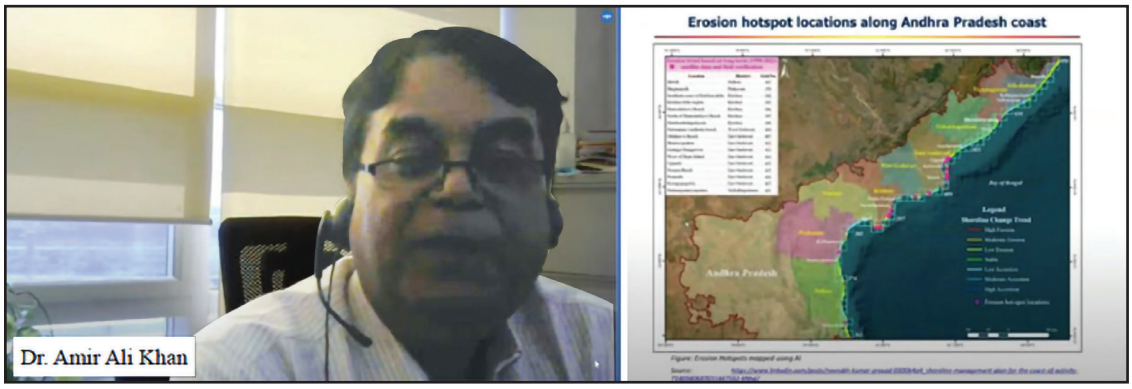
Dr. Subhashish Banerjee summarized the session by emphasizing the collaborative potential between government, academia, and local communities in driving sustainable resource management.

The session concluded with a focus on the critical importance of combining modern technology with indigenous practices for sustainable resource management. A paradigm shift toward ecological balance and community involvement is necessary to create resilient coastal settlements.

Day 2 of the conference focused on techno-traditional approaches to disaster mitigation and resilience and four broad technical sessions were drawn. The keynote speaker Dr. Amir Ali Khan, Head, Resilient Infrastructure Division, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi, addressed the theme of the day.

After a short introduction of NIDM and its activities, Dr. Khan briefly addressed coastal disasters and underlying reasons, climate change and its impact, various challenges faced by coastal areas and some recent trends in these matters, shedding light on the relevance of the theme. He then elaborated on existing traditional knowledge and management practices for disaster risk reduction (DRR). He discussed traditional practices and coping mechanisms such as the Khazan ecosystems, community stewardship for mangrove restoration of Bhitarkanika in Odisha, modifications in housing design, Kamli Lata plantations, earthquake safe houses in various parts of India. He highlighted some of the challenges facing the use of indigenous knowledge in disaster management including the lack of written records, loss of knowledge, scepticism, difficulty in integrating with technology, and lack of support.

Then, pointing to the use of modern technology in DRR, he addressed the applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in coastal disaster management through case studies such as application of Digital Shoreline Analysis System (DSAS) in the analysis of shoreline changes in Vishakhapatnam coast, the use of AI for mangrove conservation and coastal protection in Sundarbans, AI-driven coastal flooding risk mapping in the Idukki district of Kerala, and tech-enabled zero casualty success during Cyclone Biparjoy in Gujarat. He emphasized the need for warning dissemination and effective, efficient, and resilient infrastructure for communication in disaster situations while introducing resilience building initiatives like the Bhookamp Alert Application and SACHET-CAP based Integrated Alert System.



Dr. Amir Ali Khan, Faculty, NDMA, New Delhi (Online Presentation).

Dr. Khan made the case for an integrated approach to disaster response and preparedness entailing integration with development programmes, adoption of a holistic people-centric strategy, coordination of structural interventions and community-based disaster management, training and orientation of development agencies to embed disaster risk reduction into national and local planning processes, and stakeholder collaboration. Stressing on the need to marry traditional and modern knowledge systems to sustainably address developmental goals, he outlined a few strategies for their integration such as community involvement, capacity building and policy support. Dr. Khan briefed about some recent trends in disaster preparedness with potential for long-term applications - the multi-hazard approach and holistic approach. He concluded his presentation by emphasizing that it is upon us to make the crucial choice whether we invest in risk reduction actions before the disaster or pay high costs of recovery later.

(Day 2) Technical Session 1: Indigenous Perspectives on Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction - Harnessing Traditional Wisdom for Resilient Communities

The session focused on the integration of indigenous knowledge with modern scientific methods to build disaster-resilient coastal communities. Indigenous perspectives offer valuable insights, particularly in areas like disaster preparedness, land-use practices, and social cohesion.

Indigenous perspectives on coastal DRR emphasize the integration of traditional wisdom with modern scientific approaches to build resilient communities. Indigenous knowledge, deeply rooted in cultural practices and environmental interactions, offers valuable insights into disaster preparedness and response. This knowledge, however, is often marginalized in favor of scientific methods, despite its proven effectiveness in various contexts, which is very much evident in our day-to-day lifestyle choices. For example, indigenous coastal communities frequently employ early warning systems based on natural indicators, such as animal behavior or changes in sea patterns, which have proven effective in disaster preparedness. Furthermore, their land-use practices, such as building on elevated areas and maintaining protective ecosystems like mangroves and coral reefs, reduce exposure to coastal hazards like tsunamis and storm surges. Indigenous knowledge systems also foster strong social cohesion, which is essential for effective collective action during and after disasters. This localized, community-driven approach can complement contemporary scientific methods, providing a holistic framework for building resilience. Integrating indigenous wisdom with modern DRR strategies not only strengthens risk mitigation but also supports the cultural preservation and self-determination of indigenous communities.

Session chair Prof. Dr. Ayon Tarafdar opened the session by mentioning how the studio exercises at SPA Vijayawada try to be cognisant and vigilant of the traditional practices carried out in various areas. He also mentioned the application of latest tools and techniques that are open source and available for free which are used by the students like DSAS, INVEST, SWAT, etc.

Dr. Aparna presented the World Bank-funded project on ENCORE: Integrated Coastal Zone Management Program. Focusing on the Pondy Ecotourism Project, she emphasized the development of eco-sensitive tourism with minimal intervention, while preserving nature and fostering livelihood generation through local arts and crafts. Her presentation featured photos illustrating the region's rich local culture and the potential for sustainable development.

Mr. Hanumanth discussed the integration of modern scientific approaches with traditional wisdom in coastal planning. His study focused on storm surge, hydrological, and hydraulic modelling techniques, including a case study on the Cuddalore Coast. He highlighted the Risk Identification Framework, designed to assess cyclone-related risks, and TNSMART, a decision support tool for disaster response planning in Tamil Nadu.

Ms. Dhanushyaa explored the importance of indigenous knowledge in DRR, drawing examples from the Toda and Jarawa tribes. She also reflected on Indian knowledge systems and their relevance in Chennai's coastal resilience over the years. Her presentation underlined the ongoing importance of traditional wisdom in coastal communities.

The session, summarized by Ms. Ekta, emphasized the value of integrating indigenous perspectives into contemporary disaster risk reduction strategies. She spoke of the lack of strong reasoned observations on nature's behaviour and the application of common sense in current urban practices. She highlighted the importance of rational, traditional knowledge that has evolved through generations of interaction with nature. This approach, combined with modern scientific tools like DSAS, INVEST, and SWAT, provides a more holistic and effective framework for coastal DRR.

Dr. Ayon Tarafdar, Dean Academic & Professor, SPA Vijayawada; Dr. Aparna, Faculty, NIRMA University, Ahmedabad; Mr. Hanumanth Ram (Young Planner); Ms. Dhanushyaa (Young Planner) and Ms. Ekta, Faculty, SPA VIjayawada (From Left to Right)

The session laid a strong emphasis on the potential for blending traditional knowledge with technological advancements to build resilient coastal communities. It reinforced the idea that while technological changes have transformed many aspects of life, there is still significant scope for harnessing indigenous wisdom to foster resilience in coastal communities.

Technical Session 2: Early Warning Systems and Remote Sensing - Enhancing Coastal Disaster Preparedness with Modern Technology

This session explored innovative methods for addressing climate resilience in coastal areas, focusing on adaptive thermal comfort, disaster response, and early warning systems for vulnerable communities. Presenters discussed both technological and community-based approaches to enhance preparedness and resilience in the face of climate change and sudden natural disasters.

Dr. Faiz Ahmed discussed on aspects linking Urban Heat and Heat-wave conditions taking the case of Vijayawada, India. He mentioned that with increasing temperatures recorded continuously in our rapidly growing urban areas, it is important to study the adaptive thermal comfort using micro-level simulations at local level, which was demonstrated through site-specific and built-unit level analysis. The study pointed to the need for understanding tolerance to heat as a coping strategy, especially for low-income housing sector in the case area – one of the vulnerable sections of the society. The study also brought out the following observations - (1) Poor planning layouts and spatial arrangements; (2) Lack of Climate-driven Planning and design; (3) Under-estimated Climate Vulnerability. The discussion insisted on the need for implementing Heat Action Plan (in which long-term and short-term strategies have been enumerated) by building climate vulnerability mapping and index and linking the same with Heat Index – looking at 'heat' as an equal concern in the Vulnerability index building.

Dr. Prashanti Rao in her presentation first outlined the genesis of the sudden onset disaster of Tsunami and the cascading disasters it brings with it viz. volcanic eruptions, health epidemics and other concerns of salt-water intrusion, economic impact on the sectors of tourism, fisheries, ports, agriculture etc. Further the study through the facts stated pointed

Prof. Dr. N. Sridharan, Former Director, SPA Bhopal and Vijayawada; Dr. Faiz Ahmed C, Faculty, SPA Vijayawada; Dr. Prashanti Rao, Faculty, SPA Vijayawada; Mr. Yamin R (Young Planner), Student SPA Vijayawada; Mr. Rajeev R. (From Left to Right)

to the question of Early Warning Systems (EWS) for Tsunami, which is a sudden onset disaster. Examples showed how efforts taken by the concerned ministry, INCOIS and ITIEWC have tried to record earthquakes and predict if it might lead to tsunami. Further she discussed on the role of Remote Sensing (RS) in EWS, preparedness, damage detection and mitigation through various studies already carried out using a few analytical models like SAR model. The discussion also emphasized the role of AI as a newly evolving area of research in the domain of EWS for disasters and aid to RS.

Mr. Yamin, a young planner, also presented on the effectiveness of early warning systems in mitigating coastal hazards. He emphasized the role of technology and community-driven efforts in improving preparedness and response to coastal disasters like tsunamis and storm surges.

The session chair, Dr. Sridharan, summed up the discussion interestingly, with a few key highlights - the use of emerging Early Warning System (EWS) and Remote Sensing (RS) technology for disaster preparedness, integration of traditional knowledge with modern technology, improving socio-cultural acceptance of technology pertaining to disaster management, integrating these aspects spatially with careful land use planning, and finally, as much as 'Planning', it is equally important for 'Effective Implementation' of these plans.

The session rapporteur, Mr. Rajeev R., summarized the discussion, emphasizing the significance of both adaptive strategies for climate resilience and the importance of early warning systems. He pointed out that while technological advancements are crucial, community awareness and preparedness are equally important in coastal disaster mitigation. The integration of thermal comfort solutions with effective early warning systems can provide a more comprehensive approach to coastal climate resilience.

The session underscored the importance of developing both adaptive strategies for managing climate vulnerabilities and enhancing early warning systems to mitigate the risks posed by sudden natural disasters. A holistic approach, combining scientific innovation with community participation, was seen as the key to building resilient coastal settlements.

Technical Session 3: Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Resilience - Techno-Traditional Solutions for Coastal Communities

The session provided a comprehensive look into the integration of traditional knowledge with technological innovations to foster resilience in coastal regions.

Dr. Adinarayane R, Faculty, SPA Vijayawada; Dr. Panneerselvan A, LEA Associates, New Delhi; Dr. Solanki Ghosh and Dr. Prasanth V., Faculty, SPA Vijayawada; Mr. Sai Shree Nayak (Young Planner); Dr. Adinarayanane R, Faculty, SPA Vijayawada (From Left to Right)

Session, chaired by Dr. Adinarayanane, emphasized the significance of disaster mitigation and resilience through a techno-traditional approach, particularly in the face of growing environmental and socio-economic challenges affecting coastal communities worldwide. Dr. Adinarayanane began by highlighting the dual challenges faced by coastal communities in maintaining sustainable livelihoods amidst the pressures of human activity and environmental threats. He underscored the urgent need to recognize the value of traditional knowledge, especially in addressing vulnerabilities in coastal regions. He proposed the need of a framework that integrates both traditional and scientific knowledge through a participatory approach, aiming to bridge the gap between scientists and policymakers. This integrated approach, could not only address immediate environmental challenges but also foster long-term sustainability and resilience.

Dr. Panneerselvam A. discussed sustainable development solutions for the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region (VMR), one of the largest coastal communities in Andhra Pradesh. He highlighted the best practices in tourism development, drawing comparisons to successful coastal cities such as Croatia, Cape Town, and Madeira, which have effectively balanced tourism growth with environmental conservation. In Visakhapatnam, the focus was on leveraging the region's natural resources and unique terrain to drive sustainable growth. The key strengths and challenges facing the city, emphasizing that economic growth and prosperity to be the key goals while maintaining sustainability were discussed. He introduced strategies for strategic economic development and diversification, focusing on greenfield urban development. Dr. Panneerselvam concluded by discussing the importance of evaluating other spatial strategies in the VMR to promote a sustainable future for the region.

Dr. Solanki provided insights on tackling financial uncertainties during disasters through indigenous cooperative models, with a focus on financial resilience. She highlighted the need to quantify intangible losses during disasters and introduced an insurance-based framework utilizing indigenous cooperative models. Other models like Phad system in Rajasthan, where artisans and craftsmen come together to finance their businesses cooperatively, AMUL model, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Kudumbashree models for women empowerment, which have been successful in fostering financial independence and resilience in communities. These models demonstrate how community-based

financial systems can help coastal communities cope with disaster-induced uncertainties and build stronger economic resilience.

Ms. Saishree Naik focused on enhancing economic resilience and the conservation of coastal confluence zones through ecosystem service valuation and the examination of livelihood dependency on these services in South Goa. Her presentation underscored the critical role that ecosystem services play in supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities and highlighted the need for management guidelines that ensure the sustainable use of these services. By understanding the economic value of ecosystem services, Ms. Naik argued that policymakers and planners could better protect these vital resources while promoting economic resilience.

The session was summarized by Dr. Prasanth who emphasized the session's key points. He noted that coastal areas experiencing higher growth rates are often located in vulnerable zones, which underscores the need for resilient infrastructure. He also discussed the municipal investment gaps, stating that current spending is insufficient to meet the growing needs of coastal communities. He called for a 300% increase in investment to build resilient infrastructure capable of withstanding future environmental stresses. Additionally, he stated the importance of the creation of a dedicated community-enabled fund, which would help vulnerable coastal settlements cope with the pressures of climate change and other socio-economic challenges.

In conclusion, the session stressed the importance of integrating techno-traditional solutions to enhance the resilience of coastal communities. By combining scientific innovations with indigenous knowledge and community-driven models, coastal regions can not only mitigate the impacts of environmental changes but also create sustainable livelihoods for future generations. The session reiterated the need for collaborative efforts between scientists, policymakers, and communities to build a more resilient and prosperous future for coastal populations.

Technical Session 4: Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer - Empowering Coastal Settlements for Effective Disaster Response

The session, chaired by TPr. S. B. Honnur, addressed the importance of capacity building and knowledge in empowering coastal settlements for effective disaster response. TPr. Honnur spoke of the importance of capacity building in translating and disseminating existing knowledge and technology to the lowest levels of the executive and the community, increasing their effectiveness in disaster response. He emphasized the need for capacity building across various levels of the administration.

TPr. S. B. Honnur, Council Member, ITPI; Dr. Anurag Bagade, Faculty, SPA Vijayawada; Dr. Naina Gupta, Faculty, SPA Vijayawada; Ms. Lipi Shrivastava, (Young Planner), student SPA Vijayawada; Dr. Rajkumari M., Faculty, SPA Vijayawada

Dr. Anurag Bagade approached the topic through his research on Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, highlighting how studies often lacked focus on mitigation measures. Scenarios were built for several Local Climate Zones (LCZs) to understand UHI and models were constructed. Consequently, a series of capacity building workshops were conducted in several cities which fed back into the research by revealing several nuances otherwise missed. These workshops essentially comprised a top-down approach to capacity building. He showcased a bottom-up approach to capacity building which was more community-centric through a planning exercise in the gram panchayats of Alirajpur District and led to key inputs. He concluded his presentation by advocating for an integrated approach that benefited from the advantages of both approaches.

Dr. Naina Gupta highlighted the need for climate resilient infrastructure for transport sector. She then introduced the concept of resilience in the domain of transport sector and the integration of transport resilience in practice through key cases from across the globe. She highlighted the gaps in existing the practices including lacks in providing a well-understood comprehensive model to measure transportation resilience, lack of universal dimensions, complex nature of uncertainty and inter-connectivity of the transportation infrastructures, and limited identification of resilience measurement dimensions for transportation infrastructure. She highlighted the presence (or absence) of resilience considerations in existing transportation planning frameworks as well as plans (for transportation and mobility, infrastructure, etc.) in cities such as Mumbai, Bangalore, and Vishakhapatnam. Considering these, she outlined a new proposed framework integrating climate resilience in transport systems by incorporating activities such as assessing vulnerabilities and developing sectoral and spatial plans, designing resilient infrastructure solutions, and post disaster risk and recovery. She concluded by highlighting the need for adaptive and resilient infrastructure, and the need for long term planning in achieving them.

Ms. Lipi Shrivastava introduced the importance of merging indigenous knowledge with technological advancements for effective disaster risk reduction, focusing on capacity building and knowledge transfer as pivotal tools for disaster preparedness. She outlined how Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) programmes can build resilience. She highlighted traditional knowledge system approaches adopted by people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands along coastal and environment management, community practices and knowledge, cultural practices and gender-based responses. She concluded by emphasising how the integration of traditional knowledge strategies with modern scientific approaches can help in enhancing resilience and reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, the importance of community participation, and the need for sustained efforts.

Dr. Rajakumari summarised the session by identifying key emergent themes such as the importance of capacity building for coastal resilience, knowledge transfer as a pillar of preparedness, the integration of traditional knowledge with modern technologies, sustainable livelihoods and community resilience, the challenges faced in implementation, and the role of institutional support and policy frameworks in sustaining capacity building efforts. She concluded by emphasizing that capacity building and knowledge transfer are not just strategies for disaster response but are essential processes for empowering coastal settlements to become self-reliant, resilient, and sustainable.

The session highlighted the importance of capacity building and knowledge transfer in effective disaster response in general and that of coastal communities in particular. Speakers relied on research experience, case studies, and analyses of existing planning frameworks and planning exercises to outline a crucial place for capacity building. They highlighted how the integration of traditional knowledge systems and community participation in urban planning could help strengthen both simultaneously, making them effective in ensuring coastal disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

Valedictory Session

Dr. P. B. Vijayakumar, Senior Designated Counsel in the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana was invited as the Chief Guest for the valedictory session and closing ceremony of the conference. Respected dignitaries on the dais included honourable Chief Guest Dr. P. B. Vijayakumar, Prof. Dr. Ramesh Srikonda, Director, SPA Vijayawada, TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha, Secretary General, ITPI, TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, Council Member and Former Secretary General, ITPI, and Member of the Board of Governors, SPA Vijayawada, TPr. S.B. Honnur, Former Director, DTCP, Karnataka and National Council Member, ITPI, TPr. S. K. Shrimali, Former Additional Chief Planner, Rajasthan and National Council

Member, ITPI, TPr. U. C. Gadkari, National Council Member, ITPI, Prof. Dr. Ayon Kumar Tarafdar, Dean Academic, SPA Vijayawada, Dr. Prasanth Vardhan, Head, Department of Planning, SPA Vijayawada, and Dr. Srinivas Daketi, Head, Department of Architecture, SPA Vijayawada.

Dr. Prasanth Vardhan, Head, Department of Planning, SPA Vijayawada delivered the welcome address to the valedictory session and closing ceremony of the Conference. While he reflected on the two-day conference filled with inspiring discussions, innovative ideas, and meaningful collaborations, he highlighted how the conference has served as a platform for knowledge sharing and bringing together various perspectives across India. He mentioned how the deliberations have created awareness on the importance of coastal settlements and have inspired to think beyond boundaries.

Dignitaries Addressing in the Valedictory Session

Prof. Dr. Ramesh Srikonda, Director, SPA Vijayawada delivered the concluding remarks of the conference. Although the technical sessions of the conference have come to an end, he spoke of it being a beginning to utilize the techno-traditional knowledge gained in the past two days. He summarized the proceedings of the seven technical sessions of the two-day conference, including the inaugural address by honourable Minister Dr. Ponguru Narayana. He mentioned that the topics which have been deliberated by the experts, working professionals, academicians and young planners in the event of this conference must have made the student community and professionals sensitive towards coastal settlement planning with an integration of technology and indigenous practices. Further, he stated the Conference has re-exposed our students to several aspects of coastal settlement planning, leaving them more receptive than otherwise to this highly relevant domain and enriching their learning experience. Dr. Ramesh Srikonda concluded his address by saying that the Conference also has created scope for academicians to further integrate this focus area into their planning workshop exercises, which the organisers consider the success of the conference.

Release of the Deliberations of the Conference by Chief Guest and Director, SPA Vijayawada. Prof. Dr. Ayon Tarafdar, Dean Academics, SPA Vijayawada, TPr. S. B. Honnur, Council Member, ITPI,TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha, Secretary General, ITPI, Dr. P. B. Vijayakumar,Dr. Ramesh Srikonda, Director, SPA Vijayawada, TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, Coordinator, ITPI, TPr. Satish Shrimali, Council Member ITPI, TPr. Uday Gadkari, Council Member, ITPI (From Left to Right)

TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, Council Member and Former Secretary General, ITPI, and Member of the Board of Governors, SPA Vijayawada then addressed the gathering. He shared that during the ITPI Council Meeting held on 26th September 2024, the committee constituted by ITPI to frame the curriculum for B. Plan / B. Tech Planning, M. Plan / M. Tech Planning and integrated B. Plan / B. Tech Planning, and M. Plan / M. Tech Planning courses has finalised a draft after considering the guidelines of the Government of India in the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, to be sent to AICTE and Ministry of Education. He stated that new Specialized Programmes at the postgraduate level have been proposed addressing new avenues and technologies in planning. Addressing the student community of SPA Vijayawada, he highlighted NOSPLAN and its rejuvenation in recent years. He invited students to actively participate and contribute to the success of NOSPLAN as a key platform for planning students across the nation to come together. He also highlighted various initiatives of ITPI for students, including how obtaining associate membership at ITPI has recently been eased and how such a membership can contribute to their professional advancement. He mentioned, how ITPI has started hosting conferences and other such events in planning schools across the country, and how at the present conference opportunities have been extended to young planners who put up an impressive show.

After felicitation, the Chief Guest for the evening Dr. P. B. Vijayakumar appreciated the relevance of the conference, especially in light of the recent disasters in Vijayawada. Dr. Vijayakumar emphasized that all planning exercises are subject to the forces of nature.

He observed that India, with its history of engineering wonders from ancient times, continues to produce civil engineering marvelsat par with other countries of the world. He spoke of coastal settlements being rapid areas of growth and vulnerable zones at the same time. He mentioned how the conference has provided a platform for gathering innovative inputs in addressing this situation. Further, he spoke of the potent minds of students as fertile grounds for innovative ideas and how they will carry the torch of successful planning into the future. He concluded by saying that he wishes that all inputs from the conference are carried forward into practice.

The deliberations of the Conference were released by the Chief Guest Dr. P. B. Vijayakumar, Prof. Dr. Ramesh Srikonda, TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha, TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, and other respected dignitaries on the dais.

TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha delivered the Vote of Thanks. He extended his thanks on behalf of ITPI for the impressive and successful organisation of the two-day National Conference. He stated that he believed all the deliberations from the conference would lead to actionable outcomes. He recalled key pointers from the Conference regarding coastal settlements and the inaugural address by Honourable Minister Dr. Ponguru Narayana. He extended his thanks to the Chief Guest Dr. P. B. Vijayakumar for his presence. He extended his thanks to Prof. Dr. Ramesh Srikonda and SPA Vijayawada for the organisation of the conference.

With a note of thanks and the National Anthem, the two-day National Conference on Techno-Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems for Eco-Sensitive Coastal Settlement Planning, organised by School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada in collaboration with Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI) and the Andhra Pradesh Regional Chapter of ITPI came to a conclusion.

ITPI WEST-BENGAL REGIONAL CHAPTER

"Two-Day Training on Making River-Sensitive Master Plans", at the LaLiT Great Eastern Kolkata, West Bengal, June 27-28, 2024

River and its ecosystems play a vital role in human development. However, due to rapid urbanization and factors like changing climatic conditions, the riverine ecosystems are altering, especially within urban influence. Consequently, there is a new discourse, towards managing urban rivers, which includes environmental, economic and social aspects. It is envisaged that academia has a vital role to play in this new discourse, by incorporatingsuch aspects in their research, academic programs, pedagogy, etc. Therefore, NIUA (MoHUA) and NMCG organised a 2-day training programme the LaLiT Great Eastern Kolkata, West Bengalthat focus on the holistic understanding of river sensitive urban development.

The training programme was attended by Tpr. Prof. (Dr.) Indrani Dhar (Secretary), Tpr. Sayan Acharya (Treasurer), Tpr. Poulami Banerjee (EC Member), Tpr. Ipsita Shee, Tpr. Prof.(Dr.) SubrataChattopadhyay, Tpr. Prof.(Dr.) Debashish Das, TPr. Anumita Mohanty, TPr. SandhyataraSaha, TPr. Dr.Haimanti Banerjee. TPr. Poushali Chatterjee, TPr. Azam Hossain, TPr. Rameswar, TPr. Agniprava, and Tpr. Surjali Das attended the training programme from ITPI and completed the training successfully.

ITPI Members at the Training Session

The Attendees with NIUA Officials and Principal Secretary, NMCG

Brainstorming Session on the Proposed Course for AICTE on Inclusive Urban Planning - Online & Offline at IIT, Kharagpur, JULY 8, 2024

IIT Kharagpur arranged for a brainstorming session on the proposed course on Inclusive Urban Planning for AICTE Model Curriculum. Tpr. Dipankar Sinha (Council member ITPI & visiting Professor IIEST), Tpr. Poulami Banerjee (EC Member of ITPI & Associate Professor of SNU) and Prof. (Dr.) Indrani Dhar (Secretary ITPI-WBRC & Principal of RRSA under SETGOI) attended the session online. The discussion was very fruitful. The course was proposed as a BPC – Planning Core Course in 6th semester or BPE – Professional Elective Course in the 8th semester.

The course combines theoretical perspectives, acts, regulations, guidelines, standards, good practices, hands-on exercises, and real-life experiential involvement.

March for Justice along with IIA, WB Chapter, August 21, 2024

West Bengal has witnessed a terrifying rape and murder of a medic at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9th, 2024 at her own work place. The society at large in in resentment to accept this brutal death and the common mass has decided to come out on streets to protest and to demand for justice. People of all walks of life are tirelessly fighting for the cause. The Architects and planners also joined hands to stand up for the cause. ITPI, WBRC joined IIA, WB Chapter for a march from IIA,

WB Chapter Building to Gariahat crossing demanding justice for "Abhaya"- the victim.

ITPI - WBRC Academic Excellence Awarding and Guest Lecture Session Jointly Organise by ITPI - WBRC and IIEST Shibpur, Howrah, September 10, 2024

On the occasion of Celebration of Teachers' Day, ITPI-WBRC hosted a guest lecture by a persona of international repute. Prof. Suguru Mori from Hokkaido University, Japan. The event was graced by Tpr. N. K. Patel, President ITPI, to preside over the function along with Prof. V. M. S. R. Murthy, Director, IIEST. TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha, Secretary General, ITPI and TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, Co-ordinator, ITPI also graced the occasion with their

TPr. N.K. Patel, President, ITPI; Prof. Suguru Mori, Hokkaido University, Japan; Prof. V. M. S. R. Murthy, Director, IIEST, Lighting the Lamp

august presence. On this occasion, ITPI-WBRC revived the tradition of conferring the "Satya Nath Halder Best Planning Thesis Award" and "Prof. Kamal Krishna Pal Chowdhury Best Planning Student Award" to the students from IIT, KGP and IIEST, Shibpur to commemorate the great teachers. The problem was held at the Alumni Seminar Hall at Department of Architecture and Planning, IIEST, Shibpur.

The event started with an introductory address from Dr. Indrani Dhar, Secretary ITPI, WBRC followed by auspicious lighting of lamp to mark the formal inauguration of the event. The guests on the dias were felicitated by ITPI-WBRC IIEST.

The welcome address was delivered by TPr. V.P. Kulshreshtha, Secretary General, ITPI, followed by Inaugural Address from Prof. Dr. V.M.S.R. Murthy, Director of IIEST Shibpur. The gathering was also address by TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, Guest of Honour & Co-Ordinator, ITPI Council and TPr. N.K. Patel, President, ITPI.

Book release by Dr. Mori along with TPr. N.K. Patel, President, ITPI; TPr. V.P. Kulshreshtha, Secretary General, ITPI; TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, Co-Ordinator, ITPI

The students receiving their awards from the dignitaries

Dr. Suguru Mori, who made aninsightful presentation, is an esteemed professor in the Division of Architecture at the Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University, Japan. He has a large number of publications and accolades to his name. One of his key academic and professional projects is studying community relocation in the wake of large-scale disasters and climate change in the Asia-Pacific region, from the perspective of both past and future risks. His research areas include social infrastructure (civil engineering, architecture, and disaster prevention) and architectural and city planning. His latest awards include the 'Architectural Institute of Japan AIJ Prize 2021'. Dr. Mori released his book- "Community Relocation, Disasters and Climate Change in Asia-Pacific Region" in august presence of the gathering.

ITPI- WBRC also released its fifth issue of Newsletter for the session 2023-25 in this occasion.

The next and the most important segment of the event was the award distribution ceremony, which had been held with much pomp and

Release of 5th issue of newsletter- ITPI-WBRC, 2023-2025 session

grandeur. ITPI-WBRC was very fortunate to have the family members of Late. Satya Nath Halder in the gathering and as a small token of love and gratitude, his wife had been felicitated by ITPI-WBRC. About 28 students had been awarded with Kamal Krishna Pal Chaudhury Best Planning Student Award and Satya Nath Halder Best Planning Thesis Award from IIT, KGP and IIEST, Shibpur since 2016 to 2024. All the participants received refreshments and the programme ended on a happy note.

RAJASTHAN REGIONAL CHAPTER, JAIPUR

78th Independence Day Celebration, August 15, 2024

The Independence Day celebration organized by the Institute of Town Planners India (ITPI), Rajasthan Regional Chapter, was marked by a ceremonial flag hoisting. This event not only commemorated India's independence but also served as a platform for professional development in town planning. In conjunction with the celebration, an orientation program was held for newly appointed Assistant Town Planners by the state government. The program aimed to familiarize these professionals with the responsibilities and challenges in urban planning within Rajasthan.

The esteemed speakers shared their insights and experiences in town planning. TPr. Pradeep Kapoor - Former Advisor, Urban Development and Housing, Rajasthan discussed the evolution of urban development policies in Rajasthan and the importance of sustainable planning. TPr. C. S. Parashar - Retired Assistant Chief Town Planner shared valuable lessons from his extensive experience in town planning, emphasizing community engagement and stakeholder participation. TPr. Sandeep Dandwate - Chief Town Planner highlighted current projects and initiatives undertaken by the state, advocating for innovative approaches in urban development and TPr. O. P. Pareek - Chairman, Rajasthan Regional Chapter concluded the session by stressing the role of Assistant Town Planners in shaping the future of urban landscapes and encouraged them to be proactive in their roles.

Flag Hoisting Ceremony

The Orientation Program for Newly Appointed Assistant Town Planners

The Independence Day celebration, coupled with the orientation program, was a significant event fostering a sense of patriotism among participants while equipping new planners with essential knowledge and skills. The insights shared by experienced professionals are expected to inspire and guide the newly appointed Assistant Town Planners as they embark on their careers in town planning.

Dignitaries with all the Newly Appointed Assistant Town Planners of the State of Rajasthan

MAHARASHTRA REGIONAL CHAPTER, NAGPUR

FELICITATION PROGRAM of Wards of ITPI, MRC, Nagpur Members who passed Board Exams- X & XII – 2024 On the Occasion of 78th INDEPENDENCE DAY.

On the occasion of the 78th Independence Day, the ITPI Maharashtra Regional Chapter organized a special felicitation program to honour the wards of its members who successfully passed the Board Exams for Class X and XII in 2024. The event celebrated academic achievements and encouraged the importance of education in the community. The program began with the hoisting of the national flag, instilling a sense of pride and patriotism among attendees. Each student was recognized individually and awarded certificates and tokens of appreciation for their accomplishments. This recognition aimed to motivate not only the students but also their families.

The felicitation program was a heart-warming event that not only celebrated the academic successes of the students but also reinforced the community spirit within the ITPI, MRC. The initiative served as an encouragement for the wards to continue excelling in their educational pursuits, fostering a future generation of informed and skilled professionals in town planning.

EC Members and Family with their Wards

Award Winning Candidates

HEADQUARTER ACTIVITIES, ITPI NEW DELHI

ITPI Collaborations with Professional Organisations

Among other activities of the ITPI HQ, meeting of the Committee formulated propose and draft the programmes and syllabus as per New Education Policy 2020 was held on July 27, 2024. Also, meeting of the Women Planners Forum was held on July 27, 2024 to work out the agenda of activities to be organised by the forum on variety of issues concerning gender and spatial planning. Carrying on the initiatives forward, ITPI floated a competition for the members of ITPI on the theme 'Temple Town Competition 2024' and a flyer for the same was released on August 3, 2024.

Annual General Body Meeting 2024, August 30, 2024

Institute of Town Planners, India held its Annual General Meeting on Friday, 30th August 2024. The event featured a robust programme, emphasizing the evolving landscape of urban and regional planning, and served as a platform for insightful discussions among distinguished professionals and members of the planning community. The day commenced by a warm Welcome Address by TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha, Secretary General of ITPI, setting the stage for the day's agenda. The ceremonial Lighting of the Lamp was performed by the dignitaries, marking an auspicious start.

There were two technical presentations for the members. The first one being "On Town Planning as an Optional Subject in Civil Services Examination of UPSC." by Dr. Sanjukkta Bhaduri, Professor at the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi. Dr. Bhaduri delved into the relevance and potential impact of integrating town planning into the civil services examination framework, sparking meaningful floor discussions during the intervention session that followed.

The second presentation marked the first collaboration between ITPI and WWF after signing the MoU. Dr. Dipankar Ghose made his presentation on the topic 'Importance of Planning in Integrity of Conservation Landscapes', where various case examples issues, challenges and opportunities of planning in critical locations nearby protected areas, wildlife corridors among other were discussed. Case studies of global decline in wildlife populations and its direct relations

to infrastructure and urban planning, the source-sink dynamics, impacts on human health, wildlife dispersal impacts etc. among others were discussed in detail during the presentation. The governmental officials – chief town planners, town planners, academia and other key officials at various institutions had a very lively discussion followed by the presentation.

The concluding remarks were delivered by Chief Guest, Shri Keshav Varma, in online mode encapsulating the key insights of the session. The speakers and the Chief Guest were honoured with mementoes as a gesture of gratitude and appreciation.

ITPI members convened for the Annual General Meeting after the lunch, where important discussions on institutional matters took place, reaffirming the commitment to furthering excellence in town planning. The AGM concluded with closing a day filled with inspiration, dialogue, and camaraderie among India's leading town planners. This edition of the AGM underscored the pivotal role of town planning in shaping sustainable and inclusive cities, reflecting ITPI's ongoing dedication to advancing the discipline and empowering planners across the nation.

MoU Signed with WWF - July 6, 2024

MoU Signed with IOV - August 3, 2024

MoU Signed with GIZ - August 31, 2024

Women Planners Forum Meeting, July 27, 2024

Meeting of the Committee to Propose Schemes and Course Curriculum of Planning Programmes as per National Education Policy 2020, July 27, 2024

Release of Temple Town Competition 2024, August 3, 2024

Dr. Sanjukkta Bhaduri, Professor, School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi; Dr. Dipankar Ghose, Director of the Wildlife and Habitats Program, WWF India; TPr. N. K. Patel, President ITPI and TPr. Anoop Kumar Srivastava, Vice-President, ITPI (From Left to Right)

Pretension by Dr. Dipankar Ghose, Director of the Wildlife and Habitats Program, WWF India; and Felicitation by TPr. N.K. Patel, President, ITPI

Calender of Meeting of the Committees

Sr. No.	Committee Name	July	August	September
1	Council Meeting	-	03th August 2024	26th September 2024
			31th August 2024	
2	Evaluation Committee	06th July 2024	02th August 2024	14th September 2024
		26th July 2024	26th August 2024	
3	Scrutiny Committee	6th July 2024	-	13th September 2024
4	Meeting regarding NEP 2020	20th July 2024	03rd August 2024	06th September 2024
		27th July 2024	10th August 2024	07th September 2024
			24th August 2024	14th September 2024
5	Equivalency Committee	06th July 2024	-	-
6	Enquiry Committee	06th July 2024	03rd August 2024	01st September 2024
		07th July 2024	09th August 2024	02nd September 2024
			23rd August 2024	20th September 2024
			24th August 2024	
7	Technical Committee	-	30th August 2024	-
8	Library Committee	06th July 2024	-	-
9	Heritage Forum	-	10th August 2024	-
10	Information Technology Committee	-	10th August 2024	-
11	Womens' Forum	27th July 2024	-	-

Institute of Town Planners, India

ITPI Membership

Total Members

Total Members	9234
AITP	8591
FITP	643

Total Members (July- September 2024)

Total Members	184
AITP	177
FITP	07

ANNOUNCEMENTS

73rd National Town and Country Planners Conference

73rd NTCP, Conference of ITPI is scheduled to be held during January 10-12, 2025 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on hybrid mode.

Main theme: Intelligent, Digital Spatial Planning and Governance

Sub-themes

1. Techno-Urbanism
2. Municipal Fiscal Health
3. Blue- Green Economy for Resilient Future
4. Local Democracy and Spatial Planning in Kerala (Local Sub - theme)

Technical papers (6000 words) in MS-Word are invited to be uploaded. On the ITPI website using the link: https://itpi.org.in/73ntcp/paper-submission by November 30, 2024. Papers will be selected by the Technical Committee for presentation during the Conference. For detailed Brochure visit ITPI Website.

For any queries mail at 73ntcpconference@gmail.com.

Online Booking of ITPI Guests Houses

Online booking of guests houses of ITPI have started in following chapters.

1. ITPI-RRC JAIPUR Guest House
2. ITPI-MPRC BHOPAL Guest House
3. ITPI-UPRC LUCKNOW Guest House
4. ITPI-TNRC CHENNAI Guest House
5. ITPI-GoaRC PANAJI Guest House
6. ITPI-WBRC Guesthouse
7. ITPI-RRC UDAIPUR Guest House
8. ITPI NEW DELHI Guest house

For online bookings visit the website link: https://itpi.org.in/roombooking/

AITP and FITP members of ITPI are requested to update their personal profile data on the ITPI website for better use of online facilities provided by the Institute. For any assistance contact at itpidel@itpi.org.in; and +91-8826234858

Newly Formed Committee for 'All India Board of Town and Country Planning' by All India Council for Technical Education with following members

- TPr. N. K. Patel, President, Institute of Town Planners, India, New Delhi
- TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha, Secretary General, Institute of Town Planners, India, New Delhi
- TPr. P. P. Singh, Chief Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Department, Govt. of Haryana
- Prof. T. N. Majumdar, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
- Prof. Neeraj Kanthi, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal
- TPr. Naresh Kumar Dhiran, Additional Chief Planner, TCPO, Delhi
- Prof. Adinaraynane R, School of Planning and Architecture, Vijaywara
- Prof. Avlokita Agarwal, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

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₹ 100/- Per Annum