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Prof. Dr. Ashwani Luthra



Dignitaries on the dais (Left to Right) TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha (Secretary General, ITPI) TPr. N. K. Patel (President, ITPI), Lt. Gen. K.T Parnaik (PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Guest) Shri Balo Raja (Hon'ble Minister, Deptt. of Urban Affairs, Land Management and Civil Aviation, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Guest of Honour), Yashpal Garg-IAS (Commissioner, Dept. of Urban Affairs, Government of Arunachal Pradesh)

ITPI NORTH-EAST REGIONAL CHAPTER ITPI - EAST ZONE CONFERENCE ON 'THE NEED FOR PLANNED URBANIZATION IN NORTH-EASTERN STATES' 7TH DECEMBER, 2024

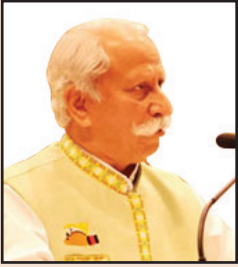
The Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI) hosted its East Zone Conference on the theme "The Need for Planned Urbanization in North Eastern States." The conference brought together leading urban planners, policymakers, and academicians to discuss the

unique challenges and opportunities facing urban development in the region.

The conference covered a wide range of topics, including sustainable town planning for hill and hilly



Institute of Town Planners, India



Regional planning is a must for sustainable development in the north east.

Lt. Gen. K. T. Parnaik,



Planning, designing, and construction activities require specialized engineering solutions and skills.

TPr. N. K. Patel



Lt. Gen. K. T. Parnaik, Honourable, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lighting the Lamp

areas, the role of Master Plans in development, the need for comprehensive urban planning legislation, and the importance of transportation and mobility planning for hill towns.

The conference highlighted the need for a nuanced approach to urban planning in the North Eastern States, considering the region's unique geographical and cultural context. Discussions emphasized the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern planning principles to create sustainable and resilient urban environments.

In his inaugural address, the Governor addressed the key challenges facing urban areas in Arunachal Pradesh, including inadequate infrastructure, a lack of parking facilities, and insufficient public spaces such as parks and open areas. He emphasized that these gaps significantly impact the quality of life and highlight the need for comprehensive urban planning that is both future-focused and sustainable.

The Governor stressed the importance of regional planning, especially considering the state's vastness and geographical diversity. He pointed out that development efforts should not be confined to individual towns but should adopt a holistic, region-wide approach to ensure balanced growth, efficient resource management, and improved connectivity across districts, thus enhancing economic and social integration.

Highlighting the unique challenges of the North East Region—such as vast forest cover, limited habitable land, vulnerability to seismic activity, long monsoon seasons, and susceptibility to landslides and floods—the Governor called for sustainable development



TPr. N. K. Patel Felicitating Lt. Gen. K. T. Parnaik, Honourable, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Governor

that balances urbanization with environmental conservation. He emphasized the need for inclusive and efficient urban spaces that preserve the region's natural beauty and cultural heritage.

The Governor also encouraged the Institute of Town Planners India (ITPI) to support Arunachal Pradesh through knowledge sharing, capacity building, and training. He underlined the potential of modern technologies such as GIS, AI-based planning tools, and remote sensing to strengthen the state's planning capabilities.

With guidance from reputed technical institutions, the Governor envisioned a future where Arunachal Pradesh is known for its well-planned towns, thriving smart villages, and resilient communities. Achieving this vision, he noted, would require collaborative efforts, innovative planning practices, and a strong commitment to sustainability.

Touching upon issues related to hydropower projects and rehabilitation, the Governor proposed developing smart model villages using compensation funds. These villages should maintain a traditional aesthetic while incorporating modern amenities such as schools, markets, community halls, playgrounds, and dispensaries.

TPr. N. K. Patel in his presidential speech said that hill areas are invariably characterized by unique landform, richness in visual/natural resources, biodiversity, slope, vegetation, flora and fauna, heterogeneity of climate, and land use pattern. They remain unique, different, and distinct in their physiography, morphology, structure, topography and fabric, when compared with the plain physical



TPr. N. K. Patel, President, ITPI addressing at the conference



TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha, Secretary General, ITPI Welcoming the delegates

space of the country. The rugged terrain and steep slopes of the mountainous and hilly areas pose significant challenges for infrastructure development. Building roads, bridges and other transport networks becomes a complex task, after requiring specialized engineering solutions and skills. They require much more understanding compared to the plain areas in terms of planning, designing, and construction activities.

He pointed that mountainous and hilly areas are more prone to natural disasters such as landslides, earthquakes and flash floods. Regional planning helps in assessing the vulnerability of these areas to such disasters and formulating strategies to mitigate risks. Human activities have also caused a decline in the green cover of these hilly areas, resulting in loose, exposed soil that is highly susceptible to erosion and the risk of landslides, he added. He opined that excessive tourism also poses grave challenges, calling for optimal resource management and policy interventions.

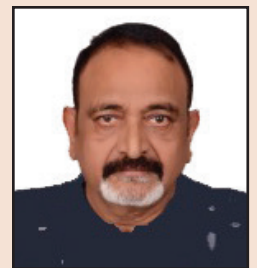
He cited that the urban local bodies (ULBs) of hilly area, which are responsible for managing city affairs, often lack the necessary expertise and resources, and are struggling to regulate the hilly areas within their jurisdiction. This results in inadequate enforcement of policies meant to protect these areas from environmental degradation and unchecked urbanisation. Regional planning aims to strike a balance between development and conservation by identifying protected areas, promoting sustainable tourism and implementing measures to preserve the fragile ecosystems. It ensures that development activities do not

jeopardize the natural heritage of these hilly areas. By distributing resources, economic activities, and infrastructure more evenly, hill cities can better manage their complex terrains and reduce the risks of overburdening fragile ecosystems. He proposed to incorporate more earthquake-resistant infrastructure and buildings.

He raised alarm to the tourism, heritage, and mobility challenges being faced by the hill areas like the north-eastern region and proposed to develop the GIS-based framework for spatial planning in hill areas and adopt the national/international codes for identifying the critical factors and their related code provisions for spatial planning in hill areas.

While welcoming the delegates of the conference, TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha, Secretary General, ITPI pointed that this conference is a reflection of our shared commitment to addressing the unique challenges and opportunities of urban planning in the Northeast region. With its rich cultural heritage, diverse ecosystems, and strategic importance, the Northeast stands as a vital frontier of India's development. Planned urbanization is not merely a necessity but a critical pathway to sustainable growth, inclusive development, and ecological preservation.

He stressed that the presence of Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), and Shri Bale Raja, Hon'ble Minister of Urban Affairs, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, will provide invaluable insights into collaborative addressal to urbanization challenges in the North



With its rich cultural heritage, diverse ecosystems, and strategic importance, the northeast stands as a vital frontier of india's development.



Eastern region. He also pointed that Shri Bale Raja's active engagement in the region's urban development initiatives underscores the critical role of policy and governance in shaping a sustainable urban future.

He apprised that this conference brings together experts, policy makers, academicians, and practitioners who will share their perspectives, experiences, and strategies on planned urbanization.

He acknowledged TPr. Likha Suraj, Chief Town Planner, Government of Arunachal Pradesh for his dedication and efforts in organizing this conference.

He welcomed all the participants and encouraged them to engage actively in the sessions, and urged to contribute towards charting a roadmap for a better urban future for the Northeast.



TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, Coordinator, ITPI addressing the audience

TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, while presenting the journey of ITPI to the dignitaries and delegates of the conference, narrated that it is the first time in the history of ITPI that East Zone Conference is organised in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh by North East Regional Chapter. The East Zone conference is a flagship event of ITPI, providing a vibrant forum for discussions and deliberations on urban and regional planning, particularly addressing challenges and opportunities in the North Eastern region, he added. He said that the conference will provide a platform for diverse group of stakeholders including officials from state governments, local bodies, and development authorities of all North-Eastern States, planning professionals, experts, and thought leaders from across India to share

insights and experiences. He further showcased various activities and key achievements of ITPI, especially under the patronage of the newly elected council of ITPI.

He said that the aim of the present conference is to address the Urban Challenges in the North Eastern states, to have sustainable Development in the North Eastern states, to prioritize the Green Spaces and Public Amenities, to focus on sustainable tourism and urbanization, to embrace the technology and Innovation for Hydropower Projects and Rehabilitation.

TPr. Pradeep Kapoor, Coordinator (Techno-Admin), ITPI apprised the dignitaries and the delegates with the initiatives and achievements of the ITPI such as

- As per the EGM conducted in 2024, seats for Women is reserved in Council and adding Women in Council as Special Invitee.
- Active membership of Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP). In its biennial meeting, the President, ITPI has been nominated as the Vice-President for the year 2024 and 2025.
- Reconstitution of the Board of Town and Country Planning Education by AICTE.
- Release of revised ITPI Memorandum of Articles of Association and Bye-Laws and regulations for the Regional Chapters and Centres have been released.
- Constituting ITPI Competition Committee to organize special and stakeholder specific National Competitions and take up pilot projects of selected entry with concerned Regional Chapter.
- Creation of four new Research and collaboration Forums at ITPI i.e. Climate Change Forum, Water Management Forum, Heritage Conservation Forum, and Institutional Cooperation Forum, to provide platform for research, deliberations, and brain storming, considering the issues of urban planning and development in the country.
- Creation of three new Regional Centres viz., Indore (under Madhya Pradesh Regional Chapter), Puducherry (under Tamil Nadu Regional Chapter), and Mysuru (under

Karnataka Regional Chapter) to promote the activities of ITPI.

- Started Online Hostel Booking with effect from June 10, 2024 and started Online Regional Chapter Hostel Booking from 1st October, 2024.
- Collaboration with HITS, Chennai, Poornima University, Jaipur, SPA, Delhi and SPA, Bhopal, SPA Vijayawada, NIT Patna and Gautam Buddha University in organizing conferences, seminars, and workshops.

TPr. Pradeep Kapoor addressed the delegates that under the Institutional Cooperation Committee, ITPI has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with Centre of Science and Environment (CSE), World Wide Fund for Nature, India (WWF), GIZ and Institution of Valuers (IOV). As part of these agreements, ITPI collaborate as a knowledge partner, participate in training and capacity-building initiatives, co-organize a series of webinars for various officials, conduct in-person training sessions, and work towards joint publications. ITPI is conducting workshops and seminars with them.

The Plenary Session on the theme 'The Need For Planned Urbanization in North Eastern States' was Chaired by TPr. N. K. Patel and TPr. Sukhvinder Singh, and Prof. Ashwani Luthra were the presenters. TPr. Sukhvinder Singh in his presentation boasted that planned urbanization is vital for balancing growth and sustainability in the Northeast. He stressed that all the new district headquarters of newly created district must necessarily conform to the land use plan, and construction there on to the building bye-laws. He recommended for eco-friendly and Sustainable development including the use green building techniques and renewable energy sources, investment in transportation, sanitation, healthcare, and education facilities, transforming selected cities into smart cities using digital technology for better governance, train local governments and urban planners to handle the complexities of urbanization, and public-private partnerships in infrastructure while ensuring public accountability. He stressed that planned urbanization is vital for balancing growth and sustainability in the Northeast. By addressing unique geographical, cultural, and

socio-economic challenges, it can improve the quality of life and contribute to the region's long-term development.



TPr. N. K. Patel, President ITPI alongwith TPr. Sukhvinder Singh and Prof. Ashwani Luthra as the panellists

Prof. Dr. Ashwani Luthra made a comprehensive presentation in the urbanization pattern of the north-eastern states and pointed that the region has a strong imbalanced urban system. His GIS based study reflected that the urban system of the region is highly skewed and polarized around the few bigger settlements. Topographical difficulties and constraints, apart from cultural variations, tend to reflect bleak variations in the skewness of urbanization pattern in the states. He recommended that economic nodes may be created and transport networks should be improved to bring about balance in the urban system. He stressed that the states should develop their urbanization policies and take a stock of each others urbanization pattern while framing them.

Five Technical Sessions were organised with the themes including 'Sustainable Town Planning for Tribal and Hilly Areas'; 'Master Plans as Tools for Development: Case Studies from other States'; 'State Policy Frameworks: Need for a Comprehensive Urban Planning Act'; 'Transportation and Mobility Planning for Hill Towns' and 'Leveraging GIS and Data-Driven Planning for Efficient Governance'.

The event featured a distinguished lineup of speakers, including Dr. Subhashish Banerjee, Joint Director, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Indorel; TPr. Gajanand Ram, Chairman, Jharkhand Regional Chapter; Dr. Md. Ishtiyaque, Associate Professor, NIT Patna; Dr. Abhijeet Sarma, Chairman, ITPI North East Regional Chapter; Dr. L.P. Patnaik, Chairman, Odisha Regional Chapter; Prof. Jignesh Mehta, CEPT University, Ahmedabad; Dr. Mayank Dubey, SPA Bhopal; Shri Sai Ram, SPA Delhi; TPr.



North eastern states should develop their urbanization policies and take a stock of each others urbanization pattern while framing them.



J.S. Kakoti, Guwahati, Assam Regional Chapter; and Shri Saurabh Gupta, Planning Consultant, Arunachal Pradesh.

The Expert Speakers discussed various issues and challenges faced by the town and cities of different sizes and suggested solutions for them to make the urban living healthy and sustainable. The expert also highlighted the key concerns relating to master planning and development processes being followed in their respective states and suggested their application in the hilly areas of North Eastern states. They further stressed that special plan should be prepared for the tribal areas and due care should be given to preserve the natural environment, and flora and fauna. Various legal provisions available in the states for planning and development of urban areas and infrastructure for their residents were critically discussed to highlight their impacts on the quality of life. It was suggested that town planning acts and building bye laws need to be revisited for sustainable future cities, especially in the context of the town and cities of the North Eastern States.



Dr. Mayank Dubey and Shri Sai Ram making their presentations

Dr. Mayank Dubey from SPA Bhopal in his presentation underscored the technical and operational differences between mobility in hill and plain settlements, emphasizing the need for a tailored approach to each. He highlighted that while existing codes of practice and benchmarks provide extensive guidance for plain cities, they remain largely silent on hill cities, leading to a lack of specific design and planning references for these unique terrains. He elaborated on how public transport indicators such as trip length, cost, and service frequency significantly differ between hill and plain cities. He also stressed that traffic engineering parameters, including geometric design, road gradient, speed regulation, and safety measures, require distinct

approaches for hill settlements due to their challenging topography and climatic constraints. However, he pointed out that benchmarking and standard references for hill city mobility remain largely underdeveloped, creating a gap in research and policy formulation.

Shri Sai Ram made a comprehensive presentation on the traffic and transportation scenario of the cities of North Eastern States and suggested pragmatic solution such as improvements in the road and junction geometry for seamless flow of automobiles.

Prof. Jignesh Mehta made an impressive presentation addressing the challenges of urban development and policy formulation, especially in the context of North Eastern State.

The valedictory session was chaired by TPr. N. K. Patel. He said that the ITPI East Zone Conference served as a vital platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and collaborative action. The insights and recommendations from the event will be instrumental in guiding urban development policies and practices in the North Eastern States, contributing to a more sustainable and equitable future for the region.

TPr. Likha Suraj, Chief Town Planner, Government of Arunachal Pradesh thanked ITPI, in particular the President ITPI, for choosing Itanagar to organise East Zone Conference. He said that the planners of North Eastern States will extend all possible help and support to ITPI for organising such events in future. He extended his gratitude to all the delegates of the conference for visiting Itanagar and making the conference a grand success.

Dr. Abhijeet Sarma, Chairman, ITPI North-East Regional Chapter proposed vote of thanks to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, Office Bearers of ITPI, the Council Members of ITPI, the Professionals and experts, and delegates from different parts of the country to make the event possible. He thanked the staff of Town Country Planning Department of Government of Arunachal Pradesh for its untiring efforts in the organisation of the conference and making it a grand success.

ITPI HARYANA REGIONAL CHAPTER 'ITPI-HRC NORTH ZONE CONFERENCE 2024 URBAN ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES' 26TH OCTOBER 2024



Dignitaries on the dais for ITPI-HRC for North Zone Conference. TPr. N. K. Patel, President ITPI addressing the delegates

The Institute of Town Planners, India - Haryana Regional Chapter (ITPI-HRC) hosted its North Zone Conference on “Urban Ecology and Environmental Challenges”. The conference, at The Westin Resort, Sohna, Gurugram. The conference brought together a diverse group of urban planners, environmental experts, and stakeholders to address critical issues facing our rapidly urbanizing world.

The conference provided a platform for in-depth discussions and knowledge sharing on a range of topics, including:

- Sustainable Urban Development: Strategies for creating eco-friendly and resilient cities.
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Urban planning solutions to combat climate change impacts.
- Green Infrastructure and Urban Greening: Integrating nature into the urban fabric.
- Waste Management and Pollution Control: Innovative approaches to waste management and pollution reduction in urban areas.
- Environmental Justice and Equity: Ensuring equitable access to environmental resources and a healthy environment for all.

The conference featured presentations by renowned experts, interactive workshops, and panel discussions, providing valuable insights and practical solutions for urban planners and policy makers. The event also highlighted the importance of collaboration between different sectors and stakeholders in addressing urban environmental challenges.



Expert Panel of Technical Session - 1 Vayu

Smt. Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director, Research and Advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in her presentation on ‘Emerging Mandates for Air Quality Control’ emphasized that effective air quality solutions must integrate urban planning-a critical yet often overlooked component. Air pollution, particularly in the northern Gangetic Plain, poses severe health risks, with the Delhi NCR



Effective air quality solutions must integrate urban planning-a critical yet often overlooked component.
Anumita Roychowdhury



Institute of Town Planners, India



Urban morphology requires a multifaceted approach that integrates innovative design, effective materials, and community engagement to create more comfortable and sustainable urban environments.

Rajneesh Sareen

area being a significant concern due to its high levels of PM2.5.

She highlighted that the current data indicates a worrying trend, particularly in winter months when air quality worsens significantly. The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) sets ambitious targets, such as a 40 percent reduction in pollution for Faridabad, yet data suggests that even greater reductions of 60 percent are needed. The primary sources of pollution include vehicular emissions, industrial activity, and biomass burning, highlighting an urgent need for strategic urban planning to tackle these issues.

She stressed that urban design plays a pivotal role in addressing air quality. CSE is mapping pollution hotspots in Gurugram, revealing that average pollution levels often exceed acceptable standards, particularly in specific micro-areas. A spatial analysis has segmented Gurugram into 2 km pockets, facilitating targeted interventions such as dust control measures and enhanced public transportation options.

She said that Vehicle proliferation has exacerbated pollution levels, with Gurugram experiencing a 40 percent increase in vehicles since the pre-pandemic era. This rapid motorization, coupled with insufficient public transportation infrastructure, has created a parking demand equivalent to 175 football fields, underscoring the urgent need for effective mobility solutions.

To combat these challenges, urban planners must prioritize the development of walkable, accessible neighborhoods, where public transit is seamlessly integrated, she emphasized. Existing designs often prioritize vehicles over pedestrians, creating barriers that limit access to public transportation. Initiatives such as Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) are essential for co-locating residential, commercial, and recreational spaces, promoting sustainable urban growth.

Addressing air quality issues in Haryana requires she stressed that a multi-faceted approach, including effective dust management, urban redesign, and electrification of transport. CSE advocates for a shift toward low-emission zones, emphasizing

community-wide adoption of mobility solutions and eco-friendly transport infrastructure.

She summarized by saying that achieving clean air in urban areas demands a holistic approach to urban planning, combining air quality monitoring, effective transportation systems, and community engagement. The focus must shift from merely reducing emissions to creating inclusive, livable cities that prioritize the health of their residents.

Sh. Rajneesh Sareen, Programme Director, Sustainable Building and Habitat Programme, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi, in his presentation on 'Urban Morphology as Passive Driver for Air Pollution and Heat' by highlighted the critical role of urban morphology in exacerbating air pollution and urban heat in cities. He emphasized that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the building sector significantly contribute to rising temperatures, which in turn increase energy consumption and emissions.

He said that phenomenon of urban heat islands (UHIs) has intensified, particularly at night, with cities experiencing higher temperatures than rural areas. For instance, in Central Park, temperatures are consistently 4 degrees higher. This heat retention is exacerbated by poorly designed infrastructure, such as extensive parking areas that trap heat and a lack of climate-responsive street designs. There is an urgent need for innovative solutions, like blue-green infrastructure, to mitigate these impacts and develop effective cooling master plans.

He emphasized that the building sector faces challenges like thermal discomfort, leading to higher energy demands for cooling. As urban areas become more heat-intensive, they struggle to cool down as effectively as they did in the past, increasing the urgency for mitigation strategies that align with national and global commitments to achieve Net Zero emissions. Effective urban planning must consider the interplay of building materials, design, and landscaping, as these factors directly influence temperature regulation.

He pointed that Climate-responsive planning should include the selection of appropriate roofing

materials and conducting wind analyses to enhance thermal comfort. Despite India's per capita energy consumption for cooling being lower than the global average, the growing demand for space cooling necessitates both passive and active measures to address thermal discomfort.

He highlighted that significant gaps in current planning and regulations have been identified, calling for enhanced infrastructure and communication strategies. There is an emphasis on the importance of structured training and public engagement, along with collaboration with educational institutions and professional bodies, to foster sustainable urban development.

He recommend that addressing the challenges posed by urban morphology requires a multifaceted approach that integrates innovative design, effective materials, and community engagement to create more comfortable and sustainable urban environments.

The Second Technical Session (Jal) was focused on Water Challenges. Dr. Fawzia Tarannum, Strategic Advisor at Gurukul emphasized that the world is increasingly grappling with the challenges of global warming, and water conservation has become critical to ensuring sustainable development. Water is a fundamental human need, as highlighted in Maslow's hierarchy, and immediate action is essential to conserve and restore water resources. Water systems being interconnected with air and other natural cycles, it becomes vital to adopt practices that enable the return of water to the ecosystem. Achieving water neutrality involves minimizing water demand, calculating water footprints, and making conscious efforts to replenish the hydrological cycle. India stands as one of the most water-stressed countries globally, facing significant challenges in managing its water resources. The north-western region, particularly Haryana, experiences severe water stress due to over-extraction and diminishing recharge rates. Urban populations are also rising, with projections indicating that 50 percent of India's population will live in cities by 2050. This surge in urbanization exacerbates the demand for water, especially in slums where residents lack adequate access to basic amenities. By 2030, water demand in India is

expected to surpass supply by twofold, creating a pressing need for sustainable solutions.

Situation in Haryana highlights the gravity of water stress. In 2023, the state's groundwater recharge was calculated at 8.7 lakh ham, while extraction reached 11.8 lakh ham. Gurgaon alone drew 214 percent of the groundwater it replenished. The declining groundwater levels are accompanied by changes in land use, with Gurugram's built-up area increasing by 62 percent between 2000 and 2019, while agricultural land decreased by 60 percent. These trends have dire consequences, such as the complete drying up of Damdama Lake in June 2024. Additionally, although Haryana's forest cover marginally increased from 3.59 percent in 2017 to 3.63 percent in 2020, desertification and forest degradation continue to pose significant threats.

Blue-green infrastructure, which integrates natural ecosystems with urban planning, can enhance water management in cities. The use of water-efficient appliances and the implementation of water reuse systems are practical measures to reduce consumption and recycle resources. Social awareness campaigns can drive responsible water usage, while partnerships between the public and private sectors can foster investments in sustainable water projects. However, the path to water neutrality is fraught with challenges, including a lack of comprehensive water usage data, outdated infrastructure, weak regulatory frameworks, financial constraints, and the unpredictable impacts of climate change. Achieving water neutrality requires a holistic and collaborative approach. Community engagement is essential to ensure that citizens actively participate in conservation efforts. Leveraging technology and innovation can provide advanced tools for monitoring and managing water resources effectively. Partnerships among stakeholders—governments, private entities, and civil society—can create synergies to implement large-scale projects. Transparency and accountability are equally important to build trust and ensure progress. Above all, long-term commitment to sustainable practices and policies is necessary to mitigate water stress and secure a future where water resources are abundant and accessible for all.



Achieving water neutrality requires a holistic and collaborative approach.
Dr. Fawzia Tarannum



Institute of Town
Planners, India



To address urban
flooding effectively,
India must prioritize
smart and resilient
urbanization.

Tapas Paul

Sh. Tapas Paul, Lead Environmental Specialist, World Bank in his presentation on Urban Flooding highlighted the situation of urban flooding in India and the unique challenges it faces in water resource management despite its relatively high resource endowment per square kilometer. He said that while inefficient water use is a significant issue, urban flooding has emerged as a severe problem due to rapid urbanization and climate change. By 2050, India is projected to have an urban population of approximately 916 million, which will place immense pressure on existing resources and infrastructure. Urban flooding is already a critical concern, with over 17,000 deaths caused by floods and heavy rains between 2012 and 2021 and economic losses amounting to over \$4.2 billion in 2022 alone. Poorly maintained and outdated stormwater drainage systems, combined with increased precipitation and climate-induced changes, have led to frequent breaches in drainage capacity. These systems often operate at 20-50 percent reduced effectiveness due to aging infrastructure. Encroachments on water bodies and watercourses further exacerbate the situation, limiting the options for flood mitigation in densely populated urban areas. Additionally, institutional inadequacies, fragmentation of responsibilities across multiple government agencies, and insufficient enforcement of flood control measures have hindered effective management.

Urban flooding is compounded by the lack of flood hazard and risk modeling in Indian cities. Most urban areas lack the financial and technical resources necessary for hydrodynamic modeling, which is crucial for understanding and mitigating flood risks. Furthermore, statutory frameworks such as master plans and zoning laws often fail to incorporate climate-conscious considerations, leading to non-responsive urban development. These limitations underscore the need for updated regulatory guidance and a comprehensive integration of flood risk analysis into urban planning.

He stressed that solutions to urban flooding can be categorized into three main approaches: large-scale flood control infrastructure, small-scale flood-proofing measures, and nature-based solutions.

Large-scale initiatives, such as flood walls, diversion channels, and multipurpose reservoirs (e.g., Tokyo's reservoir), require significant public investment but offer robust protection. Small-scale measures, including wetproofing, dryproofing, and land raising, can be implemented by individuals or communities to enhance resilience. Nature-based solutions, such as wetland restoration and the restoration of natural water processes, provide sustainable flood mitigation while enhancing urban ecosystems. Examples of global flood-proofing infrastructure, such as the Thames Barrier in London and the MOSE system in Venice, offer valuable lessons for scaling down and adapting these approaches in Indian cities.

He opined that to address urban flooding effectively, India must prioritize smart and resilient urbanization. This includes creating and restoring wetlands, implementing early flood warning systems, and conducting comprehensive flood assessments and modeling. Urban resilience should be embedded in state policies through streamlined flood risk analysis in master plans, mandatory linkages with disaster management strategies, and updated planning codes that reflect disaster preparedness. Identifying institutional gaps and enhancing enforcement capacity will be critical to ensuring compliance with statutory documents and codes. Moreover, cost-effective engineering solutions should be explored to augment cities' information bases and improve urban resilience to flooding.

The Third Technical Session (Prithvi) was focused on Climate Related Issues and Challenges. Dr. Arun Kansal, Professor, TERI University while speaking on 'Cities and Climate Change' focused on the need to tailor climate change mitigation strategies to the specific characteristics of individual cities. He underscored that effective urban planning must integrate environmental, social, and economic goals to create sustainable and resilient urban spaces.

He pointed that over 50 percent of the global population lives in cities, which contribute significantly to carbon emissions and face severe climate risks, such as heat waves, flooding, and water scarcity. Traditional territorial emissions

accounting fails to fully capture the environmental impact of urban areas, suggesting the need for a consumption-based approach. Major climate risks include the Urban Heat Island effect, health impacts, increased energy demand, flooding, and food insecurity.

He stressed that the key strategies for mitigating climate change include: High-density, mixed-use urban planning that incorporates efficient transportation and energy systems; Acknowledging trade-offs such as land-use conflicts and high initial investments during planning. Integrated planning for energy, materials, and infrastructure to significantly reduce emissions; Adaptation and mitigation strategies must be tailored to each city's unique characteristics, with effective urban planning balancing environmental, social, and economic goals.

Sh. Nitesh Kumar Tripathi presented the highly successful Bio-CNG Model in Indore, which he described as a highly efficient and environmentally friendly wet waste management solution that could be replicated in other cities. He pointed that Indore, with a population of 35 lakhs (2022), generates 1192 TPD of waste, of which 692 TPD is wet waste. The city processes 550 TPD of wet waste centrally and 142 TPD decentrally achieving over 95 percent waste recovery. Waste collection is fully segregated, with over 1500 vehicles collecting six types of waste from 5.85 lakh households. Mechanized Transfer Stations (e.g., at Sangam Nagar and IT Park) ensure the automated transfer of segregated waste to processing plants. The shift from composting to Bio-CNG processing has increased efficiency, with the plant generating 17,000 kg of Bio-CNG per day and 60 TPD of organic fertilizer. The ₹150 crore plant, is inaugurated in February 2022 under a Public-Private Partnership, reduces CO2 emissions by 130,000 tons annually. Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) purchases 50 percent of Bio-CNG at a discounted rate, helping to reduce landfill use and fossil fuel dependency; and Expected return on investment (ROI) is 5-7 years, with ₹2.52 crore annual royalty to IMC.

Ms. Shweta Dua from GIZ presented the 'Concept of Zero Waste Events', highlighting their potential to drive sustainability across large-scale events in

India. She stressed the importance of standardized guidelines and effective stakeholder cooperation for the successful implementation of zero waste practices. She pointed that GIZ, commissioned by the German Government, supports sustainable urban development globally, focusing on capacity building and policy support. India's urban population is expected to reach 590 million by 2030, generating 1.7 lakh Metric Tons of waste per day, with only 50 percent of this waste being treated. Zero Waste Events aim to reuse, compost, or recycle all event waste. A successful example of this was the 2018 Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar, which implemented composting and recycling strategies. Key tasks for organizing successful Zero Waste Events include:

- Waste generation assessment.
- Proper waste segregation.
- Effective coordination with stakeholders and awareness campaigns.
- Collaboration with recycling and co-processing units.
- The key takeaways of her presentation included significant potential exists for scaling Zero Waste Events in India; Standardized national guidelines are crucial for their successful implementation; Coordination among stakeholders is key to achieving the goals of Zero Waste Events; She opined that these events promote sustainable lifestyles, create markets for green products, and require careful planning and strategic partnerships.

The Forth Technical Session (Prithvi) was focused on Emerging Environmental Challenges. Prof Dr. Saswat Bandyopadhyay, CEPT University, emphasized the need for engaging town planners to translate innovative urban ideas into practical, actionable strategies. The session highlighted the challenge of bridging the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world urban planning, especially in addressing universal climate and environmental issues.

Discussions focused on two key questions:

- How to effectively implement climate resilience and sustainability in daily planning?



- How to enhance town planners' engagement with communities?

The speaker cited examples to illustrate the paradox of developers being criticized for environmental harm while marketing “green” amenities. He advocated for collaboration between planners and developers to align goals for better environmental outcomes.

He also emphasized the need for planners to address persistent “wicked problems” like climate change and resource management by evolving practices and fostering stronger community connections.

Prof. Dr. Ashwani Luthra of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (GNDU) responded to Prof. Saswat's remarks by emphasizing the critical role of community-level implementation in achieving sustainability, particularly in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11), which focuses on creating sustainable cities. He presented GNDU as a model for sustainability, highlighting several initiatives that contribute to the university's commitment to environmental stewardship. These initiatives include extensive green infrastructure, with over 50,000 trees that help reduce campus temperatures by 2°C compared to the surrounding areas. The university also employs an advanced water management system, including a net-zero discharge system that treats and reuses 2,500 liters of wastewater daily. Additionally, renewable energy is a key component, with solar panels meeting the campus's electricity needs. In terms of waste management, GNDU successfully manages 70 percent of its waste internally through composting and recycling efforts. The campus is designed to be pedestrian-friendly, with vehicle restrictions that promote shaded, green walkways. Rainwater harvesting and conservation initiatives further support sustainable water management.

He emphasized the importance of community engagement in these initiatives, noting the active role of student clubs in promoting sustainability and collaborations with experts such as Mr. Rajneesh Sareen from the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). He also highlighted the

university's commitment to education, pointing out that the curriculum is revised annually to stay relevant, with updates made to ITPI's environmental planning syllabus to address evolving ecological challenges. Ultimately, Dr. Luthra underscored that grassroots implementation, education, and professional collaboration are key to effectively addressing global environmental issues.

Smt. Chitra S. Jain, an accomplished Architect-Planner, and Director, Samyak Properties and Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., emphasized the crucial role of grassroots initiatives in promoting sustainability and resilience. With extensive experience in real estate, academia, and community development, she highlighted the transformative impact of neighborhood-led actions. Her work within her Resident Welfare Association (RWA) over the past decade exemplifies how local solutions can address significant environmental challenges.

Her key initiatives include waste management, where, in collaboration with the Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA) and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, her neighborhood became a net-zero wet waste colony under the Swachh Bharat Mission. By composting wet waste locally, they prevent 200,000 kg of waste from reaching landfills annually, creating a model for other communities to replicate. Additionally, her community has worked on improving air quality through tree censuses, deconcretizing areas around trees, greening spaces, and desilting to reduce dust and pollution. In terms of water conservation, they have implemented rainwater harvesting pits and diverted stormwater into green spaces to recharge groundwater and conserve water.

Smt. Jain stressed that real change starts at the grassroots level, where individuals can contribute through small, actionable steps. She advocated for urban design considerations such as walkability, accessible spaces, and pollution management. By integrating these principles into both community practices and professional projects, scalable and sustainable solutions can be achieved. Her optimism underscores the potential for neighborhoods to act as incubators for impactful environmental change.

Miss. Jayshree addressed the challenges faced in waste management, particularly focusing on the difficulty of ensuring source segregation in affluent neighborhoods. This task required nearly two years of consistent engagement and education, but once the community understood the importance of waste segregation, compliance improved significantly. This highlighted the need for sustained outreach and awareness campaigns to achieve widespread adoption of best waste management practices.

In addition to waste management, the speaker discussed several key areas of urban planning. First, the importance of blue - green infrastructure in creating sustainable urban environments was emphasized. A training program for municipal gardeners in Gujarat, initiated by the Institute of Civil Engineers, showcased the value of practical, localized knowledge. The key lessons learned included grounding discussions in actionable strategies, expanding training to involve all stakeholders, and recognizing that real implementation requires capacity building.

The speaker also highlighted the need for gender-inclusive urban design, focusing on making cities safer and more accessible for women, children, and the elderly. Compact, safe neighborhoods that facilitate mobility for all groups were deemed essential. Additionally, sustainable practices such as incorporating Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste into transport planning were identified as ways to reduce environmental impacts and promote sustainability in urban design.

Reflecting on the lost potential of traditional river-based transportation, the speaker advocated for reviving ferry systems with modern safety measures to reduce congestion and environmental impact. However, such initiatives often face resistance from local stakeholders, underscoring the importance of effective communication and engagement to implement these practices successfully.

The speaker also pointed out the challenges of implementation and capacity building, specifically the lack of awareness and capacity at the grassroots level. Despite existing policies, there is often a disconnect between policy and practice, with field

staff unaware of updated guidelines and resistant to change due to a lack of understanding of long-term benefits.

To overcome these challenges, the speaker suggested solutions such as comprehensive training programs for new recruits, regular retraining for existing staff, and clear communication of updated guidelines. Practical demonstrations and case studies would help illustrate the real-world impact of best practices. Engaging all stakeholders, from communities to policymakers, was seen as essential for bridging the gap between planning and execution.

The speaker concluded by emphasizing that sustainable urban development is a shared responsibility. It requires active participation from citizens, communities, and government officials. By fostering inclusivity, encouraging practical knowledge exchange, and building capacity at all levels, urban environments can be made more sustainable, equitable, and efficient for everyone.

The open discussion began with a representative, an Assistant Director from Delhi Development, emphasizing the integration of environmental and sustainability concerns into master planning processes. She highlighted that while Delhi's current master plan includes these priorities, there is a need for evolving planning to ensure actionable schemes are incorporated, and praised Delhi's ongoing efforts in green architecture.

A participant shared his experience from Delhi and Gurugram, noting that economic forces often outpace urban planning. He observed that in Gurugram, rapid development has been builder-driven rather than planner-guided, stressing the importance of robust infrastructure, policies, and planning mechanisms that can support such fast-paced growth, while advocating for a more sustainable approach to urban development.

Sh. Narendra, a Planning Professional, spoke about Haryana's green building initiatives, mentioning incentives for certified green buildings but stressing gaps in compliance verification and enforcement. He called for improved auditing systems and city-specific strategies to ensure proper implementation and maintenance of green initiatives.



A participant from Gujarat shared innovative environmental management practices, such as mandatory percolating wells for large developments and operational solar systems as prerequisites for permissions. Developers were incentivized, and residents received rebates for sustainable practices, demonstrating a collaborative model for sustainable urban growth.

Several speakers highlighted systemic challenges, such as the lack of follow-up on master plan implementations. Issues like the deterioration of rooftop solar systems and rainwater harvesting structures due to the absence of maintenance policies were discussed. Suggestions included developing phased actionable plans with clear short-term and long-term goals, and instituting policies to protect natural streams and water bodies in urban regulations.

The discussions concluded with examples of incentivizing sustainable behavior, such as the Delhi

Municipal Corporation's 10 percent property tax reduction for colonies achieving "net zero waste" status. Participants emphasized the need to expand such incentives to other cities.

Dr. Luthra wrapped up the session by discussing proactive initiatives by the Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI), including regional conferences, collaborations with planning institutions, and the development of the Heat Mapping Toolkit to assist in Master Plan preparation. He also mentioned ITPI's contributions to the National Education Policy, including the introduction of New Academic x.

The ITPI-HRC North Zone Conference 2024 served as a timely reminder of the urgent need for sustainable and eco-friendly urban planning practices. By fostering knowledge sharing and encouraging collaborative action, the conference made a significant contribution to creating a more sustainable and resilient urban future for all.

ITPI ODISHA REGIONAL CHAPTER 'WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY 2024' 8TH NOVEMBER 2024

World Town Planning Day 2024 was celebrated in ORC, Bhubaneswar. Prof Indrani Dhar, Principal of RR College of Architecture attended as Chief Guest, Shri Sandipan Sarangi, State Co-ordinator, UN Habitat, Bhubaneswar

delivered the lecture being chief speaker while Dr. LP Patnaik, Chairman, chaired the occasion. The deliberation was on providing adequate shelter/affordable housing to the disadvantaged section of the society.



Dr. L. P. Patnaik, Chairman, ORC addressing the occasion



Chief Guest Dr. Indrani Dhar, Secretary WBRC, addressing the occasion



Chief Speaker, Shri Sandipan Sarangi, State Co-ordinator, UN Habitat, Bhubaneswar, Secretary WBRC, addressing the occasion

ITPI TELANGANA REGIONAL CHAPTER 'MUSI RIVER HERITAGE ZONE WALK' 8TH NOVEMBER 2024

As part of the World Town Planning Day celebrations, the Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI) - Telangana Regional Chapter (TRC) organized a Musi River Heritage Zone Walk on November 8, 2024. The event aimed to raise awareness about the rich historical and cultural significance of the Musi River and its surrounding heritage structures while emphasizing the role of urban planning and conservation in preserving Hyderabad's legacy.

The walk saw enthusiastic participation from members of ITPI, conservation architects, and young professionals who explored the historical sites along the Musi River, delving into its architectural and urban development over time. The event provided an opportunity for participants to engage in discussions on sustainable urban planning,

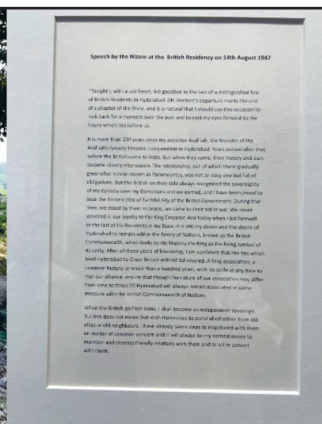
heritage conservation, and the impact of modern urbanization on historic landscapes.

The walk was facilitated by Mrs. Vasanth Shobha, an Executive Committee (EC) member of ITPI TRC, with the active involvement of young architects who contributed their insights on conservation efforts and the integration of heritage into contemporary city planning. Their collective expertise and enthusiasm enriched the experience, making it an engaging and educational initiative.

Through this heritage walk, ITPI TRC reinforced the importance of preserving Hyderabad's historical assets while promoting thoughtful urban planning strategies that honor the city's past while shaping its future.



Musi River Heritage Zone Walk





Institute of Town
Planners, India

WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY 2024: 'HOMES START WITH PLANNING' 8TH NOVEMBER 2024 ORGANIZED BY WOMEN PLANNERS FORUM AT ITPI HEADQUARTER, NEW DELHI

The Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI), celebrated World Town Planning Day on 8th November 2024 at its headquarters in New Delhi. Organized by the Women Planners Forum of ITPI, the event centered on the theme "Homes Start with Planning," emphasizing the importance of sustainable and inclusive urban planning to create better living environments.

The event featured distinguished speakers who enriched the discussions with their knowledge and insights:

- Mr. Jerry Anthony, PhD, FAICP, from the University of Iowa, USA, shared his perspectives on planning and public affairs.
- Dr. Sejal Patel, Secretary of the Women Planners Forum and a faculty member at CEPT University, highlighted the role of urban housing and planning education.

The event also marked the launch of the Poster Competition on the theme "City Through Her Eyes" by the Women Planners Forum. The competition invites professionals, students, and young graduates from the fields of planning and habitat studies to creatively express their views on gender inclusiveness in cities and planning.

Key Details of the Poster Competition:

- Objective: To encourage dialogue on gender equality and inclusiveness in urban planning through creative expression.
- Eligibility: Open to individuals or teams of up to 3 members pursuing Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD degrees in planning or related fields.
- Prizes:
 - 1st Prize: ₹31,000
 - 2nd Prize: ₹15,000
 - 3rd Prize: ₹7,500
 - Certificates of participation for all participants.
- Submission Deadline: 8th December 2024 (soft copy) and 15th December 2024 (hard copy).

The winning posters will be showcased during the 73rd National Town and Country Planners Conference in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, from 10-12 January 2025.

This vibrant and thought-provoking event brought together planners, academicians, and students, fostering meaningful discussions and inspiring future contributions to urban development.



Inauguration of the event by Dr. Poonam Prakash (member, Women Planners Forum), Dr. Sejal Patel (Secretary, Women Planners Forum), TPr. Deepti J. Vyas (Chairperson, Women Planners Forum).



Poster Launch - "City Through Her Eyes" by TPr. Jasmine Singh (member, Women Planners Forum), Dr. Poonam Prakash (member, Women Planners Forum), TPr. Deepti J. Vyas (Chairperson, Women Planners Forum), TPr. V.P. Kulshrestha (Secretary General, ITPI), Dr. Sejal Patel (Secretary, Women Planners Forum)

ITPI TAMIL NADU REGIONAL CHAPTER 'HOMES START WITH PLANNING: BEST PRACTICES IN URBAN PLANNING' 9TH NOVEMBER 2024

The Tamil Nadu Regional Chapter (TNRC) of the Institute of Town Planners India (ITPI), in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Former DTCP Planners Association (TANFORD) and the Department of Planning (DOP) at Anna University, successfully hosted a seminar on “Homes Start with Planning: Best Practices in Urban Planning” on November 8, 2024, to commemorate World Town Planners Day.

The seminar, held at the Multipurpose Hall in the Department of Planning at Anna University, brought together a distinguished panel of speakers and a diverse audience of urban planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders. The event was graced by Thiru. Anshul Mishra, IAS, Member Secretary of the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA), as the Chief Guest.



Felicitation ceremony at ITPI Tamil Nadu Regional Chapter

The seminar featured insightful presentations by renowned experts in the field. Dr. N. Sridharan, former Director of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), shared his valuable insights on the principles of good urban planning and their impact on creating sustainable and livable communities. Tmt. U. Manimekalai, Senior Planner at the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB), shed light on the challenges and opportunities in implementing effective urban planning policies in Tamil Nadu.

The discussions during the seminar focused on a wide range of topics, including sustainable urban

development, affordable housing, inclusive urban planning, and the role of technology in shaping the future of cities. The panelists and attendees engaged in lively debates and shared their valuable perspectives on the best practices in urban planning.

The seminar served as a valuable platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and fostering collaboration among urban planning professionals. The insights and recommendations from the event will be instrumental in shaping the future of urban planning in Tamil Nadu and contributing to the creation of more sustainable and equitable cities for all.

ITPI RAJASTHAN REGIONAL CHAPTER 'WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY 2024: A PERSPECTIVE VISION OF UDAIPUR AND IT'S REGION' 9TH NOVEMBER 2024

The celebration of World Town Planning Day in Udaipur highlighted the critical need for

sustainable urban development and conservation. Seminars and discussions emphasized the



“ITPI Rajasthan Regional Chapter commemorates World Town Planning Day 2024 with a visionary discussion on Udaipur and its region, November 9, 2024.”

importance of preserving natural resources like lakes and mountains, while also addressing concerns about the neglect of the Master Plan in the Smart City project.

Experts stressed the importance of integrating environmental considerations into urban planning, emphasizing the need to protect green spaces and minimize the impact of development on the natural environment. Concerns were raised about the lack of implementation of the Master Plan, particularly in the context of the Smart City project, and the need to prioritize sustainable development strategies.

Recommendations for a sustainable future for Udaipur included a range of measures, including:

- Preserving natural resources: Protecting lakes, mountains, and other natural resources from degradation.

- Improving traffic management: Creating a wider road network, improving public transportation, and reducing reliance on private vehicles.
- Implementing the Master Plan: Ensuring that the Master Plan is followed in all development projects, especially within the Smart City initiative.
- Addressing environmental concerns: Minimizing pollution, improving sanitation, and enhancing the city’s green spaces.
- Promoting sustainable tourism: Developing tourism strategies that minimize environmental impact and benefit local communities.

The discussions at the World Town Planning Day events underscored the importance of a collaborative approach between the government, planners, and citizens to create a sustainable and livable future for Udaipur.

ITPI PUNJAB REGIONAL CHAPTER ‘SHAPING CITIES FOR THE FUTURE’ 1ST DECEMBER 2024

The Punjab Regional Chapter of the Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI), Chandigarh, successfully organized an insightful lecture on ‘Shaping Cities for the Future’ on November 30, 2024. This event brought together experts, urban planners, architects, and academicians to discuss emerging trends, challenges, and innovative solutions in urban development, with a focus on creating sustainable, resilient, and people-centric cities.

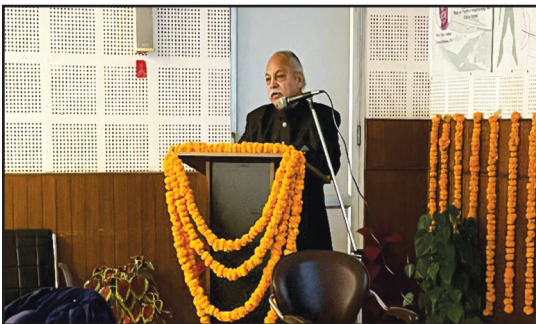
The event was honored by the esteemed presence of TPr. U. C. Gadkari, Council Member, ITPI, and Ms. Sumit Kaur, Former Chief Architect, Chandigarh Administration, who shared their expert perspectives on the evolution of urban landscapes, the impact of modern planning principles, and strategies to enhance the livability of cities. Their insights, drawn from years of experience in urban planning and architecture, provided valuable guidance on



TPr. K.K. Kaul addressing the audience.



Ms. Sumit Kaur addressing the audience



TPr. U.C. Gadkari (Council Member, ITPI) addressing the audience.



TPr. Roma Marwaha (Secretary ITPI PRC) felicitating TPr. Inderjeet Singh (Chairman, ITPI PRC)

balancing growth with sustainability while preserving cultural and architectural heritage.

In addition to the keynote speakers, several senior professionals, town planners, and experts in the field actively participated in the discussion, contributing diverse viewpoints on urban mobility, infrastructure development, smart city initiatives, and community-driven planning approaches. The interactive session encouraged meaningful dialogue among attendees, fostering knowledge-sharing and collaboration among practitioners, scholars, and students.

The lecture underscored the critical need for integrated urban planning, climate-responsive design, and inclusive development policies to shape cities that are adaptable to future demands. It also highlighted the role of governance, technology, and public participation in ensuring equitable and sustainable urban growth.

Through this initiative, ITPI Punjab Regional Chapter reaffirmed its commitment to promoting thought leadership and advancing professional discourse in urban and regional planning, encouraging professionals to contribute towards shaping the future of cities in India.

ITPI MADHYA PRADESH REGIONAL CHAPTER 'BIODIVERSITY-FRIENDLY PLANNING APPROACHES' 19TH DECEMBER 2024

The Madhya Pradesh Regional Bhopal Chapter of the Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI), in collaboration with WWF-India, organized a workshop on biodiversity-friendly planning approaches for Town and Country Planners on December 18, 2024. This event was part of the Asia's Linear Infrastructure Safeguarding Nature (ALIGN) project, implemented by WWF India with the support of USAID to explore innovative tools and

strategies to harmonize infrastructure development with biodiversity conservation.

The workshop featured Mr. Aseem Shrivastava, Head of Forest Force (HoFF) and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF), as the Chief Guest. In his keynote address, Mr. Shrivastava emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts



ITPI Madhya Pradesh Regional Chapter conducts a workshop on 'Biodiversity-friendly Planning Approaches,' promoting sustainable urban development.

between planners and conservation stakeholders. He underlined the necessity of urban forestry and connected landscapes to ensure the continuity and functionality of ecosystem services derived from natural resources.

TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha - Chairperson of ITPI's Bhopal Chapter, highlighted the need for collaboration between authorities and stakeholders to achieve a sustainable development pathway. He emphasized on the agreement with conservation organization like WWF-India in streamlining the issues of urban biodiversity and to create a habitable landscape benefitting nature and people.

Mr. Yash Shethia, Director - Wildlife and Habitats, WWF-India discussed conservation initiatives and emphasized non-conventional collaborations and engagements with the planning fraternity to achieve the broader goals of sustainable development. He provided examples of past engagements of WWF-India with planning authorities in Terai Arc Landscape, Western Ghats and Nilgiris landscapes among other.

A presentation was delivered on the complexities and opportunities associated with rapid infrastructure development in India, considering its context of significant conservation achievements by Pramod Neupane.

TPr. Shiv Marwaha showcased case studies and examples of Town and Country planning from diverse landscapes across India.

WWF-India demonstrated the Rapid Infrastructure Impact Assessment Model (RIIAM), a GIS-based tool developed to evaluate the impact of infrastructure projects. This tool was introduced as a means to integrate conservation considerations into infrastructure planning.

Following the presentations, a panel discussion was conducted, moderated by Pramod Neupane. The panellists included:

- Professor Dr. Manmohan Kapse, MANIT, Bhopal
- Town Planner Hariom Maheshwori
- Town Planner Sandieep Shrivastava
- Town Planner Shiv Marwaha
- Mr. Sanket Bhale, Director for Central India Landscape, WWF-India

The discussion focused on the challenges and opportunities for Town and Country Planning in the Central India landscape. The panellists shared insights and practical solutions to align infrastructure development with conservation priorities.

The workshop successfully highlighted the critical role of collaboration in achieving biodiversity-friendly planning. It served as a learning opportunity for participants to explore innovative tools and approaches, paving the way for more sustainable and conservation-oriented development practices in India. Most people found it applicable and a fruitful learning experience that they'd recommend.

ITPI COLLABORATED AS A KNOWLEDGE PARTNER NATIONAL CONCLAVE ON “PLANNING SUSTAINABILITY AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION” DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING, GAUTAM BUDDHA UNIVERSITY (GREATER NOIDA) NOVEMBER 22-23, 2024 (FRIDAY-SATURDAY)

In view of the deteriorating environment and atmosphere, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning of GBU organized a two-day national level seminar. This national conclave was organized on November 22-23, 2024 by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning with the support of Institute of Town Planners India (ITPI), New Delhi.

The main objective of the conclave was to bring together experts, practitioners, policy makers and members of the academic world to discuss effective strategies for planning sustainability and ecological restoration. The event was to focus on sharing knowledge, best practices and innovations to meet the contemporary environmental challenges.



Dignitaries of the Event TPr. Pradeep Kapoor (Co-ordinator, Techno-admin ITPI), Prof. M. K. Malkhania, TPr. N. K. Patel (President, ITPI), TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha (Secretary General, ITPI).

At the beginning of the programme, Inauguration was done by lighting of lamp by dignitaries & Vandana. Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. R. K. Sinha, Chief Guest Shri N. K. Patel, President of ITPI, and Guest of Honour Smt. Leenu Sehgal, GM Planning of GNIDA shared their views. Dean of the School of Engineering Dr. Kirti Pal welcomed the participants. Program coordinator Dr. Nirmita Mehrotra explained the outline of the program and thanked everyone. Professor R. Srinivas, Advisory Board of SPA Delhi, Professor Ashwani Luthra, Head, Guru Ramdas School of Planning, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, GNDU attended the event.

The conclave was structured to deliberate on various themes, including emerging visions for future cities; tools and technologies-urbanization and urbanization; water and heritage conservation;

climate change, adaptation and disaster risk management; micro credentialing; sustainability education and climate governance measures. Participants got the opportunity to attend conclave and interactive sessions.

Technical Session I on ‘Emerging Approaches for Future Cities’ was Chaired by TPr. V. P. Kulshrestha. Papers presented in this session were a) Exploring the Night Economy: Analysing Economic Growth and Environmental Impact in a Comprehensive Approach. Chennai City by Mr. Jagdishan & Professor Dr. Valliappan b) Water Conservation and Management Using Indigenous Practices, A Case of Thanjavur District by Madhumita Sravanam c) Walkability in Hilly Cities: Challenges and Opportunities in Aizawl, H Lalremruati & Dr. Sachin Yadav Mizoram University d) Emerging Approaches to Future Cities: A Pathway for Smart



Participants with the Dignitaries



Audiences attending the Conference

& Sustainable Development by Anuska Gautam & Baljeet Singh, followed by panel discussion.

Technical Session II on 'Tools and Technologies-Urbanizing and Rurbanization' was Chaired by Prof. Ashwani Luthra. Papers presented in this session were a) Comparative Assessment Between Conventional Bricks And Green Bricks: A Study by Chanchal SVNIT Surat b) Bio Composite PCM : Energy Saving Building Envelopes by Aditya Sanyal c) Sustainable Mobility Plan for Noida with focus On Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) Chabi Yadav & Mehrotra Nirmita d) Greater Noida Real Estate: Trends, Speculation, and Regulatory Challenges by Christopher Paul e) The Continuation of Momentous Cities by Sukhmanjit Singh & Baljeet Singh, followed by panel discussion.

Technical Session III on 'Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management' was Chaired by TPr. R. Srinivas. Papers presented in this session were a) Planning Guidelines for Riverine Cities by Prof Srinivas b) Integrated Inland Water

Transportation system as a sustainable urban transportation for rivercentric cities: A case of Kolkata Metropolitan Area, Arnab Chowdhury, Dr. Subrata Kumar Paul c) Fusing Social and Environmental Sustainability: A Comparative Analysis of Wetland Management Practices by Aditya Bharadwaj d) Comparative Study of Incentive FSI in Redevelopment Schemes: A Case of Pune Anish Arvind Shekhar. Three technical sessions were covered on Day 1.

Technical Session IV on 'Water and Heritage Conservation' was Chaired by Prof. Arun Kansal, Director TERI. Papers presented in this session were a) Urban Water Sustainability assessment using Metabolic Approach Prof Arun Kansal b) Emerging Approaches for Managing Urban Flooding in Future Cities: A Case Study of Okhla, New Delhi - Ar. Lalit Singh Mehta & Sadaf Faridi AMU c) The Decrepitude of the Historic Water Systems of Barapullah, South Delhi: Challenges and Opportunities for Ecological Rejuvenation. Ar Aakash Panchal & Ar Kshitij Misra, followed by panel discussion.



Delegates for Technical Session IV with Event Coordinator and Session Chair



Delegates for Technical Session V with Event Coordinator and Session Chair



Day 1: All speaker and Session Chairs with the attendees

Technical Session V was Chaired by Prof. Arindham Das IIT Roorkee was the last session of the conclave. Paper presented in this session were a) Housing Fantasies: Complexities and Performances Prof. Arindham Biswas IIT Roorkee b) Analyzing the Role of Ecosystem Services in Climate Change Adaptation: A Literature Review Ar. Shaila Naz c) Nature in the City: Biophilic Design Principles for Urban Resilience in India by Ar. Santosh Tiwari d) Assessment of Carbon Metabolism in Regional Planning: A Methodological Approach By Ar. Akshya Sanyal, followed by panel discussion. After the technical session Valedictory Session & Distribution of Certificates was done.

Faculty members Madhuri Agarwal, Anant Singh, Alok Verma, Rajesh Kumar, Garima Rani, Akash Panchal, Arun Kumar Upadhyaya, Sheilja Singh and Radhika Chauhan were present in this two-day conclave. Through the programme, not only will knowledge be exchanged but concrete steps will also be taken towards policy development. The conclave not only helped forge new partnerships but also provided a platform to formulate concrete policies for sustainable development and ecological restoration. With the cooperation of all of us, we can take important steps towards building a sustainable and healthy environment.

ITPI HEADQUARTER, NEW DELHI ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

In the fourth and final quarter of 2024, the Institute of Town Planners India (ITPI) convened Council and Committee meetings, along with the “East Zone Conference” held in Itanagar. The committee members actively contributed through both online and offline participation from across the country. A wide range of topics were deliberated upon by the committees within their respective areas of focus, leading to meaningful and productive outcomes, some of which are highlighted below:

Important decisions by ITPI Council

- The Council finalized nominations for Secretary (Examination), Secretary (Publication), and members of the Council for the year 2024-25.
- Approved the proposal to collaborate with Sushant University, Gurugram, as a Knowledge Partner for World Town Planning Day.
- Confirmed expert committee reports for the provisional approval of M.Plan courses at:
 - Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand University, Dehradun.
 - Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.
 - TKM School of Architecture, Design and Planning, TKM College of Engineering, Kollam.
- Granted final approvals for M.Plan courses at:
 - Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar.
 - Odisha University of Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar (B.Plan/M.Plan in Urban and Regional Planning).



- Delhi Institute of Architecture and Planning, Faridabad, Haryana (M.Plan in Urban and Regional Planning).
- Jagan Nath University, Jaipur (M.Plan in Urban Planning).
- Approved the results of the Best Thesis Award for UG, PG, and Female categories, as submitted by the Jury.
- Approved the results of the National Temple Town Competition and the Poster Competition, “City through Her Eyes,” showcasing innovative contributions.

ITPI WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED THE FRATERNITY OF ITPI DURING THE QUARTER

Approved Members: (October-December 2024)

AITP	130
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Total Approved Members upto 31 December, 2024

Total Members	9364
AITP	8721
FITP	643

Committee Meetings (October-December 2024)

Sr. No.	Committee Name	October	November	December
1	Council Meeting	25 th October 2024		06 th December 2024
2	Evaluation Committee	11 th October 2024	07 th November 2024	14 th December 2024
			29 th November 2024	
3	Meeting Regarding NEP 2020	05 th October 2024		
		06 th October 2024		
		27 th October 2024		
4	Town Planning Examination board			17 th December 2024
5	Young Planners Forum		18 th November 2024	
			19 th November 2024	
6	Equivalency Committee		05 th November 2024	
7	Women Planners Forum	25 th October 2024		
8	Practicing Planners Forum	15 th October 2024	11 th May 2024	
		25 th October 2024		

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