

# NOS PLAN

ANNUAL

MAGAZINE

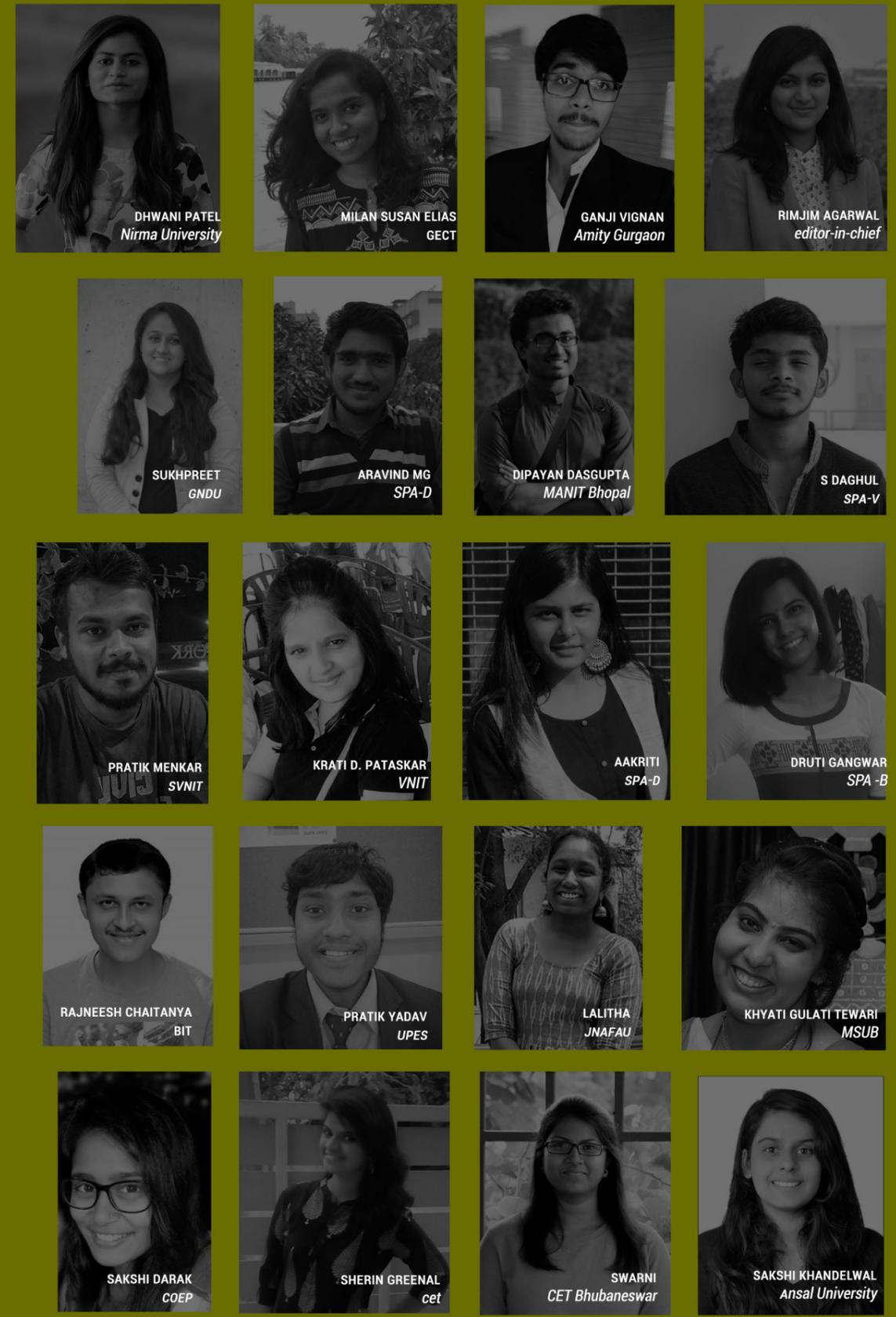
2017



## RESILIENT CITIES

MOVING TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

# EDITORIAL TEAM



## MAGAZINE TEAM



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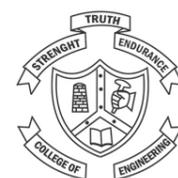
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# EPISTLE



**R. Srinivas**  
Town and Country Planning Organization  
Head, Metropolitan and Union Territories Division  
Town and Country Planning Organization  
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

I am extremely glad to learn that NOSPLAN is organizing the Annual Convention during 26th -29th December,2017 at Amity University, Gurugram. The theme for the convention: Resilient Cities is very much relevant in present context especially in view of cities and towns being vulnerable to climate change and disaster .

I trust that the Convention shall focus on all the emerging issues towards ensuring resilient cities and provide an ideal platform for all the participating students to not only get sensitized with the challenges of managing the urban infrastructure in view of adverse impacts due to climate change and also gear up themselves towards perceiving the urban planning to mainstream both climate change and disaster management in plan making exercises. Further, the convention also provides an opportunity to students in terms of taking up thesis topics and research on the identified theme and perhaps become more aware with regard to action to be taken for restricting or minimizing the adverse impact due to climate change.

I wish the convention every success.

**Nadim Akhtar**  
Chairman, HRC ITPI.

It is a pleasure to note that the XIX NOSplan convention is hosted by Amity university, Gurugram on the main theme "Resilient cities" which will provide a platform to discuss and deliberate on the various issues of planning. This initiative would strengthen the city planning process and improve the infrastructure greatly, in terms of disaster management and resilience. Institute of Town Planners, India is heartened to note that over 1000 delegates from various schools of planning, IITs, NITs and various other institutes/ colleges are participating in this event and nurturing the process of planning in our country. I wish the gathering a huge success in all its endeavours. May all the students gain tremendous knowledge and soulful memories from this event.

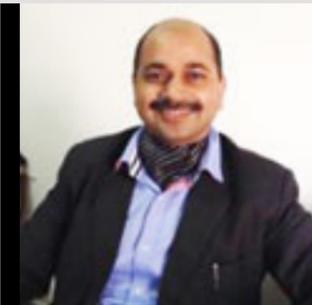
R.S. Bath  
District Town Planner, Gurugram.

"Good, Better, best-----Never Do Rest  
Till good becomes better and better becomes best  
'Best' is not achieved----- Keeping working !"

I feel immense pleasure to find place herein to congratulate students of Amity University Gurugram for organising the most important event of Schools of Planning.

As District Town Planner Gurugram, I am reminded by my experiences as Students of Planning at my time. This is an event where exchange of analytical views, spatial exposures, team work, planning perspectives take place. All students must take advantage of such events to explore the possibility of broadening their vision.

Further, I would like to place on record that as Town Planner that too working in Complex City like Gurugram, planner must in addition to his clear fundamentals of planning, shall be aware about project implementation strategies, prevailing Act/Rules, public dealing, team work in relation to various Departments. Therefore, we can be a 'Good Planner'. For all students, I wish them success and would like to say:-



**Prof. (Dr.) Devendra Pratap Singh,**  
Director  
ASAP

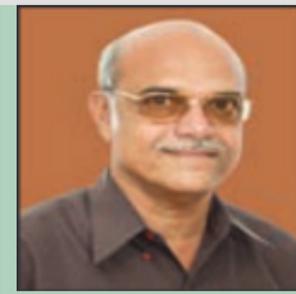
It gives me immense pride that students of Amity school of architecture and planning have taken the lead of XIX NOSplan annual convention 2018 at Amity University, Gurugram. I would like to extend a warm welcome on behalf of the family of Amity university, Gurugram. I thoroughly appreciate and commend the efforts of all the organizing, participating students of this event. This NOSplan convention will be a great platform for chalking the envisages of the participating youths as well as the nation's development.

The theme, "RESILIENT CITY", is one of the most important aspect that needs to be worked upon, being an under-discussed topic amongst the whole idea of Smart cities. It is going beyond just conceiving our cities and towns as mere tall and attractive buildings with lots of services. Like the Darwinian theory of "The survival of the fittest", our cities should adopt structures and methods that could withstand any powerful disaster or natural calamity.

I strongly believe that the young students participating in this event will make a huge step of evolution in planning in India. The aspiring young planners will definitely march towards the 'People - friendly, Resilient and Crime - free 'Indian cities and towns.

I wish this event to be a culmination of diverse thoughts and ideas having social concerns which result in meaningful living of our citizens. May this NOSplan convention be momentous and enriching for all the teaming and budding planners.

I wish this event a grand success in its endeavours.



**Prof. Dr. D.S. Meshram**  
President Emeritus, ITPI

I am delighted to Know that XIX Annual NOSPlan Convention is Scheduled to be held on 26 - 28 December, 2017; on the Theme "Resilient City" which is an Umbrella team for the planning and design strategies to help our cities develop the necessary capacity to meet the challenges of the future. The theme chosen is very timely because the population living in Urban areas according to 1901 Census was only 11.4% which increased to 31.6% is per 2011 census. And according to the survey by U.N. State of the World Population Report 2007, by 2030, 40.76% of the population of the country is expected to live in Urban areas, which is a great challenge in terms of provision of housing, infrastructure and off course serviced land for settlements. It is in the scenario the theme of convention assumes great importance because the resilient cities will facilitate to help absorb future shocks and stresses to its social, economic and technical systems and infrastructures so as to be able to maintain essentially the same functions, structures, system and identity. I look forward receiving the recommendations of the convention and wish all the success to the NOSPlan Convention and congratulate the organizers.

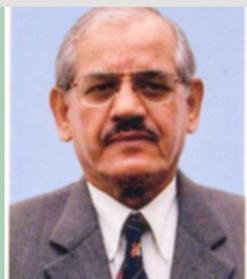


**Dr. Aseem Chauhan**  
Chancellor  
Amity University Haryana

At the very outset I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the delegates and students of planning from various top notch institutions across the country, to Amity University Haryana (AUH) for participating in the NOSPlan – 2017 Convention.

Resilient cities, that have the ability to absorb, recover and prepare for future economic, environmental and social shocks, invariably promotes sustainable development, well-being and inclusive growth. But, in today's context, the relevance of resilient cities is more complex and challenging.

In post-independence era particularly in the last few decades, rapid urbanization brought about by mass migration has adversely impacted the ecological balance of our cities. This irreversible phenomenon poses a serious challenge to our urban planners in both designing cities of the future and in making our existing cities sustainable and resilient. I am happy to mention that all our Amity Campuses are designed for sustainability and green environment. Amity University Haryana in particular has the distinction of being conferred the Platinum category LEED Certification by the US Green Building Council for its 110 Acres Lush Green Campus. I am happy to add that the theme of NOSPlan – 2017 is apt and thought provoking and I am sanguine that the young minds gathered in the Amity University Haryana Campus will deliberate over this intriguing topic to find out of the box and practical solutions to carve out a bright future for our urban habitat. I wish all participants a comfortable and professionally highly enriching stay at the AUH Campus.



**Maj Gen Bhim Singh Suhag (Retd.)**  
Dy Vice Chancellor, Amity University Gurgaon

"Planning is bringing the future into the Present so that you can do something about it now."

Alan Lakein

Urban planners are responsible for developing cities and towns with a focus on sustainability. A sustainable city creates an enduring way of life across the four domains of ecology, economics, politics and culture. Urbanization is a boon as well as a bane. Regardless of the initiatives taken to improve the quality of life in Rural India, the migration of population to Urban India continues unabated. By some estimates, 90 million people migrated from rural to urban areas during the last decade. This humongous trans-migration has resulted in a plethora of problems, to name a few, unprecedented rise in vehicular traffic, congested and unhygienic living conditions, law and order and governance issues.

The quality of life in our cities has taken a severe beating. Traffic congestions, health issues due to pollution and diseases due to unhygienic conditions is on the rise. Since the migration of population cannot be reversed, our urban planner have a challenge on their hands. The challenges are related to governance, political interference, availability of water due to improper resource management.

The way forward is developing an inclusive environment, urban planning capacity building, low- income housing and developing smart cities, to name a few.

Young minds must apply themselves to towards developing cost effective and environment friendly technologies. There is also a requirement of research and development with the pen-ultimate aim of intensifying efforts towards transfer of innovative technologies from the lab to the field.

I wish all students and delegates attending NOSPlan – 2017 all the best, I am sanguine that the clean and green environment of Amity University Gurgaon will inspire them to

evolve practical and futuristic solutions in the domain of urban planning.



**Prof PB Sharma**  
President AIU &  
Vice Chancellor, AUH

It is a matter of great privilege and honour for Amity University Haryana to host the NOSPlan at our University. I am also happy to note that the theme for this year NOSPlan has been chosen as "Planning for a Resilient City."

Urban Planning in India in the recent times has come under tremendous pressure of population explosion, demand for water, electricity and civic services such as transportation, waste disposal and sewage treatment, waste water treatment and above all for the sustenance of a healthy environment including air and water quality. The planning for resilience absorbs these pressures and maintains a green and happy habitat in harmony with nature and with ever enhanced satisfaction of people.

It gives me immense pleasure to mention that the lush green AUH campus has recently been awarded the Platinum Category LEEDS Certification by US Green Building Council for our green building design and energy efficient and environmental friendly maintenance and operation of the campus services. The visiting dignitaries and student participants from various school of Planning and Architecture for the NOSPlan event shall witness a resilient campus in AUH.

I am sure the deliberations at this National Conference shall further enrich our understanding and planning for resilience and sustainability.

I wish the participants a happy stay and inspiring deliberations and the NOSPlan a grand success.



**Prof. (Dr.) Padmakali Banerjee**  
Pro Vice Chancellor  
Dean – Academics  
Director – Amity business School  
Amity University Gurgaon

Achieving academic excellence expresses the core philosophy at Amity University Haryana and this is the driving force behind rigorous academic programmes and high quality teaching which instill a spirit of learning amongst students. We believe in learning that takes students beyond the classroom and into the real world where they must use instinct, negotiating skills, collaboration and experiential learning with innovation.

Amity School of Architecture and Planning in collaboration with NOSPlan brings all the students and professionals of Planning together to enhance interaction between them and discuss the general issues related to the field. Exchange intellect and information between the students, professionals and academics within this field and hence increase the knowledge of each individual. This is a platform for students of planning to share their thoughts and ideas about the planning profession and its practices among themselves, related bodies and planning professionals.

The XIX Annual NOSPlan Convention will not only provide an enriching environment to the young minds to share their expertise in different areas of Planning but will also be professionally constructive to them. It will also help to provide a platform towards strengthening our relationships in knowledge sharing while at the same time provide the necessary momentum in joint research collaborations within the research society.

I welcome all the participants from across the country to Amity University Gurgaon and wish this convention to be the foundation for the growth of new ideas towards a better tomorrow.

As per the theme of Convention "Resilient City", the dynamic and vibrant campus of Amity University Haryana provides the unique experience of quality learning in a multi-dimensional and participatory manner in the fast changing trends in planning.

Amity School of Architecture & Planning strives to be one of the strongest pillars at the university in pursuit of excellence and capacity building.

Best wishes to the participants of the XIX Annual NOSPlan Convention 2017.



**Maj Gen Gurpal Singh Bal, SM, VSM (Retd.)**  
Dean of Students Welfare  
Amity University Gurgaon

Sixty nine percent of India's population lives in rural areas. While the Millennium development goals are to reduce the percentage of the Urban Population living in slums worldwide, the migration to cities grows unabated. Crystal gazing into the future reveals that, there are multitude of challenges that our cities will face related to inequality, education, health, crime, governance, exclusion and poor infrastructure development. Population explosion in the Urban areas has led to an unprecedented increase in vehicular traffic congested and unhygienic living conditions which are further putting immense pressure on clean and green spaces.

The solution towards future development of Urban spaces lies in the exploitation of science and technology, blended with creative and out of the box solutions.

The future belongs to the present generation. It is therefore incumbent on our young intelligentsia to identify the current and future challenges of Urban existence, to evolve solutions aimed at developing inclusive cities with a sustainable environment. Urban governance and financial support would help to accelerate the way forward to a clean and green Urban environment.

My best wishes to all student and delegates participating in NOSPlan-2017, who will be deliberating over the Urban planning challenges of tomorrow, to come up with innovative and practical solutions to sustain Urban growth of our country in future.

*"Urbanization is not a crisis but an opportunity, seeing it as a crisis is wrong. And not just villages, we want everyone to get opportunities wherever they are staying."*  
Narendra Modi



**Nalin Ranjan**  
Planning Coordinator

Hosting the NOSPlan was a bold initiative of Amity University and I would like to congratulate my students for this prominent decision. This convention would be one of the most unforgettable experiences for me and my students. I always take pride in my student's wisdom and passion. It would always be a remarkable achievement of my vocation.

I would like to thank the council members for their substantial support and special thanks to the advisory board members for empirical suggestions.

I wish a very enjoyable meet to all the participating delegates. Let this celebration be more happening with unconditional support and huge presence.



**Yamini Suresh Babu**  
General Secretary

I can without doubt say that the past year has been the most significant learning experience of my life, while I tried to live up to the expectations of the General Secretary of NOSPlan. I was a newbie elected this year and like any other student thought that NOSPlan was all about the Annual Convention. But through the course of my tenure I have come across the number of limitless opportunities and activities that cater to the success of NOSPlan as an organization by benefitting its members. Realizing the responsibilities bestowed on us, the other EC members and I have constantly taken the effort and time to work towards the betterment of the organization.

Being a part of the council and having close interactions, I have personally realized that NOSPlan can only succeed when all the members, those in the authority, those who elected the authority, all come together as one fraternity and work towards the common goal of establishment of NOSPlan and Planners in the external market. It is also important to understand that being a democracy, everything takes time to structure. I understand that it has not been a journey of roses this year, but incorporation of all the constructive criticism is not always the best way of approaching situations. For this, one has to trust the system and its decisions. Our council has tried to tackle issues the organization has been facing at the grassroots level. This will give NOSPlan a strong organizational and functional structure and will cease to be one of the reasons holding it back.

I take this opportunity to thank Sh. R. Srinivas Sir from Town and Country Planning Organization, Delhi for being our catalyst of motivation and inspiration, and pushed us to pursue our notions for the progress of the Organization. I would also like to thank my fellow colleagues Pulkit, Rimjhim, Subodh and Ravi for always sticking together as a team and facing all the hitches that came our way. I thank the team at Amity University, Gurgaon for the continuous efforts they have put in for the success of Convention XIX. I thank our Advisory Board members Shubham Khaitan, Yogesh Sharma and Vibhor Bakshi for their continuous support and patience.

I thank all the unit council members, wholeheartedly, who gave me the incredible opportunity to serve NOSPlan as an Executive Council member. I closely cherish every moment of my tenure with the joy of having the opportunity to contribute to the field of Planning and serve its fraternity. I hope to see NOSPlan flourish with flying colors and receive the stature it deserves.



**Pulkit Singal**  
President, NOSPlan

"Writing messages is boring, and it is even more boring to read them"

It has been a wonderful journey since starting my studies for bachelor's in planning. Like most of us, the dilemma of joining an unknown course of study haunted me. Choosing Urban Planning happened by luck, but pursuing it with utmost attention became my passion. This transformation happened as the Annual NOSPlan Convention materialized in our college. NOSPlan is the largest national organization for students of planning in India. Our college was hosting its annual convention that year, and I was involved as a volunteer. Those days made me realize what actual planning meant.

In India, profession of planning is scarcely known. People tend to ask questions such as, "Are you still planning?" "What sort of planning do you do? Family Planning?". These sort of questions were at helm of every introduction for us. I became a unit council member from my college in NOSPlan, thinking that it would provide me a gateway to work for our field and make it recognizable. Though during my tenure I couldn't do much, but now in my penultimate year I became the National President. And I feel privileged to work for students from twenty-five national institutes.

I believe that presidency is meant to provide vision and goals in any organization. And mine revolve around the difficulties I have faced throughout my student life. Just like the saying goes, "you need to put yourself into other's shoes before you know them", my council tried to resolve many conflicts we as planning students have faced by investing in our team, in us. Our team has 10,000 odd members throughout a country of 1.25 billion. Planning profession will take a long time to materialize on ground, and before it happens, we can only stay united for ourselves. NOSPlan aims to do exactly this, and we will continue towards the same.

I was a ship, a channel to this common aim. Right from building it to the final sail, my crew was the one which made a difference. Anmol Anand was the builder, he built the ship. Avinash Koli was the painter, he wrote the aspirations on the ship. Khaitan, Yogesh, Vibhore were the stewards on the ship, they cared for all our team mates from 25 colleges. R Srinivas sir was the captain. Yamini and Rimjhim were witty enough to control the ship from sinking. Subodh strategized enough to map good directions, and Ravi made ship look better. Finally, my SPA Bhopal was the dockyard!

Cheers,  
Pandit Joe. 17/3.



**Rimjhim Agrawal**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Ever since I was younger, I have yearned to make a difference, much like all teenagers who have rebelled at some point. How, if at all, I was going to go about it, I had not much idea, and still don't claim to it. However, perchance by some fortunate miracle I ended up in the field of planning, and though uncertainly at first, I stretched my legs and found the path to my dream coincided with this curious course.

Becoming an integral part of an organization of such scale as NOSPlan was unanticipated, and had me elated at being chosen to represent budding planners across 25 colleges and promulgate their opinions. Heading the NOSPlan Editorial Board, I have come in contact with many sharp minds and out-of-the-box thinkers who have inspired me and reaffirmed my faith for a better future.

I am elated at the commencement of the XIX Annual NOSPlan Convention "Dridha" themed 'moving towards resilient cities', and extend a hearty welcome to all who have turned the pages of our magazine.

Our pursuit to make our publications better are ceaseless, with experiments and trials introduced this year. The newsletters have enjoyed astounding recognition, and it has been a glorious year for NOSPlan publications. The NOSPlan Editorial Board is now larger than ever, and with much pride and joy I wish to thank and congratulate all the editors for their immense hard work and overwhelming support, which has made this magazine possible.

I would like to extend profound gratitude to Aravind, my graphic designer, for the refreshing designs he has endowed on our publications, and for always sticking by me. I am indebted to my affable co-council members, Pulkit, Yamini, Subodh and Ravi for their honest opinions and encouragement; our advisors Shubham sir, Vibhore sir, and Yogesh sir for their faith and patience; and our mentor, Sh. R. Srinivas Sir for his benevolence. I acknowledge the Amity team for their efforts, especially Mayank for coordinating everything so seamlessly.

Kudos to Monokrishna Das and Vamsi Krishna for stepping in at the last moment and making this magazine so magnificent!

And lastly, I want to thank all those who have picked up this issue – Whether you're reading this magazine in a library, or on a laptop, or a phone screen, it is a product of the incessant efforts of the NOSPlan Editorial team to produce an attractive and meaningful package of ideas, words and images prepared for a discerning audience. We, as editors, will always strive to engage you, and continue to hope that you, our readers, find our work alluring. We hope to keep you glued. Surprises await, so read on!



**Ravi Pandey**  
*National Web Manager*

Planning is a discipline which deals with the lives of cities and their people. Since it deals with all the inhabitants of an area, it is a topic of concern for development. Cities have seen economic development, easy finance through foreign direct investment, but they have also seen slums, pollution and environmental degradation. Thus, Planning forms an important component of any legislation which must help in creating a balance between both the features of a city. Thus, as Planners it's our duty to protect the environment and work for the well-being of all.

NOSPlan is an organization that strives to construct a community of planners committed to the future. The NOSPlan Convention is the most awaited event of the year for all the planners across our country. It is a platform which brings together students as well as individuals who are involved in the field of planning. This not only nurtures their talent but also broadens their analytical and perceptual abilities.

The previous conventions were also noteworthy experiences. It is not only a competitive environment which has been developing through all the conventions, but moreover it is also about the social bond that has developed amongst all the colleges.

I hope that this year's convention is also filled with the competitive as well as the warm vibes!

Good Luck to all!



**Subodh Thackray**  
*National Treasurer*

It is no exaggeration to say that the XIX annual NOSPlan Convention is set to be the paragon of all the NOSPlan conventions. I hope you all enjoy this convention that you've been more than patient waiting for! I feel regarded to be a part of an association which is profoundly imbued with physical planning since its inception. And I've come to realize that NOSPlan is the only student's organization for the planners who wish to see the cities as a superior place to live. Throughout the years, NOSPlan has seen a noteworthy number of accomplishments. Additionally, I feel glad to educate all of you that the bookkeeping of the national account has been considered consequential and is kept transparent as always. It feels stunning to contribute towards the organization and as I leave this post, I am even more optimistic about NOSPlan than I was when we started. Congrats to every one of you who have endeavored endless efforts to drive the organization to this level. I would also want to ask for the new individuals of the organization to hold the passion and energy and contribute as much as they can.

Our theme for the convention "Resilient Cities" addresses planning's fundamental challenges: how to integrate climate change and disaster preparedness into classical planning, responding to stimuli through being proactive, and setting trends in response to specific patterns, all while maintaining a degree of grace that guides the impacts set forth when a longitudinal perspective is primary. I'm more than confident that the magazine will surely instigate and thrive the indulgence of the readers.

At last, I thank the Advisory Board and kindred Executive Council members for their diligent work all year. Your commitment to the progress of our community has been huge and can be seen in activities that you embraced. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. It has been a great experience working with all of you!

Regards



**Mayank Singh**  
*Convention Officer*

Dear Friends, I have been a part of NOSPlan since 2014. I still remember, it was my first year when my faculty pushed me to attend the NOSPlan Convention. From that moment NOSPlan became something which I want to experience closely, and what could be better than hosting the NOSPlan Convention itself.

We tried to host the XVIII Convention, that's why we hosted the Bidding NCM in Amity Gurgaon but due to some problem, we pulled our name from bidding. But for XIX Convention I was well prepared (or you can say, I did my homework) and hence here you are reading my message as a Convention Officer for a successful XIX NOSPlan Convention hosted by us.

There were many ups and downs. It was my final year and it was very difficult for me to coordinate and give time to both Convention and studies. Many times I thought of calling off this convention but then I thought about the people who are associated with NOSPlan, what would they feel? What would happen if this convention is canceled? Then I thought about the feeling and happiness that people will get after this convention is hosted successfully.

I truly believe that the more you come in limelight, the more it is dangerous for you. Just a simple mistake by you and it would be the hot topic for the discussion on the very next day. Things do spread no matter how you try to keep it low.

But in the end, work matters. Work is the only thing which can take you the top and the bottom. My mother sent me a quote saying "It takes 13 hours to build a Toyota but 6 months to build a Rolls Royce" and she mentioned that 'now it's up to you as to what you want to make out of this convention'.

Without my team and friends, it would have been impossible to host this convention; the two people who are equally important to me and have contributed their blood and sweat towards this convention, my two hands Tinkesh Pal & Wasim Akram.

I am glad and thankful that I got this opportunity to host this prestigious event and to lead a wonderful team.

In the end, I hope that nothing goes wrong and everyone enjoys this convention to the fullest and take back good and happy memories.

Signing off for now, See you all in the next Convention.



**Shubham Khaitan**  
*Advisory, NOSPlan*

Dear Friends, I am really honoured to be a part of the NOSPlan as an Advisory Board Member and it's always a prodigious feeling to guide your juniors and colleagues. This is my 8th year being associated with NOSPlan. It reminds me of the days when the first event that was hosted by CEPT, Ahmedabad in 2010. Truly speaking I noticed tremendous changes across the period. The increase in the level and the enthusiasm among the students has been marvellous.

Planning deals with the handling of resources optimally, considering the needs of the people. It's also about understanding the area and coming up with suitable, area-specific solutions. Being updated about the latest developments, practices and technologies is a requisite to be a successful planner. NOSPlan is a platform formed to realize this purpose and help the planning community from all over India to come together and share ideas, to jointly contribute to the future of our country. I am glad to know that from 2010, the number of member colleges grew from 7 to 27. I welcome them all to join this platform and heartiest wishes to these institutes who are working hard and making the convention more competitive than ever before.

Over-time we have learnt that it's better to be prepared than to expose our self to danger. Planning can contribute greatly to make our cities immune to external disruptions, adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or stress to its Natural as well as Built environment. Keeping this fact in mind, the theme "Resilience cities" has been chosen as the theme for the 19th Annual NOSPlan Convention to invite different planning institutes all over India to come together and share knowledge and ideas to address the issue.

The working definition describes a Resilient City as one that has developed capacities to help absorb future shocks and stresses to its social, economic and technical systems and infrastructures so as to still be able to maintain essentially the same functions, structures, systems, and identity. According to Rockefeller Foundation (100RC), resilient cities demonstrate seven qualities that allow them to withstand, respond to, and adapt more readily to shocks and stresses. These seven qualities are Reflective, Resourceful, Robust, Redundant, Flexible, Inclusive and Integrated. Extensive Research is going on in European countries to help cities around world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are growing part of the 21st century. I am looking forward to this year's event to gauge knowledge and understanding in Indian context.

Fortunately this year we are expecting the convention to be more challenging and grandeur, all thanks to the efforts done by the host college especially Mayank Singh & his team. Nevertheless my best wishes to the executive council team especially Pulkit, Yamini, Rimjhim, Subodh and all the team members from the different institutes for their wonderful efforts. I understand that hosting an event at such huge level requires lots of hard work, coordination, time and money which may cause some time serious issues and conflicts within the teams. Despite this I would like to congratulate each one in the Executive Council and Unit Council of all institutes for their patience and belief in each other. Kudos!!



**Riya Gupta**  
*President Emeritus*

Dear readers, Kudos to you all on the successful completion of 48 years of NOSPlan, an organization still fulfilling what it was fashioned for, that you, the reader, must seek the answer to – along with the ideals being followed, the nines of the predecessors being tenned by the successors, and a steady pace in the upsurge of the field of thought of planning. This marks an occasion to felicitate all those who have played a role in upholding our motto of: (Pragatyev Pratishtha; Dignity in Development), and exhibiting our triumphs, gauged right from the benchmarks as we please. However, these aren't any personal successes, but are the outcomes of years of brainstorming, including the various (yet) undocumented years before 1999.

Well, as prophesized, the bar has been raised – congratulations to Pulkit, Yamini, Subodh, Rimjhim, and Ravi; and a sincere gratitude to Shubham (Khaitan), Vibhore, and Yogesh Sirs. Also, the much-awaited convention – much appreciation to Amity Gurgaon – Mayank and team. I am quite sure it is going to be a grand affair – for planning, for the organisation, and for the future conventions. Happy Reading!



**Vibhore Bakshi**  
*Advisory, NOSPlan*

NOSPlan is such a platform of interaction where the knowledge of budding planners is not restricted up to one's own college, but it is shared among the whole planning community across country. It is a golden opportunity for the young professionals to participate and share their views on current scenarios. The best part is that the exchange of ideas is not restricted up to students, we have eminent practicing planners sharing their experiences and ideas from where they started and where they are now, helping an individual in making his or her choices as far as the planning field is concerned.

I have been a part of this community for some years now and I feel proud to say that we as a team of participating colleges have doubled over the past decade. The two most important pillars for NOSPlan's success are "Integration" and "Coordination" between all Member Colleges, Executive Council and Advisory board. We wish to expand beyond our nation and should reframe it as "International Organisation of Planners".

I heartily congratulate all members of NOSPlan, the Executive Council and the Convention organising team for their constant efforts, and wish you great success for the upcoming Convention as well as for the future of NOSPlan.

Best wishes



**Yogesh Sharma**  
*Advisory, NOSPlan*

Education plays an important role in enabling a person to face a real-life situations with adequate knowledge. Our educational institutions are temples of learning. In our planning institutions we make our best effort to give quality education to students and NOSPlan is one such platform, which enables the student to interact with each other at a common platform on national level.

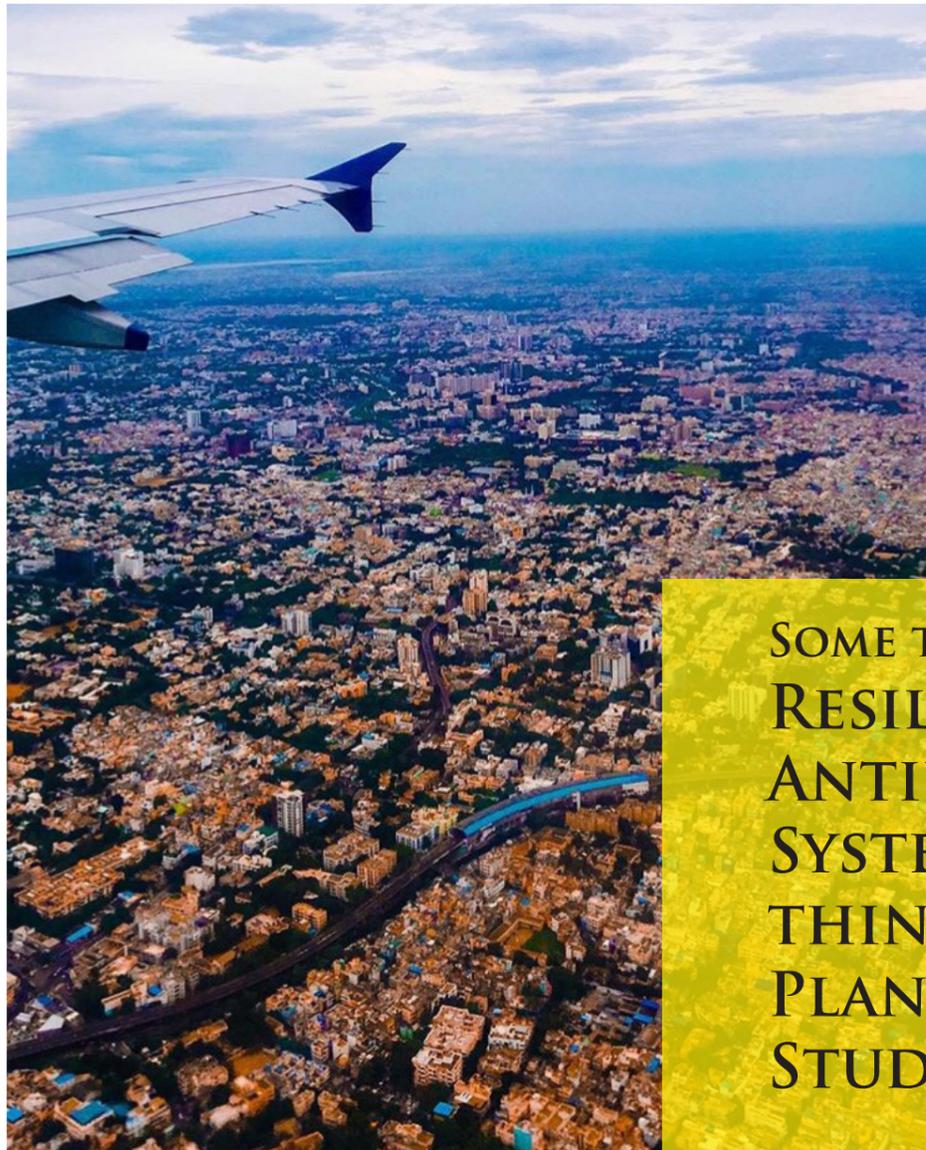
We believe that planners have to play an important role in building the nation, this is achieved through holistic approach and team effort. We at NOSPLAN bring student at a common platform and give them opportunity to be market ready through various competitions and giving exposure at student level.

It's been a long association with NOSPlan from hosting a convention in Bhopal to becoming a member of Advisory Board, and it's a pleasure to guide the younger generation. We have taken an extra mile decision in terms of getting empanelled and channelizing the general administration. We are also working on expanding the organisation so that we get extra support from all the regions and as an organisation to have presence all over the nation effectively.

We have to establish NOSPlan in our hearts and in our minds as something we are really proud of.

# RESILIENT

# CITIES



Rhythm Grover, SPA Delhi

# SOME THOUGHTS ON RESILIENCE, ANTIFRAGILITY, SYSTEMS THINKING AND PLANNING STUDIOS

**POONAM PRAKASH,  
PH.D**

*Professor in Planning, Department of Physical Planning School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi*

Every decade seems to have its own favorite term in the development sector. If it was sustainability in the last decade, it is resilience in this decade. Google trends provide an interesting analytics for all the searches made on it. For the term 'urban resilience' it shows an increasing interest in the term from the year 2008 onwards whereas it shows a declining trend of searches in the term 'sustainable urban development' in the last two decades. As was the case with sustainability, resilience too is a difficult concept to define and measure. US programme of 100 resilient cities suggests urban resilience as "the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems

within a city to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience." This concept of urban resilience is underpinned by theory of "complex adaptive systems" and cities are seen as complex adaptive systems. In next few paragraphs, I argue that to operationalise an idea as complex as resilience requires a different way of thinking that is different from conventional thinking. There is excellent literature available on thinking in systems but in this article I draw primarily from Stroh (2015) who applies the concept of systems thinking to issues of poverty, crime etc. that concern us directly. Secondly, drawing from Taleb (2012), I make a distinction between coping and growing. He introduces the term antifragile as an antonym of fragile rather than resilient.

Antifragility is a concept that I have not come across in the literature on urban resilience even if many a times growth from shock is implied in the idea of resilience. Finally I conclude that design of studio exercises in planning should consider a conscious shift from conventional mode of thinking to systems thinking for us to grapple with the subject as complex as city or region.

Cities are considered as complex systems. Complex systems are said to be self organising, adaptive, nonlinear and unpredictable. These characteristics thus make it difficult to predict their behaviours. By definition of system, the collection of individual behaviours and decisions do not predict the macro behaviour of the system. For example, some of the agent-based models like Schellings model, demonstrate that even though individuals have a much higher acceptance levels of living together with people of different race, religion, caste but the collective outcome of their behaviours leads to much higher degree of segregation at city level. Being nonlinear in nature, a small change in any of components of complex system can trigger a big effect and a chain reaction that are difficult to predict. Economic crisis of 2008 is a good example of such a nonlinear behaviour of a complex system. Understanding of fragility or strength of system towards shock or crisis has become an important area of study. Taleb (2012) introduces the idea of antifragility which is more than resilience. Antifragility is a part of continuum constituting things or systems that can be fragile, robust or resilient and antifragile. As we understand fragility is something that breaks from shock then its opposite has to be something that not only has the capacity to bounce back [resilience] but actually becomes stronger from uncertainty, randomness or crisis within certain thresholds, that is termed as antifragile. This is counterintuitive but according to him antifragility is the property of all complex systems that survive like human bodies, political systems, cities and so on. Antifragile systems thrive on errors and introduction of stressors, for it to become strong. Taleb (2012) argues it is much easier to understand the fragility or antifragility of system than to predict occurrence of event that may harm it simply because randomness of an event, by definition, is unpredictable. Antifragile systems according to him thrive on errors, have more upside than downside and are decentralised. Built on mistakes means that it requires some of the subunits to fail for the larger system to emerge stronger. For example many startups and technologies fail for a stronger technology to emerge. Secondly, antifragile systems will have institutions/individuals/groups that need to face the downside of the decisions what Taleb

terms as 'skin in the game'. This implies many of the bureaucratic systems, banking systems which disproportionately allow the positive benefits to accrue to them while the downside of the volatility and crisis is borne by others are fragile systems. For example in the economic crisis of 2008, bailouts by the government benefitted bankers disproportionately than the homeowners. Similarly current tendencies of not caring for the poor or resettling them at the edge of the cities alter interdependencies which have negative consequences and can be seen as part of fragile systems. Finally, antifragile systems are decentralised and local so that the shocks of failure of centralised system are not concentrated but are distributed. Our current approaches to problems rely on prediction, causal relations and risk assessment particularly in the context of resilient cities which need to be inverted. As discussed in the next paragraph, current approaches are based on certain predominant mode of thinking that are an outcome of modernity. In an often quoted phrase, Einstein had remarked that problems that we face today can not be solved by the level of thinking that created them. For the last couple of centuries, rational mode of thinking took precedence over other modes of thinking. Such a mode of thinking is characterised by assuming a) that connection between cause and effects is obvious and explicit, b) problems can be seen 'objectively' which implies a separation between the researcher and object of research, c) optimising the parts will optimise the whole and d) short term solutions will also lead to long term successes (Stroh, 2015). The problems that we face today are unintended consequences of this mode of thinking. Thus the problems that we face today of poverty, housing shortages, pollution are chronic and despite the best intentions, these continue to remain. This brings us to the question of how is systems thinking different from conventional thinking? It implies first that connections between causes and effects are indirect and not obvious. Thus problem of congestion in the cities is not simply caused by more vehicles on the road but due a complex interplay of political decisions, national and state policies, responses of automobile industry, rising incomes, priorities and resources, cultural preferences, technological changes etc. In systems thinking it would be thus difficult to pin down direct cause and effect relationship. Secondly, systems thinking requires an acknowledgement that we are part of the problem and not outside of it. Systems thinking would thus require us as planners to think, how our decisions have contributed to the problem rather than shifting the responsibility of the problem outside. For example planners commonly shift the responsibility of the

decisions on politicians and rarely examine their own role in it. In a case of sealing of commercial activities in residential areas, one is quick to blame the politicians for the same but on closer scrutiny one would have to acknowledge our own role in the situation. Acknowledgement of our own role gives us greater control to influence and change.

Thirdly, in systems thinking quick fixes have unintended consequences. These quick fixes make no difference to the problem or make matters worse in the long run. For example, introduction of CNG to tackle pollution was a quick fix to the problem of pollution. After initial small gains, pollution levels in Delhi have increased over the years. Similarly high rise slum rehabilitation and reservation of FAR in private housing developments to tackle housing shortages for the poor are all quick fixes that will either have no effect or would actually make matter worse in the long run. Finally, conventional thinking focusses on optimising the components of the system to optimise the whole, whereas systems thinking improves the relationship among the parts to optimise the whole. For example in plan preparation of any city, proposals for each sector like housing, transport, industry are given. There is an assumption that optimisation of each component of the plan would optimise the plan as a whole. Similarly, it is assumed that optimising each department would optimise the whole organisation. Whereas contradictory sectoral proposals or lack of coordination amongst functional departments can make the whole system dysfunctional. Thus understanding of interrelation or networks between parts is an important aspect of systems thinking.

Understanding of fragility, resilience or antifragility of complex systems like cities, thus requires a very different way of thinking. Current methods of teaching are more attuned to conventional thinking rather than systems thinking. What should be the nature of planning education that responds to uncertain, self organising and unpredictable nature of complex systems. What does this mean for planning?

This brings me to the final section about introducing systems thinking in planning studios. Though in planning courses, systems view is usually one of the introductory classes but planning studios are designed for predictability, certainty and linearity. Expectations in the studios are of proposals of a certain and predictable future and exercises are organised in a neat, linear structure. This constrains understanding of complexity, messiness and uncertainty of the system. A more serious discussion on this predicament of planning education is essential today. The starting point of course would be a recognition of this predicament both in practice as well as in education. For example, students can be asked to focus on mapping the system rather than identifying individual causes of problems. Planning education already has an advantage unlike engineering courses that it has much greater focus on interconnections among different domains, levels and ideas. A more conscious shift in approach and terminology in design of studios can begin once we agree that the conventional mode of thinking has reached its threshold in the current complex reality.



Zainab Khan, MANIT Bhopal

## RESILIENCE FOR WHOM AND TO WHAT END?

The Indian Ocean earthquake (2004) on the Aceh Province of Indonesia, followed soon afterwards by Hurricane Katrina's (2005) destruction of New Orleans, and the earthquake-induced leak in Fukushima's nuclear power plant (2011) have been some of the most high-impact disasters since 9/11. In fact, in the last decade and a half, the world has seen a spate of disruptive events (including extreme weather phenomena, devastating geological events, armed conflicts, acts of terrorism, toxic or radioactive leaks, financial collapses etc.) With the frequency and severity of such natural, man-made, and, in some cases, 'man-exacerbated' disasters on the rise, the idea of 'resilience' has gained currency among policy-makers.

Even as the idea of 'resilience' becomes increasingly common in policy circles, its definition remains a matter of much contestation (Meerow et al., 2016). The literature on 'resilience' and 'urban resilience' is replete with definitions from a variety of fields and disciplines. The core of the idea had been identified as early as the 1970s.

Resilience is about adapting and reducing vulnerability. It is the capacity of any system to deal with external changes whilst maintaining its structure, functions and identity (Holling, 1973, as cited in Chelleri, 2012).

A short description often used is 'bounce-backability' – a seemingly straightforward idea. Yet it has proven nearly impossible to construct a definition of 'resilience' that is acceptable to all the actors who use it, and applicable to all the fields in which it is used.

A significant amount of work has already been assembled around the critique of the idea of 'resilience' (Ziervogel et al., 2017; Chelleri, 2016; Fainstein, 2015; Lampis, 2015; Coaffee, 2013; MacKinnon and Derickson, 2013; Wagenaar and Wilkinson, 2013; Bene et al., 2012; Ernstson, 2010; and Gleeson, 2008 amongst others). To be fair, there are two parallel streams in this literature (with a few overlaps). While some scholars are attempting to revise and improve 'resilience' (particularly its measurement and implementation), others are pointing out fundamental flaws in the construct. It is not feasible in this short essay to conduct a comprehensive review of this literature or even to touch upon all aspects of it. Some broader concerns are discussed here, to contextualize 'resilience' within wider policy goals, and to explicate the need for caution in operationalizing the term.

Three aspects are discussed in depth - (i) the need for a stance on justice and distributional issues, (ii) the problem of normalizing (even legitimizing) the idea that failure is inevitable, and at the same time conflating the causes of failure, and (iii) a consequent loosening (or undoing) the normative agendas of environmental and social justice. It is important to make it clear again that this essay refers to 'resilience' in the context of the communities in the urban setting.

i) The need for a stand on justice

The fact that the term 'resilience' does not, at its core, represent concern for any form of justice, is highly problematic. The normative goal of 'resilience' is systemic rather than social. Thus 'resilience', when used in urban planning, positions the city within a systems framework, grossly underplaying its social qualities and inequities. To a large extent the focus of 'urban resilience' is on critical infrastructure lines. There is certainly

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nothing wrong with critical infrastructure being able to recover quickly from a crisis. This truly laudable objective, however, does not transfer easily to cities and communities – i.e. complex layered structures, involving interaction between socio-spatial, political, cultural and economic factors. Susan Fainstein (2015) and Ziervogel (2017) have written persuasively on the ethical and logical problem posed by the absence of justice and rights within the discourse on resilience.

Aspects of urban life, such as housing, employment, mobility, nutrition, and access to health, education and welfare, demand a strong normative stance on justice. These aspects pose questions beyond quantifying loss and repairing damage. What does resilience look like? Resilience of what and for whom? What does ‘resilience’ imply with regards to the allocation of resources and benefits? Who is responsible for ‘resilience’? And what is the ethical responsibility of the party that has caused the disruption, or contributed to a magnification of the damage caused. These questions cannot be skipped even in planning for relatively ‘benign’ systems, such as creating excess capacity in infrastructure lines, because taxpayers’ money is involved. In full-scale urban systems, featuring great imbalances of power, resources, privilege, need, vulnerability and precarity, along with varying and valid claims to special protections, to avoid these questions is to be irresponsible.

ii) Normalizing failure and conflating its causes

The ‘resilience’ discourse is predicated on the idea that failure is inevitable. This is mentioned clearly in numerous works. And, on the face of it, it is true enough. And yet, this ‘fact’ cannot be accepted uncritically. Clearly, although both are “failures”, a hurricane is not the same as a collapsed financial bubble. Similarly, if an earthquake, aided by irregular inspections, causes a radioactive leak, do we still call it a ‘natural disaster’? Thus, it is important to differentiate between kinds of disasters when we make the assumption that failure is inevitable. Not doing so amounts to conflating all kinds of disasters, and that is dangerous, because it absolves of culpability, all of the broken and corrupt agencies and institutions that cause disasters repeatedly.

The idea of ‘inevitable failure’ becomes particularly pernicious when applied to, say, financial bubbles. Every cycle of investment, inflation and collapse, leaves communities, and at time entire cities, devastated. We must resist the idea that cycles of investment and destruction are inevitable and have to be embraced. Nor should we have to buy into the idea that the existence of a ‘financial model’ (a combination of insurance, profit sharing, and marketing) makes our lives and livelihoods “safe-to-fail” (Ahern, 2011). Resilience, for cities and communities, should not simply amount to putting a price on disrupted lives and destroyed communities.

iii) Loosening normative agendas of environmental and social justice

On the surface the ideas of ‘resilience and ‘sustainability’ may appear to be aligned. But whereas the idea of ‘sustainability’ puts the focus on appropriate planning and design of cities, resilience, as discussed above, begins with the assumption that systems will fail. Thus the resilience agenda, in effect, distracts policy from the goals of sustainability. Gleeson (2008) astutely raises the question of overconsumption. If resilience is concerned with creating excess capacity and redundancy, should it not also be concerned with the consumption side of the equation? And in this question we can see clearly how the focus on resilience moves in quite the opposite direction as sustainability.

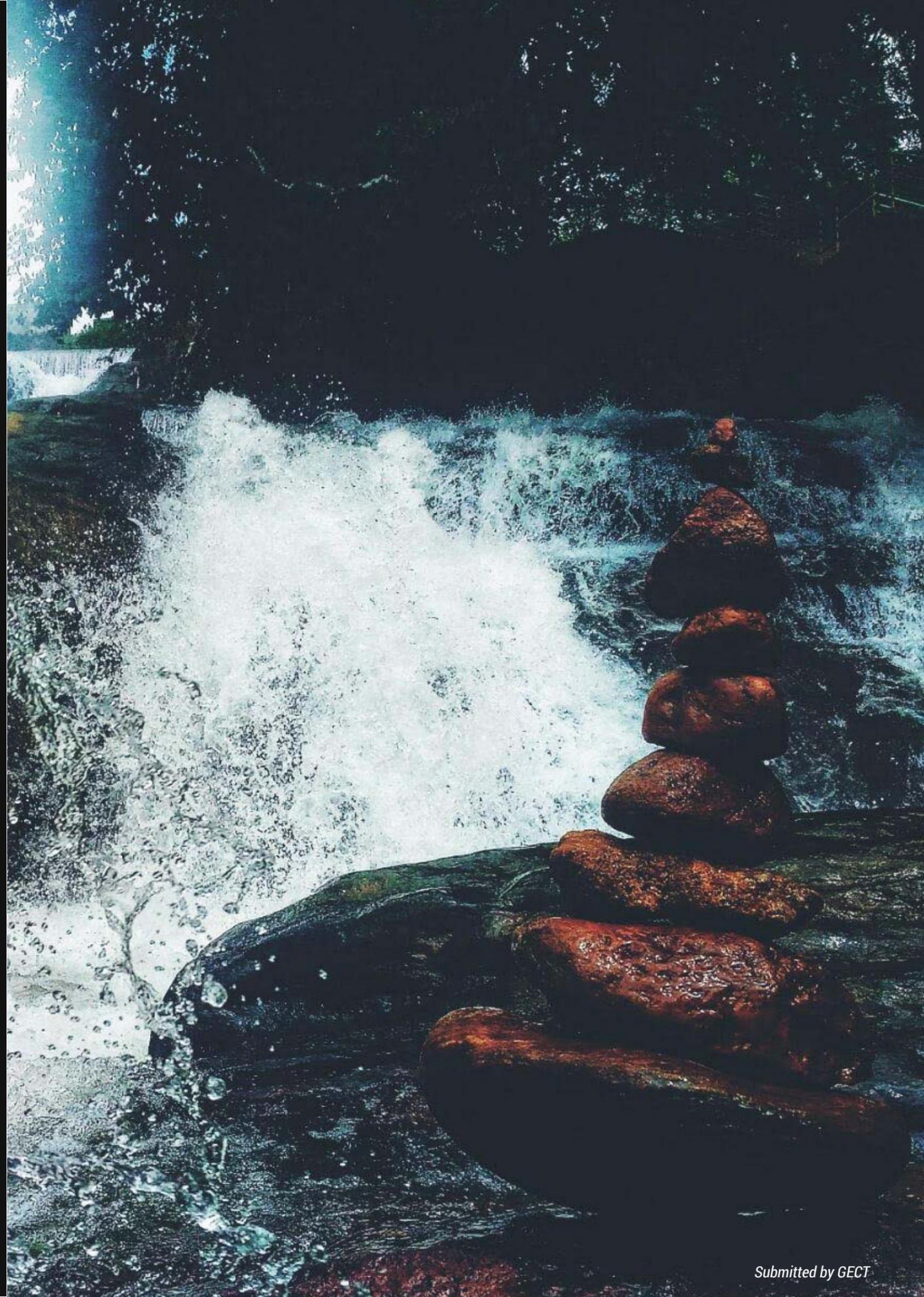
Also, it can be argued that, if fetishized, the notion of ‘resilience’ can quickly become tied to practices of neoliberal governance and the creation of business opportunities with taxpayers’ money. Moreover, while on one hand ‘resilience’ condemns planning to inevitable failure, on the other hand it reifies the ‘status quo’. When interpreted in mainly physical terms, rebuilding the city quickly becomes a process of re-establishing social hierarchies. This goes against the grain of making resilience work for the people.

Most scholars in the field agree that resilience can only occur when people get involved. Campanella (2006), for example, offers insights from the recovery of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. One clear message from this case is the importance of authentic community engagement for regenerating the spirit and urbanism of the city, which lives in the practices and relationships of individuals and groups. So if we are to be serious about resilience, we will need heuristics that are able to appreciate and value communities, networks, histories, memories, and institutions. Resilience has to go beyond infrastructure lines, and become sensitive towards the sense of place. It will have to aim to revive layers of meaning, after a crisis has wiped them out. But these are difficult if not impossible to create. As Campanella puts it though, these are “lessons planners know well” (ibid p.144).

Not least, the way resilience is often portrayed - as a quantifiable, measurable and thus controllable characteristic of a place or community - does not square up with ground realities. Wagenaar and Wilkinson (2013) state the problem succinctly. [T]here is an apparent gap between the advocacy of social-ecological resilience in scientific literature and its take-up in policy discourse on the one hand, and the demonstrated capacity to govern for resilience in practice on the other (ibid, p.1265).

And this gap is not simply on account of absence of capacity or know-how. There are fundamental weaknesses in the construction of the notion of ‘resilience’ that leaves it vulnerable to critical questions.

For this issue, we roped in Anshu Sharma, co-founder and director of SEEDS, a non-profit organization working in disaster risk reduction and recovery in Asia, and Saferworld Communications, which services the communication needs of the development sector. Incidentally, it happens that he is one of the first (‘technically, second’ he insists, since he was Roll. No. 2) B.Planning graduates in the country.





Arbab Ahmad, GNDU

# PLANNING FOR UNBORN CHILDREN

**H**ow far has your planning vision gone yet? Five year strategic plan? Twenty year master plan? Vision 2030 or 2050? Perhaps some references to climate change and sea level rise scenarios for 2100? The year 2100 seems so far out in the future like we will never touch it, no? Well, it is not. Children in your family, or ones you know, going to primary school today will be still alive and walking our cities in 2100. The year 2100 needs to be squarely in the centre of our planning in order to address the needs of the generation currently present here. In order to plan for the future, and for our future generations as we say, we need to plan well beyond 2100. Are we ready for such planning? NOSPLAN is the platform that maturely goes well beyond the curriculum based learning and campus based fun that comes with planning education. Let's use this space for pushing the boundaries of planning education and practice



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Co-Founder, SEEDS India, Saferworld Communications



Siddarth Nagrale, SPA Delhi

to new frontiers, and make planning relevant like never before. To do this effectively we need to first extend our vision to a far future context, and anticipate what trends will transform the world – for better and for worse. With changed mobility paradigms using low level elevated vehicles, how will cities expand and villages become more viable? We are beginning to see glimpses of this future with an explosion in the usage potential of drones. With dependence on roads gone, how will the shape of human settlements be transformed? How will telecommuting change the space requirements in houses, schools and offices? With automation, robotics and artificial intelligence, how will

industrial areas of the future run with skeletal staffing and what will this mean for infrastructure planning? With industrial as well as farming processes automated, what kind of jobs will the population take up as these venues disappear? Anticipation of all of these scenarios will be key to relevant planning. The next step in the planning process will focus on absorbing the changes, both good and bad, that we foresee. Growing economic divide, joblessness at the bottom rungs, civil conflict, modern wars, mega disasters and acute environmental stresses will all have to be accounted for in the planning systems, and provisions put in place to reduce their impact and to be prepared for them. Planning that does not take risks into account is akin to being blindfolded while walking an unknown path. Planners thus need to not only foresee and plan for such risks in the physical and spatial context, but also have a good economic sense of how budgeting needs to be risk sensitive. Lastly, planning needs to be highly agile and create systems that can adapt to changes almost in a constant self-correcting mode. Anything to do with an unknown future cannot be written in stone. What flexibility do our plans have and how open are they to changing course as contexts change, whether rapidly or gradually? The answer to this question lies in the minds of the planners – how flexible and open are they to such change? The changes must not be seen as unknown variables and left at that. We need to constantly learn from each change and improve the entire system to be able to better anticipate and absorb the next change. Anticipation, absorption and adaptation are thus cyclic in process, and in current developmental thinking are also defined as resilience. Resilient planning will ensure that humans and their settlements survive, develop intelligently, and bounce back from shocks and stresses. It will take care of air pollution, bio-diversity and mental health as much as it will take care of housing, water supply and sewerage. It will do this with full consciousness of and influence on tools such as artificial intelligence, environmental science, public health and market economics. Let NOSPLAN start these conversations, that are still to truly appear in our curriculum and in our practice. Let us lead the way into the future, ensuring sustainability in the face of a fast changing world. Let us fulfill our duty to plan well for the future generation. For the unborn children.



Priyank Purwar, VNIT, Nagpur

## WHY PLAN RESILIENTLY?

*“The essence of planning is preventative rather than remedial...”*  
(Catanese and Steiss 1968: 174).

Quoted in 1968, does the definition really apply to this era that speaks of adapting well in the face of adversity through sustainability? The answer is a straight no because if we aren't remedial we shall soon be pressed down by the blunders of overexploitation that we as humans have done. Planning today involves an approach towards sustainable living, which is a way of existence that attempts to reduce an individual's or society's dependence on the earth's natural resources and other man-made resources. It definitely doesn't suggest stopping any of the activities of sustenance but only attempts to reduce the person's carbon footprint by altering methods of transportation, energy consumption, and diet. And why shouldn't we curb? Is there no need to live beyond ages through future generations or is there a rush to survive today and perish tomorrow? Considering the extent of cultural and natural upheavals around, there is a dire need of a resilient environment that is ready to spring back to life when posed against all the adversities of social and climate changes around.

In September 2015, the UN provided a directive to all governments and all people everywhere to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The question is how will we implement the urban SDGs, started in 2016? The answer is through resilient planning, which is not a magic bullet but a series of processes and changes.

Resilient planning occurs when the targeted area has developed capacities to help absorb future shocks and stresses to its social, economic, and technical systems and infrastructures so as to still be able to maintain essentially the same functions, structures, systems, and identity. Fatefully, many of the ideas and movements that provide the ethical, lawful and effective foundation of the SDGs were born often in difficult circumstances and in cities across the world, the irony being that cities are generally the grounds of planning. It is in cities that contests between classes are sharpest, the ability to mobilize and organize the easiest, the concentration of power and decision-making institutions that could be influenced the highest; and very often inequality and exploitation extremely harsh. It is also in cities that intellectuals, artists, musicians, activists and often revolutionaries congregate in large enough numbers to be able to share experiences and thoughts as in inter-war years in Berlin. (Revi, 2017)

The choices of intertwining the virtuous and the corrupt are abundant. What maybe missing in most domains now is a planner's vision towards resilience, removing all incongruences.

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School of Planning and  
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Pratik Menkar, SVNIT Surat

## SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH RESILIENCE

Today life is dependent on a complex set of interactions between society, the environment and economics. The unseen outgrowth seen during the last decade has affected the relationships in both good and bad ways. Economic growth has created huge wealth in some areas of the country, but has put many others on back burner. Hence sustainability and resilience go hand in hand to make to settlements ready for future in a better way. In Indian cities, 30 to 60 per cent of the population lives in informal settlements. The major hindrance for resilience lies in providing the necessary basic infrastructure for sanitation, drainage and water, upgrading and improving roads and supporting housing improvements. In addition to improving health and residents' quality of life, upgrading makes low-income settlements and cities more sustainable to a range of natural hazards, including urban flooding, fires and diseases.

The natural disasters are the result of the ignited urbanization, accompanied with the increased intensity and frequency of deteriorating weather events, is causing hindrances to deal with the sequela of climate change. India is however vulnerable to droughts, floods, cyclones and earthquakes. The United Nations global assessment report on disaster risks (2015) estimates that India's average annual economic loss due to disasters is of the order of \$9.8 billion. It is widely accepted that "natural disasters" are the result of human activities, prompting the question of what society can do to limit and withstand hazard risk, i.e. increase its resilience. Resilience may be defined as an idealized "state of being" or a dynamic process through which this state of being is improved through local environment planning and adaptation. Resilience is comprised of 6 interlinked Rs- Robustness, Redundancy, Resourcefulness, Reformability, Recoverability and Rapidity. The resilience strategy targets achieving compound benefits through preparedness and focus on capacity, supports, information structures, institutions, agents and multihazard measures. Recurring disasters should make us rethink how we can make the people and the settlements more sustainable, gender sensitive and safer. In this pursuit, an integrated approach with focus of safety of individual lives is the need of the hour with 'safety first' as the prime motto for the people while designing. Making of sustainable cities is formulating a policy framework which is formulated keeping in mind the future. It is the prime role of a planner to provide an access to its inhabitants to the infrastructure intrinsic to high quality of life which is resilient. Planning shall be done keeping in mind the resilience not only in terms of disaster mitigations but also to plan city for better environment and society. Spatially planning cities which are well prepared for disasters to which a city is vulnerable not only reduces economic losses but also provides sustainability.

**AVLEEN KAUR SAROYA**  
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# ROLE OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN RESILIENCE

The global trends of urbanization in 21st century can be significantly seen all across the world. About 54 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 66 percent by 2050. Many of the world's mega-cities, characterized as those with populations exceeding 10 million, are already situated in locations already prone to major earthquakes and severe droughts, and along flood-prone coastlines, where the impacts of more extreme climatic events and sea level rise pose a greater risk to disasters. Urbanization happening in relatively smaller cities is also a concern particularly in regions where existing infrastructure and institutions are ill equipped to cope with disasters. One of the key solution to cope up with these challenges is building Urban Resilience.

Resilience is the ability of a city to absorb disturbance, to persevere in the face of emergency and still retain basic function and structure despite daunting challenges. Participation is one means of facilitating inclusive governance, active citizenship and resilient cities. This means of decentralization is increasing local governments responsibilities, and democratization is increasing their accountability to stakeholders. This brings opportunities and challenges for supporting citizen participation and coalitions of the poor. City Planners need to be more responsive to communities and civil society groups and involve those affected by changes in policy or planning (UNESCAP & UN-Habitat, 2015).

Resilience is about managing and using change to drive your community's vision, taking advantage of all the tools available to your community from people's skill sets to new technologies. In order to shift, a community needs to understand the trends and conditions it faces. It also needs to accept that change is inevitable and move along with it. Efforts to build community resilience often focus on growing the capacity to bounce back from disruptions, like those caused by climate change. But climate change is not the only crisis we face, nor is preparing for disruption the only way to build resilience. It should engage and benefit all community members, and consider all the challenges the community faces from rising sea levels to a lack of employment. As everyone in a community is a stakeholder, it is both ethical and effective for everyone to participate in resilience building and have some responsibility for it.

- The responsibility for resilience building and the power to decide how it is done must rest with community members.
- The process of resilience building must equitably address both the particular situation of the community and the broader challenges facing society

Tools for building community resilience:

**NANDITA SUMAN**  
School of Planning and Architecture,  
New Delhi

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# SOCIO-CULTURAL RESILIENCE: MODERNIZATION IS NOT WESTERNIZATION

The concept of neighborhood has started as part of urban planning around a century ago when Ebenezer Howard (1850-1928) first framed the decentralized units named wards in the garden city movement as part of new towns. The ward as described by Howard consists of a population around 5000 people, which was later carried out as a basic unit of settlements by his loyal successors, Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker. Socio-cultural aspects include both social and cultural entities which specify "the unity between society and culture which forms a system or set of rules that govern the human behavior of a group of people (Fatani, Mohamed, & Al-Khateeb, 2017)." Most of the cities of India have been undergoing rapid changes under the globalization. Several urban planners argue that the indigenous ethnic and cultural groups, at neighborhood level in cities of India have undergone several irreversible changes affecting the previously existing socio-cultural dimension of them. Rowels' theory of insideness explains the attachment of the people with a place using three components, autobiographical, physical, and social. The insideness (or belongingness) attained autobiographically (autobiographical insideness) refers to the people having memories with certain place that they feel belonging to the same which creates their self-identity (Burns, Lavoie, & Rose, 2012; Iecovich, 2014). The physical insideness refers to the tendency of people to feel control environment in the neighborhood due to their activities which are both diurnal and rhythmic (Iecovich, 2014). Finally, the social insideness is achieved through extreme awareness about each other in a place besides the social exchanges that happen during the course of stay in a place and relationships (Burns et al., 2012; Iecovich, 2014). Charles Lindblom, in his celebrated journal article, The Science of "Muddling Through", states that social objectives are valued differently in different circumstances while ranking the objectives in rational planning process (Lindblom, 1959). India is a country with transition from second to third stage of Demographic

Transition Model (DTM) proposed by Warren Thompson (Srnivasan, 2010), which indicates that the priorities of India as a country are more of economic and industrial development, besides promotion of education, health, etc. (Michael S Teitelbaum, 1975). Indian cities have shown a great progress in their automobile usage over past five decades. Nevertheless, it is still extremely behind the western countries in road motor vehicles per 1000 inhabitants. USA had 0.78 vehicles per capita in 1996 (Dargay & Gately, 2001), and other European countries like Germany had 0.68 vehicles per capita (Dargay & Gately, 2001). However, India had just 0.01 vehicles per capita in 1996 (Dargay & Gately, 2001). These figures clearly describe that simply replicating the western neighborhood design principles can be extremely inapplicable in case of neighborhoods of Indian cities. Inhabitants of Indian cities require more of pedestrian friendly design principles rather than car oriented ones. Urban planners need to focus on providing the safety to the pedestrians along with required facilities for the polished car owners. Provision of scope for urban open spaces is the duty of urban planners. However, open spaces need to be efficiently used as public spaces by the people. Gentrification causes large influx of middle-income and high income groups displacing the existing working class groups. The native socio-cultural and ethnic groups in urban areas get replaced by the new middle income and higher income groups caused as a result of rapid economic development (or) redevelopment of urban neighborhoods.

“Despite all initiatives, demolition of Pol houses and construction of new buildings is still continuing (Ghosh, 2015).”

Pols are traditional housing structures in the city of Ahmedabad which could not be conserved to a great extent by the planners due to gentrification. Public participation is considered an important aspect of neighborhood planning. Arnstein's ladder of citizen participation in decision making process is one of the most celebrated articles referred by urban planners and neighborhood planners. Arnstein classifies the methods of public participation into three level (called rungs). The first rung is non-participation which includes manipulation, and therapy that often considered as lowest level with inactive (or) passive public participation (Arnstein, 1969). There is a need for the healthy inclusion of socio-cultural dimensions of neighborhood into planning, along with the environmental and economic dimensions. Western design principles and methods had a significant effect on socio-cultural dimensions of the neighborhood planning, causing social exclusion of several social and cultural groups in Indian cities. There are several studies related to urban planning that focus only on design aspects, and socio-cultural aspects like public participation are also to be established as a concern in study of neighborhood planning. UN-Habitat's five principles for sustainable neighborhood planning focusses on environmental and socio-economic aspects. There is a need for incorporation of socio-cultural aspects into similar methods. Further studies can focus on the development of detailed models incorporating the socio-cultural dimensions into the neighborhood planning, at detailed level.

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# CHILD FRIENDLY RESILIENT CITIES

UNICEF considered the Child Friendly Cities as a way to promote children's rights in city decision-making and governance. The importance of children's wellness, their talents and capabilities and their contribution in civic process have in been considered in the rights-based principles, which provide a framework for Resilient Cities. Bringing children's rights and urban resilience together can enlarge the conceptualization of wellness and agents of change in Resilient Cities.

As stated by UNICEF (2012). "Over the past few decades, over three quarters of casualties of disasters in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia have been children." Children living in urban slums, living on streets, the ones who are working and the children who have little access to basic urban services as well as health care and education, are highly vulnerable to sudden calamities like floods or social unrest; and serious urban issues like crime and lack of basic services exacerbate the risk even more.

In 2015, Boulder, Colorado, USA, became the first city within the 100 Resilient Cities to involve children in its planning efforts. Planning and development authorities of Boulder has formulated Growing Up Boulder Program, which integrates children and youth into urban planning and design. Growing Up Boulder (GUB) worked with approximately 120 children and youth to develop their perceptions of resilience within the city. Overall, access to nature and family, friends and supportive networks (from school and community) help support resilience and it encourage the young blood to perform in activities that help young people develop skills and confidence (including music, arts and skateboarding). Therefore, all these activities have given greater opportunities for restoration and resilience.

Urban risks and stresses can endanger the rights of a child. All children, youth, girls and boys have the equal legal right to be protected, and to access pathways of success. Further, they need to be supported by quality education and opportunities to participate in cultural activities. Sustainable and healthy life can be provided by strengthening and improving access to basic facilities and services and safeguarding their survival. Safe spaces must be designed and child-gender-sensitive infrastructure should be provided, where children can live, play and grow. Urban spaces should reduce exposure to hazards such as traffic, waste materials and stagnant water Children need to be able to access emergency services when their community and family life is disrupted and their support network is removed. Action involves providing risk reduction education in schools and in the community and developing safe evacuation plans. Therefore, cities can be developed and used these strategies according to their needs for a more inclusive, safer, sustainable child-centered urban environment.

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# STREET FOOD AND URBAN FOOD SECURITY: THROUGH THE LENS OF RESILIENCE

## A. Introduction

Vividly I remember the scorching summer day of my XII class exams, when my parents had gone to my Aunty's place out of town and I was literally starving. Being the carefree beloved daughter of my parents, I never cared to learn cooking and thus the tinkering bell of the panipuri walla raised my hope of grabbing my lunch. I rushed to the gate in my unkempt hair, shabby clothes and bathroom slippers to satisfy my hunger and that's the day I realised the importance of street food in our day to day lives.

The world's population is constantly growing and will reach a mark of 9.2 billion by 2050 which translates to feeding this huge population (UNDESA, 2008). Increasing urbanisation coupled with rising incomes, on one hand, would also lead to increasing poverty and thus intensify food insecurity in urban areas.

## B. Food Security: The concept

It was in the year 1948 that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognised everyone's right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being of himself and his family, including food. The same idea was reaffirmed by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1996. Availability of food, access to food, and risks related to either availability or access are the essential determinants of food security (Von Braun et al. 1992). The concept of food security can be summed up in the form of a flowchart mentioned in figure 1.

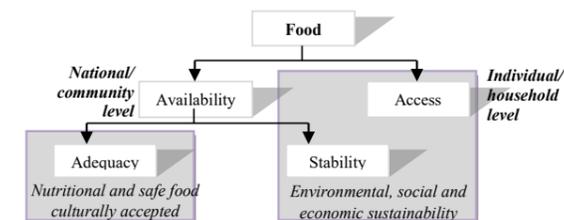


Fig.1. The concept of food security

## C. Food Security and Urban areas

The urban poor usually does not have the choice to buy and store food. The reason is obvious lack of purchasing power to buy expensive refrigerators to store the food. Thus the options open to them for having access to daily food is either borrowed food from relatives or buying cheap street food. Street food is defined as food and beverages sold in public places, intended for immediate or later consumption and which does not require additional processing (WHO, 1996). It can either be processed products or dishes rooted in regional and local cuisines (Cardosa et al, 2014).

## D. Street Food and Urban Food Security: The Resilience Linkage

The resilience linkage between street food and urban food security can be understood from figure 2.

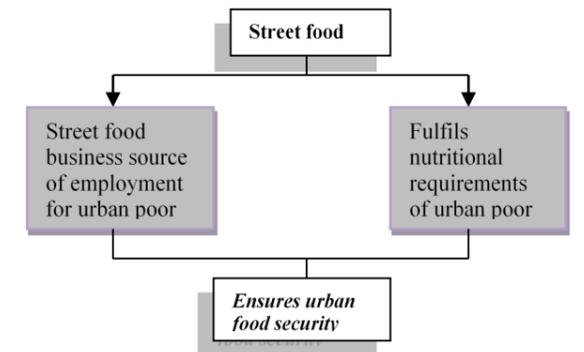


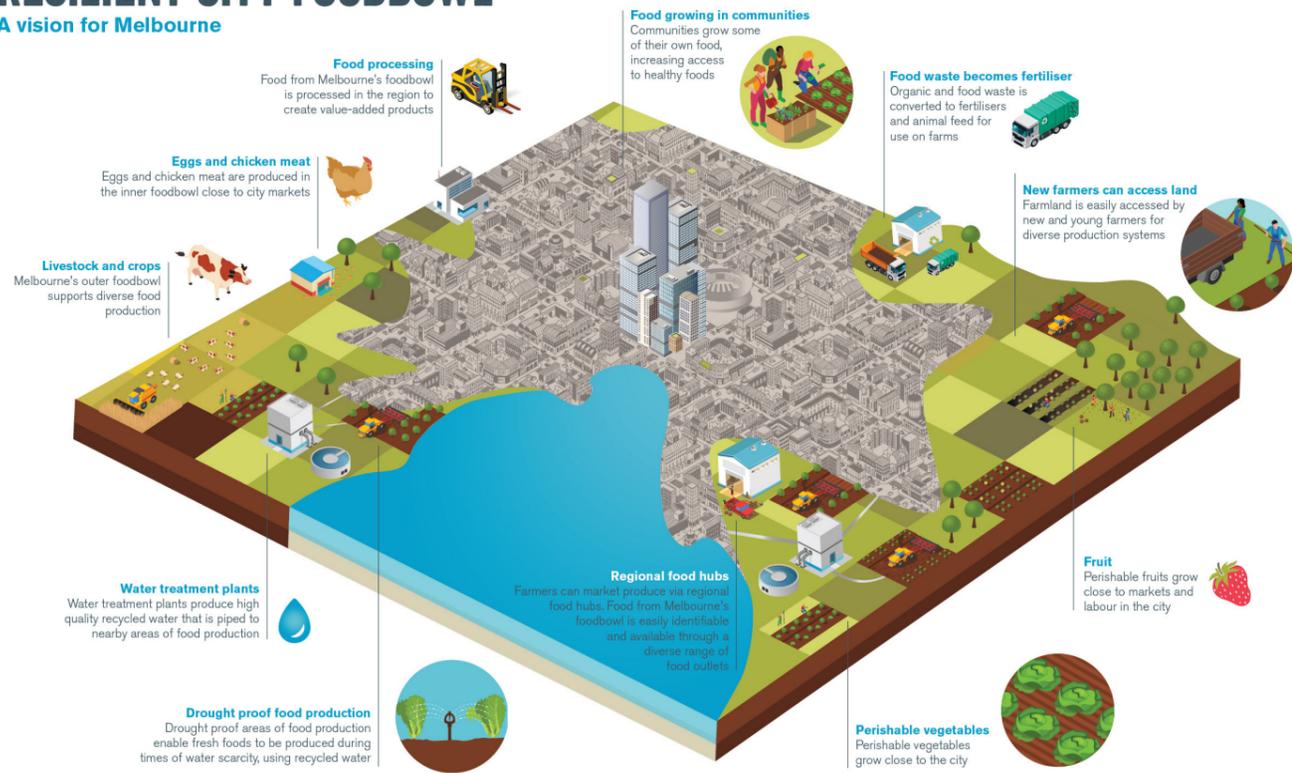
Fig.2. Resilient link between street food and urban food security

The effect of street foods on ensuring food security in urban areas can be understood from two viewpoints. The first viewpoint is that the street food is cheap, easy and has a lot of variety which ensures that it fulfils the nutritional requirements of urban poor, which otherwise would not have been met due to the exorbitant prices of raw vegetable and fruits. Second, people employed in the street food business are largely the urban poor. A growing number of urban poor face a daily struggle to feed their families. However, if they are employed in the informal sector of street food vending, then it can solve this particular problem of meeting their ends meet.

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# RESILIENT CITY FOODBOWL

A vision for Melbourne



(Source: A Footprint Melbourne Report, 2016)

## MELBOURNE AN EXEMPLARY OF RESILIENT FOOD PLANNING

A resilient city framework normally takes into account the availability of water, sanitation, energy and shelter. Food is also a basic need that most of us take for granted. The first strategy that evolved in Melbourne, Australia towards achieving resilience, was to plan a resilient city food bowl. Even though Australia is perceived as a food secure nation, around 4% of Australians are unable to afford good quality food, which normally include the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, asylum seekers, people on low incomes and those who are unemployed. Climate change is said to most likely reduce Australia's capacity for food production. At least 60% more food is likely to be needed by 2050 to feed a population of over 7 million people, but there will be less land available to grow food. Chronic stresses such as urban sprawl and population growth are said to reduce the capacity of Melbourne's food bowl from 41% to 18% by 2050.

Food security has four dimensions: availability, access, utilization and stability. A resilient food system should maintain these aspects of food security during chronic stresses, shocks and even unforeseen circumstances. Resilient food system should be able to draw on food sources from multiple geographical locations, have diversified food supply chains, draw on waste streams, create synergies and be people centered or inclusive. Resilient and sustainable food systems need fertile land, water, fertilizers, labor, food processing infrastructure, transport infrastructure and proximity to markets.

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The vision for Melbourne city evolves a resilient food bowl that provides fresh, healthy food to meet the needs of Melbournians as the city grows, fosters a vibrant regional food economy, increases resilience to future food system stresses and shocks and promotes sustainable food production and consumption, for current and future generations. These require an integrated policy framework abiding by the food planning principles. Basic objectives of the policy involved protection of farmland, encourage farmers, grow vibrant regional economy, reuse water, reduce and reuse food and organic waste.

This approach of resilience has to be worked upon and Melbourne's efforts are worth every applause. 100 resilient cities pioneered by Rockefeller Foundation aids cities around the world to become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges. They have included Indian cities of Chennai, Jaipur, Pune and Surat in facing the challenge of achieving resilience. Similar projects need to emerge and incorporate resilient food planning with flexibility to adapt to emerging pressures. As Jamais Cascio said:

“ Resilience is all about being able to overcome the unexpected. Sustainability is about survival. The goal of resilience is to thrive.

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## DEVELOPING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THROUGH “COASTAL VEGETATION” FOR IMPROVING LIVELIHOOD



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Mangroves act as defense for coastal communities as well as productive ecosystems for both environment and people. They protect shorelines by reducing erosion and act as natural barriers from flood and waves. The recent scientific writings suggest that six-year-old mangrove forests of 1.5 km width will reduce 1 m high waves at the open sea and 0.05 m at the coast. This can mitigate only short period wave attenuation and cannot be directly extrapolated to tsunami, which has long wave period. However, there is clear evidence that mangroves played a protective role in reducing the energy of the tsunami. Some mangrove areas on Sumatra, Indonesia were almost totally destroyed as they absorbed much of the tsunami energy. Along the coastlines of India and Sri Lanka, there are reports of villages that were spared the full force of the tsunami by their protective mangroves and coastal forests. Fishing boats and other debris were caught in the trees, and thus did not smash into houses behind them; moreover people were able to climb the trees to avoid being washed out to sea. The UNEP GRID has gathered evidence showing that while mangroves tend to grow in more sheltered waters such as estuaries, these mangroves absorbed much of the tsunami surge up rivers. Similarly, intact coastal forests of palms and casuarina growing on coastal dunes also absorbed much of the wave energy, thus protecting nearby coastal infrastructure. In contrast, some coastal forests were extensively

damaged as they absorbed the energy of the waves. A case study reported that Sundarbans lying on the southern end of the Ganges River and straddling the border between India and Bangladesh, is the largest continuous area of mangrove in the world. The area provides a livelihood for more than 3 lakh people, protects them from cyclones and tidal waves and is an important source of revenue for both countries through commercial timber which is harvested on a 20-year felling cycle. The total extent of 6,050 km<sup>2</sup> area has not changed significantly in the last 25 years, revealing the mitigation of extreme weather events in Nature. The relative success of the Sundarbans is largely due to its management which has been aimed at taking advantage of the mangroves' provisioning and regulatory ecosystem services. It has been managed as a commercially exploited reserved forest since 1875; wildlife sanctuaries and national parks protect key biodiversity areas, and the area is both a World Heritage and livelihood source since 1970. The Sundarbans has also been managed as a protective belt against storm damage. So there is a need to protect mangroves as they are lifesaving and protecting shield for the communities.



## CLIMATE RESILIENT CONSTRUCTION – INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE WITH BUILDING PLAN SANCTION

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The building construction sector is a major contributor towards carbon footprints which affects climate change. India is committed towards mitigating the effects of climate change and moving towards internationally accepted norms for environmental friendly building construction. Currently this objective of environmental safeguarding is achieved through obtaining a specific environmental clearance (EC) for any construction project having a size of more than 20,000 sq mts. This is administered under notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

With rapid urbanisation and growth of Indian economy, it is anticipated that the construction activity will experience a proportionate growth. Government is also committed towards streamlining of clearances for buildings and real estate sector and empowering the urban local bodies with an objective of Ease of Doing Business. The delegation to Urban Local Bodies shall facilitate hastening the process of environment conservation.

**Environmental Conditions For Compliance During Building Approvals**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has now decided to integrate the environmental concerns into building plan approval process and empowering the concerned local body/development authority to approve and certify compliance of stipulated requirements. The new building construction proposals are classified in the following 3 categories:-

- 1) Conditions for Category 'A' Buildings: Built-up Area 5000 sqmt – 20000 sqmt
- 2) Conditions for Category 'B' Buildings: Built-up Area 20000 sqmt – 50000 sqmt
- 3) Conditions for Category 'C' Buildings: Built-up Area 50000sqmt – 150000 sqmt

A local Authority, i.e. ULB/DA/any other body authorized to sanction building plans shall approve the building plans by ensuring the stipulated conditions in the following for the respective categories of buildings. These environmental conditions can be suitably integrated in the building permission conditions so that their effective implementation could be ensured by the local authority while sanctioning building plans in their respective urban areas. However, in order to empower the Local Authority, the State/UT Governments will be required to amend their building by-laws to incorporate a specific set of conditions as given in the following Tables .

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States have been advised to amend their building by-laws by incorporating the set of conditions for each category A, B and C as mentioned above either for the entire State/UT or clearly identified part thereof, where they would like to integrate the environmental clearance conditions with building permissions and empower the local authority to examine, stipulate and ensure compliance of conditions required to address environmental concerns.

Table.1: Environmental Conditions for Building and Construction  
(Category “A”: 5000 sqmt - 20000 sqmt)

Sl. No.	Medium	Environmental conditions
1	Natural Drainage	The inlet and outlet point of natural drain system should be maintained with adequate size of channel for ensuring unrestricted flow of water.
2	Water conservations – Rain Water Harvesting and Ground Water Recharge	A rain water harvesting plan needs to be designed where the recharge bores (minimum one per 5000 sqm of built-up area) shall be provided. The rain water harvested should be stored in a tank for reuse in household through a provision of separate water tank and pipeline to avoid mixing with potable municipal water supply. The excess rain water harvested be linked to the tube well bore in the premise through a pipeline after filtration in the installed filters.
2(a)		The unpaved area shall be more than or equal to 20% of the recreational open spaces.
3	Solid Waste Management	Separate wet and dry bins must be provided at the ground level for facilitating segregation of waste.
4	Energy	In common areas, LED/ solar lights must be provided.
5	Air Quality and Noise	Dust, smoke and debris prevention measures such as screens, barricading shall be installed at the site during construction. Plastic/ tarpaulin sheet covers must be used for trucks bringing in sand and material at the site.
5 (a)		The exhaust pipe of the DG set, if installed, must be minimum 10m away from the building. In case it is less than 10m away, the exhaust pipe shall be taken up to 3m above the building.
6	Green cover	A minimum of 1 tree for every 80 sqm of land shall be planted and maintained. The existing trees will be counted for this purpose. Preference should be given to planting native species.
6(a)		Where the trees need to be cut, compensatory plantation in the ratio of 1:3 (i.e. planting of 3 trees for every 1 tree that is cut) shall be done with the obligation to provide continued maintenance for such plantations.

Table.2: Environmental Conditions for Building and Construction  
(Category “B”: 20000 sqmt - 50000 sqmt)

Sl. No.	Medium	Environmental conditions
1	Natural Drainage	The inlet and outlet point of natural drain system should be maintained with adequate size of channel for ensuring unrestricted flow of water.
2	Water conservations – Rain Water Harvesting and Ground Water Recharge	A rain water harvesting plan needs to be designed where the recharge bores (minimum one per 5000 sqm of built-up area) shall be provided. The rain water harvested should be stored in a tank for reuse in household through a provision of separate water tank and pipeline to avoid mixing with potable municipal water supply. The excess rain water harvested be linked to the tube well bore in the premise through a pipeline after filtration in the installed filters.
2(a)		The unpaved area shall be more than or equal to 20% of the recreational open spaces.
3	Solid Waste Management	Separate wet and dry bins must be provided at the ground level for facilitating segregation of waste.
4	Energy	In common areas, LED/ solar lights must be provided.
4(a)		At least 1% of connected applied load generated from renewable energy source such as photovoltaic cells or wind mills or hybrid should be provided.

Sl. No.	Medium	Environmental conditions
4(b)		As per the provisions of the Ministry of New and Renewable energy solar water heater of minimum capacity 10 litres/4 persons (2.5 litres per capita) shall be installed.
4(c)		Use of flyash bricks: Fly ash should be used as building material in the construction as per the provisions of Fly Ash Notification of September, 1999 and as amended from time to time.
5	Air Quality and Noise	Dust, smoke and debris prevention measures such as screens, barricading shall be installed at the site during construction. Plastic/ tarpaulin sheet covers must be used for trucks bringing in sand and material at the site.
5(a)		The exhaust pipe of the DG set, if installed, must be minimum 10m away from the building. In case it is less than 10m away, the exhaust pipe shall be taken up to 3m above the building.
6	Green cover	A minimum of 1 tree for every 80 sqm of land shall be planted and maintained. The existing trees will be counted for this purpose. Preference should be given to planting native species.
6(a)		Where the trees need to be cut, compensatory plantation in the ratio of 1:3 (i.e. planting of 3 trees for every 1 tree that is cut) shall be done with the obligation to provide continued maintenance for such plantations.

Table 3: Environmental Conditions for Building and Construction  
(Category "C": 50000 sqmt - 150000 sqmt)

Sl. No.	Medium	Environmental conditions
1	Natural Drainage	The inlet and outlet point of natural drain system should be maintained with adequate size of channel for ensuring unrestricted flow of water.
2	Water conservations – Rain Water Harvesting and Ground Water Recharge	A rain water harvesting plan needs to be designed where the recharge bores (minimum one per 5000 sqm of built-up area) shall be provided. The rain water harvested should be stored in a tank for reuse in household through a provision of separate water tank and pipeline to avoid mixing with potable municipal water supply. The excess rain water harvested is to be linked to the tube well bore in the premise through a pipeline after filtration in the installed filters.
2(a)		The unpaved area shall be more than or equal to 20% of the recreational open spaces.
2(b)		The ground water shall not be withdrawn without approval from the competent authority
2(c)		Use of potable water in construction should be minimized.
2(d)		Low flow fixtures and sensors must be used to promote water conservation.
2(e)		Separation of grey and black water should be done by the use of dual plumbing system.
3	Solid Waste Management	Separate wet and dry bins must be provided at the ground level for facilitating segregation of waste.
3(a)		All non-biodegradable waste shall be handed over to authorized recyclers for which a written tie-up must be done with the authorized recyclers.
3(b)		Organic waste composter/ vermiculture pit with a minimum capacity of 0.3 Kg/tenement/day must be installed wherein the STP sludge may be used to be converted to manure which could be used at the site or handed over to authorized recyclers for which a written tie-up must be done with the authorized recyclers.
4	Energy	In common areas, LED/ solar lights must be provided.

Sl. No.	Medium	Environmental conditions
4(a)		At least 1% of connected applied load generated from renewable energy source such as photovoltaic cells or wind mills or hybrid should be provided.
4(b)		As per the provisions of the Ministry of New and Renewable energy solar water heater of minimum capacity 10 litres/4 persons (2.5 litres per capita) shall be installed.
4(c)		Use of flyash bricks: Fly ash should be used as building material in the construction as per the provisions of Fly Ash Notification of September, 1999 and as amended from time to time.
4(d)		Use of concept of passive solar design of buildings using architectural design approaches that minimize energy consumption in buildings by integrating conventional energy-efficient devices, such as mechanical and electric pumps, fans, lighting fixtures and other equipment, with the passive design elements, such as building orientation, landscaping, efficient building envelope, appropriate fenestration, increased day lighting design and thermal mass.
4(e)		Optimize use of energy systems in buildings that should maintain a specific indoor environment conducive to the functional requirements of the building by following mandatory compliance measures (for all applicable buildings) as recommended in the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2007 of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Government of India.
5	Air Quality and Noise	Dust, smoke and debris prevention measures such as screens, barricading shall be installed at the site during construction. Plastic/ tarpaulin sheet covers must be used for trucks bringing in sand and material at the site.
5(a)		The exhaust pipe of the DG set, if installed, must be minimum 10m away from the building. In case it is less than 10m away, the exhaust pipe shall be taken up to 3m above the building.
6	Green cover	A minimum of 1 tree for every 80 sqm of land shall be planted and maintained. The existing trees will be counted for this purpose. Preference should be given to planting native species.
6(a)		Where the trees need to be cut, compensatory plantation in the ratio of 1:3 (i.e. planting of 3 trees for every 1 tree that is cut) shall be done with the obligation to provide continued maintenance for such plantations.
7	Sewage Treatment Plant	Sewage treatment plant with capacity of treating 100% waste water shall be installed. Treated water must be recycled for gardening and flushing.
8	Environment Management Plan	The environment infrastructure like Sewage Treatment Plant, Landscaping, Rain Water Harvesting, Power backup for environment, Infrastructure, Environment Monitoring, Solid Waste Management and Solar and Energy conservation, should be kept operational through Environment Monitoring Committee with defined functions and responsibility.

# DISASTER RESILIENCE



Disaster resilience is the ability of individuals, communities, organizations and states to adapt to and recover from hazards, shocks or stresses without compromising long-term prospects for development. This is the most common definition of disaster resilience and another definition given by Hyogo Framework for Action (UNISDR, 2005) is 'the capacity of a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt, by resisting or changing in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning and structure'. The lens of resilience can help to enhance responses to disaster risk as it calls for a holistic consideration of hazards, exposure, risk, vulnerability and capacity. Disaster resilience programming aims to save lives whilst protecting infrastructure, livelihoods, social systems and the environment. Building resilience to natural hazards can have wider-reaching positive effects in fragile states and violent conflicts. One potential benefit of

disaster resilience is that it offers a 'rallying point' for international collaboration. It brings together disaster risk reduction, disaster response and many more. It has also been argued that addressing vulnerability by building resilience is more cost-effective than emergency relief. There is very limited evidence of this from Kenya and Ethiopia, where one study advocated the relative costs of before and after humanitarian responses versus interventions to develop community resilience to drought. In reality, however it's not possible to find the true cost of resilience and even the true cost of loss created by disaster can't be calculated accurately because we can sum up only those cost which are seen by our eyes. In practical terms, resilience is neither an alternative to intervention nor a new paradigm that stands alone, but rapidly increasingly important component of a holistic approach to reducing the impact of disasters on the most vulnerable.

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# RESILIENT CITY IS NOT ONLY ABOUT THE INFRASTRUCTURE, IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE

The phrase "the resilient city" not only depicts the infrastructural or the administrative action, but also the pro-active approaches of the people. A disaster, not only creates a shock to the physical and economic aspects of the city but also to its livelihood. The magnitude of resilience could be felt, with the amount of time and ease sacrificed in-order to bring back the regular livelihoods of the people. The participation or the volunteer service among the people are often not under the limelight, yet this contributes to resilience at a gargantuan scale. The city of Chennai faced severe floods in the year 2015, the floods stole the lives of nearly 200 people, leaving the city with no electricity, no water, no food and no housing for days. The delayed action by the local administration left the city in a state of havoc. The army was doing its best to rescue the people, in the meanwhile, people started to stand up for themselves, the social media gathered people around the state of Tamil Nadu, for the relief operations. The neighbors started to aid each other with resources, food, clothing etc. The celebrities, youth and the NGOs, worked at the grass-root level to bring relief services to the affected

people. People from other parts of the state gave their hand by gathering necessary things and coming all the way to Chennai for the relief activities. The government also contributed its share to the relief, but the actions of the people were not documented in any reports or newspaper articles. Within a month's time, Chennai rose back completely from the floods, with a scar bearing the tales to be told about the strength and unity irrespective of the socio-economic diversity. On November 2017, a similar situation, but with less magnitude was encountered. The city started to submerge again, the infrastructure failed to handle the load, but one thing was different from the former event, the people. They carried with pride, the experiences from the past. This confidence to face the disaster with a smile, uttering the words I will rise again, is what I feel is "resilience".

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## YOUR FIGHT, MY CITY SUFFERS : CULTURAL RESILIENCE

**A** culture: Most broadly defined as “the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time” as defined by the Cambridge dictionary clearly indicates how contemporary and volatile is it in itself. Resilience on the other hand is the ability of entity is ability to spring back in its original form after facing a difficult situation or time. Summing these Cultural resilience considers how cultural background (i.e., culture, cultural values, language, customs, norms) helps individuals and communities overcome adversity. (Caroline S Clauss-Ehlers,2015)

Our mind’s assuetude to associate some of the places in our country continuously making their presence felt in newspapers with only controversial and political contexts clearly indicates that there is a certain character to those places that is continuously being disrupted.

PLACE 1 : Going back to 1954, When our Prime Minister decided to give one state of India , a special status in order to preserve its rich cultural heritage and protect it from spoils of communal disturbances. However, the history tells a diametrically opposite tale that we all know. Did we succeed to bring in a comprehensive planned strategy to develop that place with I would however refrain from bringing in the much needed discussion on plebiscite. (O wait, I was taught Community Participation?)

Also, Curfews are normal. Bandhs are normal. Economic Boom? Tourist Inflow? Who cares? PLACE 2 : Rolling another die, It shows up a small town where Hindu God was born. Years of debate over the temple and Mosque, Continuous disruption of daily life affairs of people- Because people all over the country gather in their town to fight over a political agenda.

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Curfews? Bandhs? Let’s wait for another date laid down by the court. Who is concerned with a daily economy of a town anyway?

The Question arises- Why are we talking about these controversial areas? What do these have to do with Planning? How are these remotely related to resilience?

Here’s a Flipside.

When we talk about resilience – We talk about Natural disasters like Earthquakes, Landslides etc. Also we talk about Manmade disasters like Gas leaks. But often in man-made catagory we miss out on small conflicts on a minor level that are continuous in disturbed areas and scaling it up- the possibilities of a war in near future. The culture of a healthy functioning society slowly transforms itself either into a closed, fearful society or a Recalcitrant bunch of population with govt. tacitly shutting down on them.

Looking at current international scenario and possibilities of War, there is a desperate need of coming up with a city structure and facilities capable of functioning in Warlike scenarios. Here is a small example : With coming up of Digital Media, Schools can be made capable of conducting a class using digital platforms of video broadcasting with students given easy access online in an emergency situation or a shutdown. Small Retail Markets and Food supplies can be made functional using a delivery system made functional by the govt. Local Area networks can be brought to use if there is a Communication cut out.

For the Bottom-line , I would like to highlight the need of a smooth City functioning and Alternate Transport plans , consequently the corresponding infrastructure separately for a disturbed area for uninhibited functioning as a city and making culturally resilient.



Muskan, SPA Bhopal

## RESILIENT COMMUNITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

**R**esilience of a community is the ability to withstand and overcome from a calamity or a drastic problem that has largely affected the physical, social and economic well beings of the respective community. A resilient community requires essential tools and resources in order to be adequately prepared and to respond effectively to disturbances that affect their routines and habitat. In India there are various communities that are recognized as vulnerable communities such as Scheduled Tribes (ST) , Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the economically poor (Below Poverty Line or BPL), including those belonging to minority religions and certain communities such as the fishermen’s community, etc. and these are the main targeted groups In case of a disaster. Women, children and the older group are considered the most vulnerable group in disaster situations due to several factors, such as illiteracy, poverty, lack of awareness, social taboos, domestic and other violence, lack of access to and control over resources, low influence and decision-making capacity and so on. In order to uplift the community,

job opportunities must be provided. In case of Indian scenario, in these communities the woman folk are the usual bread winners. In various government practices, the woman folk are provided with the main legal paper works in order to ensure a responsible outcome. The role of women is expanding in socio-economic, political and physical spaces; hence their empowerment will contribute toward resilience and capacity building that contributes to sustainability and disaster risk reduction in the long run. School-based activities works towards fostering a culture of long-term, sustainable disaster preparedness in communities by assisting young people to be better prepared for the risks they were likely to face in their local areas from grass root level. Dissemination of information across the community will cater to better awareness in the mitigation measures. With the enhancement of resilience of children and young people and those directly targeted within the communities will increase the resilience of a community.

*MILAN SUSAN ELIAS*  
Government Engineering College,  
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# ROLE OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN ENHANCING CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE OF CITIES

Cities face a growing band of adversities and challenges in the fast growing 21st century. It forms a continuous chain from the effects of climate change to the growing migrant population to inadequate infrastructure to pandemics and ultimately to cyber-attacks. Resilience refers to positive adaptations or the achievement of developmental milestones in the face of magnificent risk, adversity or stress. Resilient cities are those which are able to absorb, adapt, transform and prepare themselves for past and future stresses in order to achieve sustainable development. What are the characteristics of Resilient People?

- Ability to gain recovery from almost anything
- Attitude of having a thought process of where there's a will, there's a way
- Opportunistic
- Have a healthy social connectivity

Green Infrastructure is the most widely acceptable, economically viable and efficient way to combat and overcome the consequences of climate change and help people to adapt the adverse effects of climate change. The conventional approach of finding technical solutions to problems is often tedious and expensive. To improve city resilience in respond to global challenges, we need to design and develop a nested approach which performs cohesive action for various green active plans and management of green infrastructures. Annual flooding is one of the primary cause of stress which usually erodes the ability of transboundary communities of Nepal to achieve development goals, including a long term better quality of life. The project aims to do this by implementing integrated approaches and methodology to improve Early Warning Systems (EWS) for any natural calamity, strengthening the cohesive bond between the government and community capacities (public – private partnership) in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and constructing resilient infrastructures.

ALPANA GUPTA  
SPA, Bhopal

# PERCEIVING GLOBAL MIGRATION THROUGH RESILIENT CITIES

With an estimated 2.5 billion people predicted to migrate to cities by 2050, urbanism is becoming an uncontrollable phenomenon. Immense chunks of population are pushed to cities by recurrent shocks like natural disasters, conflicts, famine, unemployment and other forces. In the largest drift of human displacement since WWII, conflict and persecution have forced more than 60 million people to flee their homes in search of security and a promising future. Mass migration is a reality- its deep uncertainty must be acknowledged. Local authorities fail to implement long term development plans and allocate resources as the direction, timing and magnitude of population flow is unpredictable.

The refugee and asylum seekers in Athens and Thessaloniki (cities in Greece) faced similar challenges, however they tried to integrate migration permanently into the urban landscape. In the spring of 2016, major flee routes were abruptly closed by the European Union, stranding over 50,000 refugees in Greece. This unprecedented 'Syrian Refugee Crisis' was addressed by wholly dedicating a space for forming 'Eliaonos camp'. This was the first temporary accommodation center in the country, sheltering 2400 refugees. Conscious efforts have been made to treat refugees with dignity and give them access to proper medical services as well as to public education. Refugees also provide the crumbling population of Athens their human capital. At the same time, the local government has also ensured that the city can preserve its social cohesion and daily rhythm.

Cities around the world face similar challenges but solutions aren't always effective. A major section of refugees and internally displaced population moving to cities have to compete with the native residents for limited services and low-paying jobs. Therefore, building urban resilience requires disrupting business and looking at city systems holistically. Large scale involuntary migration will increase exponentially in the years ahead; making it the first most likely and the fourth most impactful current risk for humanity. Therefore, without doubt, proactively planning for a bright future for both migrants and native citizens is absolutely essential.

SAYANI MANDAL  
SPA Bhopal

# CULTURAL HERITAGE: BUILDING RESILIENCE TO NATURAL DISASTER

Man-made disasters are excluded from consideration, although the devastation they induce is often greater than the effects of natural disasters. However, as man-made disasters have more societal effect, separate strategies to be made for them.

In spite of numerous declarations for the protection of cultural heritage, national governments have been taking slow effective measure. This is of serious concern since the list of recent catastrophic events that have severely affected the cultural heritage worldwide is extensive. Cultural heritage has suffered from the devastating effects of earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, landslides, volcanic eruption etc. and little has been learnt from these catastrophic events.

The situation is likely to worsen, as the risk of natural disasters will increase due to climate change, sea level rising, urban development and population growth.

### Protecting Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage can be protected from natural hazards via the developments and practices in the general field of disaster risk reduction. Three key aspects of cultural heritage:

- The willingness of people and governments to protect their cultural heritage derives from the unique aesthetic, historic, patriotic etc. all of which add to the economic value of these cultural assets.
- Risk assessment for heritage sites, a perquisite to devising appropriate strategies for disaster reduction, raises a number of issues.
- Technical and engineering efforts are needed to help historic buildings and heritage collections withstand the impact of major disasters.

### General Action

- Enhance public awareness: Public engagement with the significance and vulnerability of cultural heritage should be increased.
- Pursue research: International research networks and practitioner training programs should be enhanced.
- Establish and implement protocols: Affordable and effective mitigation steps available for any kind of cultural heritage should be widely shared and implemented.

In addition, measures and strategies for building resilience, for example urban planning regulations and structural measures for mitigation, must be designed to minimize impact on the authenticity and integrity of the cultural assets to be protected. Effective pre-disaster planning should allow for the prompt intervention of experts following major catastrophe. Various institution have been established to protect the cultural heritage from the damaging effects of natural disasters or catastrophic events.

SHREEYALI AGARWAL  
SPA Bhopal

## URBAN RESILIENCE AND MAINSTREAMING- INDIAN CITIES

Developing countries like India are failing to collect resources to withstand shock and stresses because of rapid population growth, large-scale development and economic investments. This slowly starts stressing and eroding the resilience of not only Ecological and Economical environment but also of the Social and Cultural environments, resulting into increased vulnerability of Natural and Human systems. Recently India has been seeing many natural and human induced disasters like floods in Mumbai, the quake in Bhuj, the Uttarakhand cloudburst and other natural disasters. Though cause of climate change is global but severity of it is experienced locally. The cities need to have proactive approach rather than reactive (relief and rehabilitation), which helps them to identify the linkages between the developmental needs and challenges and climate adaption, mitigation and risk reduction efforts. In recent years, responding to climate change is emerging challenge for policy makers, planners and stakeholders taking into consideration Urban resilience as main component for adaptive capacity or adaptive capacity as the key determinant to vulnerability or both, resilience and adaptive capacity, under the aegis of vulnerability.

Many literature reviews world-wide have recognized some factors that make cities sustainable and resilient. This includes robust urban infrastructure, good governance, Legal framework, participatory approach along with land-use-planning, energy management, eco-system services, housing and transport, water supply management, sanitation, health, urban services and waste management. To Integrate all these tangible and intangible layers of planning ACCCRN and TERI are reviewing the relevant policies and programmes of Government of India. The project objective is to understand how globally and in India attempt has been made to mainstream urban resilience in Urban development. The Case studies of three ACCCRN cities Surat, Gorakhpur and Indore was done to understand various tools and methodologies adopted by decision makers and policy planners to mainstream resilience planning in Urban environment. Today the key challenges faced are overall resilience framework, awareness generation, capacity building and training of city level officials. Thus, the vertical and horizontal linkages between needs to be strengthened to address institutional barriers.

**Jyoti Gill**  
MSUB

# GREEN CONSCIENCE: DELUSION OR REALITY?

If you consider yourself an environmentally minded person, you may sincerely hope that one day all the world's energy will be generated by alternative energy sources like the sun and the wind and you couldn't be more wrong. The idea of being able to maintain our current excessive way of life thanks to new clean energy production technologies is seductive. Because we don't need to curb our rampant consumerism if scientists and engineers can solve the problem for us, right?

For over a hundred years, our energy needs have been mostly met through the use of conventional energy sources like fossil fuels and uranium and out of all of these, coal being the felon.

Yet, despite its negative impact, more than half of India's electricity is generated with coal simply because it's cheaper than oil. And it will remain as the main energy source for the next 30 years. Another prominent conventional energy source, uranium is much "cleaner" but it does more harm than good. One can even argue that nuclear energy is the mankind's most dangerous inventions. There's nothing that can be done to reduce the radioactivity of an element and once it is created - only passage of time can reduce its intensity.

In contrast to conventional energy, we have renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, water, hydrogen, and biofuels. In Brazil, farmers are so eager to produce biofuels that they mow down rainforests to plant sugarcane. But food crops like sugarcane absorb less sunlight than rainforests, which means climate change is actually accelerated—demeaning the objective of it in the first place! Wind and solar energy have similar limitations. While the sun and wind itself are certainly renewables, the solar panels and turbines for turning it into energy are not. Solar energy is generated through solar cells, and the manufacturing of solar cells produces a great deal of highly potent greenhouse gases.

Thanks to the natural water cycle on earth, dams will provide energy well into the future. Unfortunately, hydropower isn't perfect either; and with the rivers that cut across political borders, it can trigger international conflicts. The alternative energy sources may be sustainable but producing them certainly isn't.

Policy makers, journalists, and mainly politicians promote alternative sources over conventional ones, but in doing so they totally overlook simpler, non-technical alternative solutions, such as car-pooling, commuting by bicycle and other energy saving measures.

**“The hype of the hydrogen car and nuclear power are based on humanity's age-old dream of creating a perpetuum mobile.”**

Over the years, productivism has discouraged us from searching for energy reducing solutions, such as creating walkable communities and switching to bicycle as they do not produce things the same way wind turbine factories do.

Living in the city is greener than living in the suburbs. Reason being, living in the suburbs has one major environmental disadvantage i.e. commute. City lifestyle is actually more environmentally friendly because cities tend to be walkable, are more bicycle-friendly and offer public transportation options. When public transportation is used over cars, there wouldn't be as much need for parking spaces in cities. The newly freed up space could be used for public parks or other green areas. This would not only help the environment but also give people a greener living space.

Transforming cities into more livable, environmentally friendly places is a key challenge for future planners as it is the only way to get people to prefer the city. After all, we are the architects of reality. The question is: What kind of reality we want to build?

**Subodh Thackray**  
*School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi*

## NOSPlan Representatives Meet Secretary, MoHUA

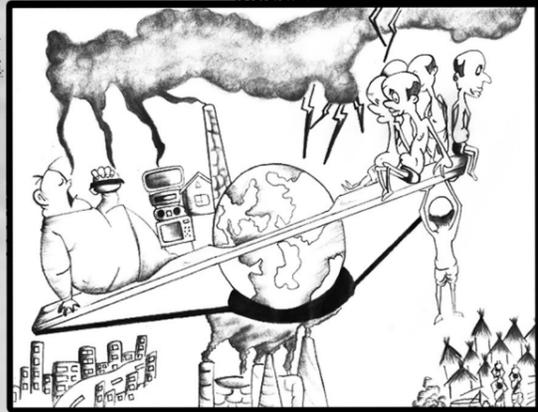


A delegation representing NOSPlan – Organisation of Students of Planning met with Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Sh. Shiv Das Meena: Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Sh. K. K. Joadder: Chief Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Organisation, Delhi and Sh. Sompalle Surendra: Additional Chief Planner, Chief Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Organisation, Delhi on 10th November 2017 at the Ministry to discuss the plight of planners, concerning internships, jobs and placements. The delegation included President Pulkit Singal, Secretary Yamini Babu and Chief Editor Rimjhim Agrawal, accompanied by Advisory Shubham Khaitan. The meeting was held with the agenda to present the current scenario of the future of planning students in India to the Secretary, drawing specific attention to the dearth of government jobs in comparison with the number of planners graduating each year, the struggle to find internships, in particular those that involve a stipend and/or compensation. It was brought to his notice that most of the positions that planners are fit to occupy often employ civil engineers or architects.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with the Secretary assuring us of action on this issue with due process. A meeting was held at TCPO, inviting Chief Town Planners from all the states, along with representation from all universities offering planning courses. The NOSPlan Executive Council submitted a detailed proposal for internships, jobs, placements, fellowship as well as modifications in the recruitment examination for concerned positions to be discussed at the aforementioned meeting. We are constantly working for the benefit of all planning students all over the country, and look forward to decisive developments for the prosperity of the planning profession in the country.

**Rimjhim Agrawal**  
Editor-in-Chief

# Strokes



By Rahul Jawa ,  
GNDU



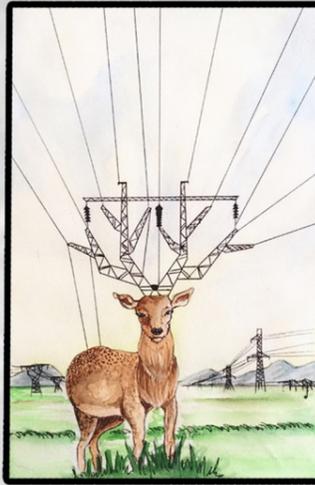
By Shreya Chaurasia,  
MANIT Bhopal



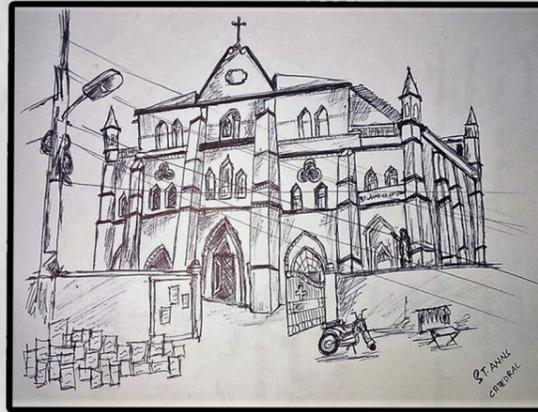
By Sanchi Srivastava,  
VNIT Nagpur



By Sanchi Srivastava,  
VNIT Nagpur



By Sahil Harbansh,  
MANIT Bhopal



Nishanth,  
SPA Vijaywada



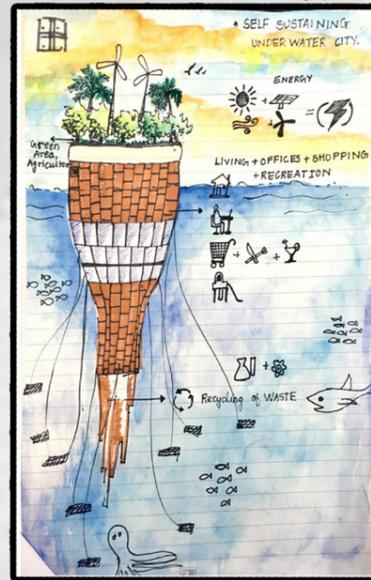
Ishitha,  
SPA Bhopal



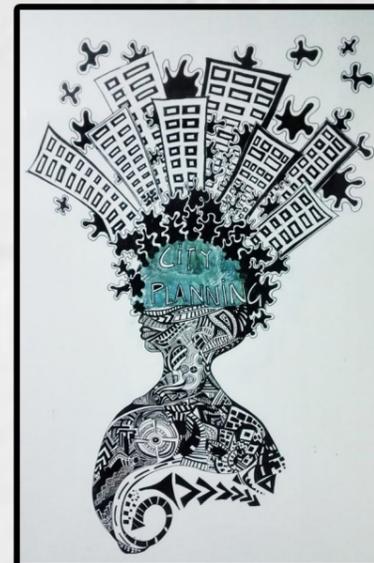
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By Vishnu Prasad K.P.,  
MANIT Bhopal



By Aashka Patel,  
Nirma University



By VNIT, Nagpur



By Kalpana Ranga,  
MANIT Bhopal



By Priya Assudani  
MANIT Bhopal

BELLES  
LETTRES

## THE WRITTEN WORD IN THE PLANNING ACADEMY

Writing for a students' magazine is a huge responsibility for a teacher as young and formative minds will read these words. Since I made a commitment to the editor of the magazine, I plunged into writing something for the students. My major concern as a faculty in SPA Delhi is that neither faculty nor students attach adequate significance to the processes of learning, particularly those involving reading and writing. Results are disastrous. For example, the Indian academics have been unable to produce a text on urban and regional planning since the last 70 years. Old British and American legacies still dominate planning education and practice. Second, since we do not read and write much, we do not reflect and we do not critically examine. Adoption of new policies such as smart cities and transit oriented development are not based on any credible research, but our desire to catch up with the western world, aspiring to be modern.

A constant stream of new research and production of knowledge forces academics and university students to coherently think and innovate dispassionately. This process of production of new knowledge is arduous and generally involved faculty and students will have to perform scholarly activities alone. People may be around to assist, but scholarly pursuit remains the exclusive domain of a researcher. Writing in 1845 Karl Marx famously noted: "There is no royal road to science, and only those who do not dread the fatiguing climb of its steep paths have a chance of gaining its luminous summits". Luminous summits aside, higher education generally and urban and regional planning education particularly is standing at the crossroads in India because year after year planning faculty and students continue to show signs of acute fatigue even before a journey towards gaining and creating new knowledge has even begun. One worrying scenario that should bother students and faculty alike is that we have stopped reading technical books and journal articles. Half-baked faculty papers without a shred of coherence in the manuscript, and plagiarised assignments of students continually remind us of the crevasse we experience today in the planning academy.



*Reading provides mental stimulus to humans for making forward movement in undertaking an intellectual journey. Reading, writing and researching are germane to development of critical thinking, a precondition for creating new knowledge and innovation. The Project of Enlightenment will be completely derailed if faculty and students did not address this vital issue urgently.*

Libraries are full of young students jumping up and down the staircases and trying to grapple with the written word. Everyone appears to be busy acquiring knowledge. Faculty members are busy preparing manuscripts for publications. Librarians and their assistance are ever ready to help locate books and journals. Computers are fully loaded with relevant information to find books and journal articles. Built environment and technology are in unison and provide enabling environment for learning. Large budgets are set aside for the library, the key node of learning. Students and faculty are guaranteed access to books and journals from all over the world. In this way library becomes an intermediary space between a faculty or student, and the written word. Environment is palpably knowledge-centered and everything appears to revolve around this center. This is a library of a university located in the Western Europe. In India's planning schools, the library is side-lined and making endeavour to understand the written word is seen as wastage



of time. Library budgets are shrinking in real terms. Subscriptions for number of journals are constantly reduced. Ideology determines which journal is subscribed. A much skewed view of the profession of planning is presented; land use is the only form of planning that appropriately represents urban and regional planning. So journals and books that promote critical thinking in faculty and students become the first victims of financial cutbacks in libraries across the country.

Number of books and papers published and read per thousand population, and the number of bookstores in a city and similar other indicators could be used for assessing what role reading plays in our day to day lives. Societies where the written word is held in high esteem, Scandinavian countries particularly and Western countries generally, they have produced comparatively equitable societies including cities and regions than those where the written word either arrived late or is not being respected even today. History of the written word is full of references where the written word and progress in the sense of the enlightenment project has moved together (Debray, 2017).

Disrespect for the written word implies that faculty and students are likely to read less and writing may remain underdeveloped. In such circumstances how do university teachers learn and teach. This is a vital question that requires urgent redressal. Faculty may teach concepts and ideas that are developed by others placed in alien contexts, which may be less useful for the Indian scholars and students. This is not to suggest that foreign knowledge is tainted because I believe it is not. However, heavy reliance on the existing indigenous knowledges is as harmful for innovation as foreign knowledges. Another noticeable trend that we see since the last two decades in planning is that considerable scholarly work is produced by scholars who live and work in western countries. That knowledge is better than wholesale borrowing of ideas produced by western authors for the western contexts with western case studies. Yet we should aspire for the production of new knowledge by Indian scholars working in India with Indian case studies. This may appear parochial but in the interest of nation building

predominance of locally produced knowledges by local scholars is hugely important.

Studios in urban and regional planning play an important role in producing new knowledge. I find studios in the current form very restrictive as positivism dominates where training under instrumental reasoning is elevated to the level of the 'truth'. In an era of post-truth Indian academics continue to perpetuate the truth. Here theory and concept building remain on the margins. Neither methods nor theory gets constructed. Literature reviews are done but ghettoised. Faculty and students appear to be standing still; there is no forward movement taking place. We still continue to use methods like scalogram without bothering about the changes that have taken place around us in regional planning in India. To begin with, the nature of regions in India have changed so much that techniques like scalogram have become redundant. Since we do not read as we have little respect for the written word, we do not innovate. As we do not innovate, we continue to use old techniques for new problems. So we do not solve any problems, and problems keep on piling. We are a burdened lot, burdened with resolvable problems.

Since we do not have space in our minds for critical reflection, we adopt ideologies without any examination and analysis. Academics have become apologists of neoliberal policies without caring for any scrutiny. Our cities, for instance, face problems of sanitation, water, housing, governance, diversity, etc. However, these problems are rarely discussed in new ways within the planning academy. This must change. Planners should not only inscribe the existing knowledge but also produce new knowledge.

**Ashok Kumar, Ph.D.**

*Professor and Head, Department of Housing, Coordinator Internal Quality Assurance Cell, and Editor, ITPI Journal, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi*

# PRACTICE VS ACADEMIA

**“Ma’am, I got an opportunity to work with a leading firm in the country!”**

exclaims a fresh graduate from the planning program on a visit to her Alma Mater. “But”, she continued, “the approach and outlook towards projects in the practical world are diametrically opposed than what we were taught here.” Her candid feedback got me to deliberate on what she meant by ‘practical world’ and left me pondering for hours after she left. In retrospect, she had a point that needs to be noted and contemplated on. The so called professional and practical community does have a conventional way in which it conducts its businesses - time constraints, man hours, fee structure, overheads, profits, etc. Each opportunity is merely reduced to a task that needs to be concluded just as any other project in a predetermined format.

If the current status of ‘practice’ is flawless, then why are our cities and regions crying out their woes? What then, is the role of the academia, I wonder? Is it not the responsibility of the academic world to innovate appropriate solutions that the practical world can implement? The answer seems to be a resounding ‘yes!’, but there seems to be a gaping discord between the two, which occurs at various levels. If one were to

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closely examine the operations of the two systems, the discrepancies are apparent. While there are some obvious differences, the professional and academic systems have been working in isolation for a long time and each has a legacy of its own, with a few exceptions.

The energies and resources that each of the systems possess can and should be channelized in a common direction to maximize their potential. Communities, cities and states that foster partnership and mutual respect between the two systems are benefitting and the results are apparent for all to see. It is only when these two systems choose to join hands and work cohesively, will the planning profession facilitate communities and cities to achieve resiliency. Events such as NOSPlan are a great opportunity to bridge this gap through dialogue, debate and actions.



Photograph by Anmol Anand, Alumnus, SPA Bhopal

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Sustainable living - It is very simple and practical. It is not just sharing our ideas with others. It is about doing, experiencing and advancing. It is really a moment of pleasure and satisfaction to say that “I love myself and the nature”. One is always motivated to follow a loving route and achieve success rather following a route out of fear or compulsion that makes them feel defeated, helpless and frustrated.

We, Planners have always learnt Sustainability as a complex concept. The most often quoted definition comes from the UN World Commission on Environment and Development. “Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Sustainability doesn’t mean living without luxuries but rather being aware of your resource consumption and reducing unnecessary waste. Sustainable living is a lifestyle that attempts to reduce an individual’s or society’s use of the personal resources and earth’s natural resources. Please take the challenge that “Change our lifestyle” to achieve personal values such as “environmental friendliness” and “voluntary actions” which help us achieve higher levels of well-being. It is better to lead a “Nature and community-based lifestyle” which is healthier, more secure and more sustainable. It is the first and most essential step to kick-start a sustainable life.

There are actions taken at the individual level to make a sustainable living at the institute, hostels, and houses.

- Start with reducing food waste by taking just the right quantity of food in our plate. Follow the habit of “take less and eat more” where in the beginning, take less and finish it. More food can be taken later if one likes the taste and it’s still hungry.
- Turn off the lights and fans while leaving a room or in any room that is not in use.
- Turn off the taps while not in use and don’t allow the water flow continuously while mouthwash, brushing teeth or using the toilet.
- A small team of four to five of you can conduct a “Waste Audit” at your institute, hostel and house to
  - o Estimate how much electricity and water consumed per week or month, and what is the amount of water and electricity bills paid
  - o Find out from your cafeteria/mess that how many kilos of food are discarded every day.

After a month of practicing the sustainable living habits, attributing to the actions of all, evaluate the water, energy and food saved, to make an annual “Waste Budget”. Present the same to your fellow friends and officers, make a plan for waste saving actions for the semester and year, follow it and see the “Waste Budget”. I am sure that you all will feel proud that you have done a wonderful job and saved resources of your local environment. You will feel that “yes”, we can do something which is great and sensitize and motivate others to do the same. Make a team in your class, institute and visit nearby residential areas and schools, to explain and promote these habits. Your actions will make them believe and get them into action. The dissemination of your actions and experiences might be through making posters, videos, newsletters and newspaper articles etc., also in the local language to further bring out great and wonderful results.

These things are not just for advice, but we can ourselves start with developing a “campus/ neighbourhood culture” by engaging in simple activities at the individual level and by collective actions at your “institutional environment” such as class and hostel and homes, streets and neighbourhoods at the “house environment”. Sustainable living needs a “Lifelong commitment” to make the most loving choice each and every time. It also gets easier as our satisfaction with our new lifestyle grows. Beyond all of the frightening news, beyond the frustrating politics, beyond the failed social, economic and political promise, there is one question – how do you want to live your life? With fear–or with love? The fear route makes us feel defeated, helpless and frustrated. The love route, on the other hand, makes us feel grounded, purposeful and hopeful. Choose your route to be happy and lead a sustainable living for you and others.

I wish the NOSPLAN young minds to choose the sustainable living with “LOVE ROUTE” and move forward and follow the “campus culture” and “neighbourhood culture” at your institute, hostels and houses. This will be your contribution to promoting sustainable living in our cities, towns and villages.

**Dr Abdul Razak Mohamed,**  
*Dean Faculty Welfare & Professor Dept of*  
*Planning,*  
*School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada*

# CONTOURS OF LAND AND...

Resilience is not a new concept. It is applicable in many fields. In the context of our discipline and work, it means the ability of a (natural or human) system to come back to its previous (healthy) state after a bout with external or internal disturbances. Ecological concepts like succession and heterogeneity play a big role in understanding resilience. And, these in turn depend on LAND and its qualities. LAND (a collection of terrestrial ecosystems) is the main and only canvas we have to understand, work with, and paint our aspirations of better quality of life for the humans. Ecological Sciences (or Ecologies) offer fundamental concepts and tools for achieving such aspirations. Of all the interrelated and interdependent variables (or components) of natural system from climate to animals, understanding the form, functions, and processes of the LAND (subsurface, surface, and related to water and soil) are few of the most neglected variables in planning education and profession in India. Without understanding these abiotic variables and applying that understanding to decision making related to planning, we cannot talk about any type of resilience of natural system or better quality of life. One of the fundamental ways planning education and professional practice must be challenged and improved is by focusing on understanding implications of the attributes

**By Prof. Shishir R. Raval, PhD.**  
*The Maharaja Sayajirao University,  
 Vadodara, Gujarat*

of land (elevations, ridges/channels, aspects, percentage slope, and water-gathering slopes). To analyze and apply a thorough and authentic understanding of these attributes, we must learn to work with contours of the land. In planning our cities and regions, resilient or otherwise, working with data on contours (or spot elevations and DEMs) is not yet included or even considered seriously. Our planning education and professional practices are stuck mainly with data and analyses of demography and economics. Ecology, along with ethics and environmental psychology, is neglected. Unfortunately, advocacy or applications of such ideas are often discarded as naïve, unnecessary, and impractical. If cities and regions were planned with an appreciation and understanding of LAND as a whole, disasters like floods and droughts and resulting misery as well as pontification on all this will not be an annual media circus in Indian society or polity. So, here is a grounded, basic proposal: Let us all –students, teachers, professionals, administrators, and decision-makers– in the planning fields demand, nay, pledge to work with good understanding of the contours of the LAND and related data and learn how to apply that understanding in our work. And, here is a somewhat grand proposal: Let us pledge to enlighten the contours of our CONSCIENCE. Let us change our conventional mindset. Let us be caring and expansive enough to include ALL that ecologies can teach us so as to achieve a deeper vision of system resiliency and better quality of life for ALL species, now and in the future. Let us give these gifts to future NOS Plan gatherings and to our beloved planning field. We can and must do this now!

We as planners know that just like those World Architecture Day, World Engineering Day, there is also something called World Town Planning Day which is celebrated on 8th of November of every year. But, do we know how it all started up? When one of our subject coordinators asked us why do we celebrate World Town Planning Day, it made me realise it is not just all about learning area appreciation, neighbourhood planning, Malthus’s theory of food surplus, from where the sewerage and drainage lines would pass, how will we get traffic capacity of a road, and much more in four years. Planning is also about unmuting that silent soul sitting in front of the screen and feel what Town Planning is all about. Firstly, World Town Planning Day was initiated in 1949 by the late Professor Carlos Maria della Paolera of the University of Buenos Aires to advance public and professional interest in planning, both locally and abroad. In the meantime, the World Town Planning Day is celebrated in 30 countries on four continents each November 8. And while reading about history of planning I came across an incident which made me laugh as well as made me think out of the box for planning as a profession. The field first started in America as the purview of three very different types of thinkers. “At America’s first urban planning conference, held in New York in 1898, an urban planner’s question made everyone think about the field which really wasn’t born until early 20th century. His question was



*“Do we want beautiful people or beautiful cities? Is Urban Planning about physical design or about making city feasible for those you use it?”*

Before then, there were three types of people thinking about how a city should look and function — architects (focused on the city as a built environment, implementing ideas like L’Enfant’s grand vision for Washington, D.C.,

# “HOW TOWN PLANNING GOT PLANNED”

and the New York City grid), public health officials (were consumed with infrastructure. They knew there was a connection between certain diseases and social conditions, even if they didn’t know precisely what it was), and social workers (wanted to use the city to improve the lives of the people living there. They wanted cleaner tenements, spaces for immigrant children to play, and more light and fresh air for residents). Each group approached the question of city building very differently. These thinkers were brought together by the pressure cooker that was the Industrial Revolution.” This incident shows that we should not just think of the beauty of the city but the beauty that will make a city’s usability more efficient. Think of planning a neighbourhood, city, town by keeping yourself in the frame and knowing the needs of one.

**Gursimran**  
*SPA, Bhopal*

## WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY

*“The oak fought the wind and was broken, the willow bent when it must and survived.”*

This line from Robert Jordan's book 'The Fires in Heaven' captures the essence of a resilient city and the importance of coexisting with nature in contrast to the confrontational attitude that most cities exhibit.

'Urban Flooding', an important aspect of resilience was chosen as the theme for "World Town Planning Day" observed at School of Planning & Architecture, JNAFA University, Hyderabad on 9th of November. It was an attempt to understand the issue from various perspectives including planning authorities, the private sector and grassroots organizations. The morning session was composed of competitions including debate, story writing, poster making for students and presentations by senior planners and thinkers on the theme of 'Urban Flooding' was conducted in the afternoon session.



The afternoon session started off with welcome note by the principal Prof. Dr. S Kumar addressing the chief guest, Mr. S. Devender Reddy, Chief City Planner of GHMC, Dr. N. Kavita Daryani Rao, guest of honor and vice-chancellor of JNAFA University, and renowned speakers, Mr. Vishwanath Sista, Retd. Planning Officer, HMDA, Mr. Anant Mariganti, co-founder, Hyderabad Urban Lab, Mr. Krishna Prasad, Planner, GMR group and Mr. Ravi Kumar Reddy, Planner, IBM.

**S.Sai Lalitha**  
JNAFAU, Hyderabad

## A FASCINATING ILLUSION (DREAMLAND)

Breezy wafts flew past comforting my soul, making the tender heart and mind go wild and free. The sensation of that salty atmosphere was filling my lungs to the brim. The charming sentiments of that eternal tranquillity were pouring my heart. The waves performing ballet to its own rhythm was teleporting me to a strange and unknown location.

An elegant view of an unreal skyline was striking my brains. Its aesthetic panorama was surreal and riveting. The taintless scene of the landscape was absolutely breath-taking, filling the air with freshness and a pleasant aroma. Yes, 'twas a hypnotizing view scattering vivacious vigour to the ambiance. Physical, social and environmental, the three intertwined dimensions of the planning triangle were effectively performing for the beautiful and fascinating current to pave its way to a sustainable and prospective future. The infrastructure (transportation and communication) was lucratively and efficiently bridging the gap between the populace scattering the branches of peace and communal harmony across the vicinity as well as with the vision to spread it through the globe.

The heroic precedent of that milieu was also staging its long established, edifying culture and heritage which had already coupled up with the up-to-the-minute expansion and evolution to preserve itself for the generations yet to approach. The people living there were so sociable and cooperative that it would make any foreigner like me fall in love with them. The environment was warmed up by kind and affectionate feelings all around. The shapes and forms of those outlandish concrete structures were attention-grabbing and aesthetically eye-catching; yet the view depicted of a collage of skyscrapers within the greens! There was an absolute featuring of each attribute of the elements present which were interdependent as well as self-sustaining.

All these thoughts were revolving inside my tiny brain which came to a halt when suddenly I could feel the slipping of wet sand from under my feet making me lose my equilibrium. Yes I was daydreaming standing with arms wide open on the shoreline of my city frozen with the contemplation of making it as beautiful and lively as my dream city.

My mind's eye was really overboard but if I give it a try to accomplish everything as imagined with a sharp will-power and determination then why not, there may be a city like this in the future which would give new dimensions to the era of evolution of cities.

**Gyanada Panda**  
College Of Engineering And Technology,  
Bhubaneswar

## LIFE UNDER THE METRO

Delhi, the focus of the socio-economic and political life of India, a symbol of ancient values and aspirations and capital of the largest democracy, is assuming increasing eminence among the great cities of the world. Growing at an unprecedented pace, the city needs to be able to integrate its elegant past as well as the modern developments into an organic whole, which demands purposeful transformation of the socio-economic, natural and built environment. In a city undergoing rapid motorization, expansion, population boom and thousands of trips each day, transport routes form the very lifeline, and are constantly upgraded, expanded or new ones constructed. With limited space on land, this induces the construction of new networks standing on solid concrete pillars and grade separated motorways. These include not just elevated roads, highways, and flyovers; in a city like Delhi, the metro line passes through the most valuable real estate of the city. Most of the elevated metro corridor is built over the network of roads, as a part of the right of way of the road. In some places, however, the viaduct wanders off the road, and onto land belonging to multiple agencies, such as government land, semi-government land as well as private land.

These elevations or grade separations often leave dark, unutilized, inaccessible abscesses beneath them. It poses a bit of a paradox – elevated corridors meant to bridge gaps often act quite intentionally as barriers because the space beneath them is so problematic. Blighted by barren landscape and left over interstices, spaces under elevated highways in Delhi are severed from the urban fabric by rail lines and flyovers. There is a tendency to leave it unused and overgrown with weeds, strewn with garbage, occupied by homeless dwellers or informal merchants, or to give it up for some perfunctory use, like frigid landscaping. Often, these dark, neglected spaces fall prey to anti-social activities and threaten the security of an area, huddled in darkness and unfamiliarity. As the metros emerge out of the dense framework of the city, it is highly likely that most spaces under them will be inaccessible, forgotten and become a haven for illicit activities. Usual negative effects of the capricious implementations of elevated highways in urban areas include divisions of well-established communities, hampering privacy of adjacent buildings, excessive noise, unwanted views that drastically change the urban landscape, physical and psychological barriers

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making the pedestrian experience unpleasant, and land misuse (eg. dumping debris, abandoning cars, illegal activities). The inappropriate use of vacant spaces under elevated rail lines may lead to social and economic problems in addition to being unsightly and lowering the value of adjacent properties. Other implications may be loss of land, displacement of population, loss of social cohesion, loss of employment and therefore reduced economic activities, damage of public and private infrastructure, increased air pollution, increased traffic congestion and accidents in the adjoining areas.

About 300 km of the Delhi Metro forms elevated corridors over the city, encompassing volumes of space over which it passes, rendering it unfit for other built uses. Approximately 45,00,000 sqm of space lies ignored at the underbelly of the city's lifeline.

Inaccessible, an absence and an abscess in the civic life of the city, the spaces under elevated metros possess great potential for creative use. Efforts to rehabilitate these forgotten, dark urban spaces often eradicate heterogeneity and foster exclusion. But there are many innovative solutions to dealing with the space underneath an elevated highway, turning them into places teeming with activity. Instead of dividing neighborhoods, the elevated viaducts can serve as a foci for the city. Tenuously domiciled in invisible urban interstices, their phantom existence can be transformed into happening urban pockets through careful design and organization.

Undeveloped spaces below elevated highways have the potential to be transformed into major corridors, gathering areas and/or recreational spaces that integrate the elevated motorways and their surrounding environment. Mushrooming elevated transport routes are creating spaces and new possibilities under and along them that have unclear territory and ownership. Desirable destinations for the city dwellers can be created if these areas are organized and well-maintained through appropriate delineation of functions through regeneration of urban pockets. Multi-dimensional analysis of spaces below elevated metros around the city would explore the possibility of incorporating them into the surrounding communities through a comprehensive design that maximizes the functionality of the spaces while improving safety and the aesthetic qualities of the areas. Currently, these spaces need to be reorganized and provided with proper accessibility, light fixtures, sidewalks, landscaping, and sundry site amenities. The city needs to address both aspects of life – in a metro, and under the metro.

## WORM'S VIEW, NOT BIRD'S VIEW



*All Nature is bound by law, the law of its own action; and this law can never be broken. If you break a law of nature, all nature would come to an end in an instant. There would be no more nature.*  
– Spirit & Nature, Swami Vivekananda

With increasing population and urbanization at a steady pace, more and more people are moving to cities every single day. Urban Indians now form about one third of India's population and contributes 60% of India's GDP. It is projected that urban India will contribute nearly 75% of the national GDP in next 15 years. Thus, cities have always been the fireplaces of civilization, where LIGHT and HEAT radiated out in the dark. With limited availability of resources such as land, water, fossil fuels and subsequently inappropriate policies by policy makers, the cities have been grappling with both man made as well as natural disasters.

India being a developing country has to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – People, Planet and Prosperity. The recent occurrence of disasters in India in form of Urban flooding (Chennai, Gurugram, Mumbai, Assam), draughts (Southern states), Air pollution (Delhi, Patna, Chennai), River pollution (Yamuna, Ganga, Bellandur lake in Bangalore) brought immense loss to India both in terms of economic and as well as social terms. Displacement of people, loss of livelihoods, crimes against women are some of the social consequences associated with these disasters.

India has a deep history of its people coexisting with nature. Government of India through its proactive approach has made solid promises through initiatives such as Smart City Mission, AMRUT Scheme, India's action plan for Climate Change, INDC's during Paris Climate Conference to tackle climate change and make Indian cities more resilient. Recently adopted Sustainable



Development Goals, New Urban Agenda-2031 at the international level provides a framework for the future planning of Indian cities with resilience of communities & cities as the main focus. Community level initiatives such as community owned embankments to control floods, MGNREGA led Rainwater Harvesting projects to tackle draughts – , step wells (Water temples or Jal Mandir in South India) can effectively help tackle and mitigate risk of disasters in India.

Planners across the country need to adopt water centric approach, with special focus on disaster mitigation while preparing Master plans for various cities. "cookie cutter approach" where ready-made solutions are imported from Western countries and are applied in India is not suitable and recommended. India has a rich diversity in terms of geographic, cultural, economic and political factors, thus requires a worm's eye perspective to tackle issues at microscopic level. Successful examples from Indian states such as Powerguda village of Andhra Pradesh which sold carbon credits worth Rs. 32000, Green building concept in Rajasthan provides stern belief that the issues of Climate change can be tackled upon at local level. Collective climate approach as focused by Mahatma Gandhi in his saying – "Earth has enough resources to meet people's needs, but will never have enough to satisfy people's greed" is need of the hour.

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## GLOCALIZATION: FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

Globalization is a social process. It is also shorthand for the discourse that organizes and makes sense of what is happening. The phrase, "Think Globally, Act Locally," has been used to describe the global trans-boundary nature of environmental issues and the need for concerted local action to address them. Any distinction between global and local sustainability is artificial. This is because; global processes are not disconnected from the local. According to Latour, they are local from within. Such convergence of global dynamics and local contexts is "Glocalization". According to Swyngedouw, Glocalization expresses the way Globalization subtleties are always reinterpreted locally, which leads to an intermixing of the local and global scales that creates context-dependent outcomes. The concept of Glocalization basically complements the idea of Globalization. Internationalization, mundialization, delocalization, international competitiveness, cultural hybridization etc. are consequences of Globalization. It binds them together and defines the shape of modern society. But deep down the roots, the importance of their building blocks cannot be undermined. They would cease to exist if their relation to human-scale is ignored. This re-scaling of larger context aspects to make them comprehensible is due to Glocalization

For example, in the field of culture, it can be seen when rudiments of global are reinterpreted by local cultures. Also, when the elements of a local culture are combined with the global phenomenon, the re-scaling and adjustments are reflected. In the field of economics, it occurs when global firms open branches in a region subject to specific labour skills. This way contributing firms, though having less importance individually, bring about significant outcomes. With Glocalization, they are thought to be a part of economies of scale. At an institutional level, processes of Glocalization are noticeable when local governments tend to establish themselves as actors on the global stage. The hierarchal structure of legislation and administration glorifies the idea of Glocalization. It is important to note that Glocalization is not a



*Sustainability, as we conceive of it is a dynamic state that has the capacity to endure; it is a broad systems-level concept that transcends entity and national boundaries to embrace notions of equity, equality, and futurity in relation, but not limited to economic, social, and environmental conditions that support life for all. It is simultaneously global and local in orientation.*



Different interests and groups within a given place are expected to differ in their ability to establish wider links. The approaches are comprehensive, yet cannot explain the wider narrative singlehandedly. Glocalization has brought in the explanations to all-inclusive and wide-ranging changes which are dynamic in nature. It exists in every amplified aspect, yet remains invisible superficially. Sometimes certain instances are justified by several synchronized re-scalings. Glocal knowledges are yet unknown to majority of professions. However, they never cease to exist as foundation stones for processes that open up to wider showground.

**Aakriti**  
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# ESCALATORS ESCALATES QUESTIONS ON PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN RAILWAY STATIONS

The recent stampede that happened in the Elphinstone railway station, Mumbai escalates big questions on the pedestrian safety in the Indian railway stations during an emergency. It is conspicuous that the design for public spaces does not consider the nature of Indian Passengers. When 23 passengers were killed in a stampede due to the heavy passenger traffic, which was aggravated when the passengers decided to take the over bridge as a shelter from the rain. These examples prove that our public spaces are least prepared to take evacuation in case of an emergency.

The condition of passenger safety is more or less identical and least prioritized in railway stations. This scenario is exacerbated by some careless technological interventions without making appropriate design modifications on the existing infrastructure. The passenger over bridges which are used extensively for crossing the platforms is very narrow, obstructing the movement of passengers. During the peak hours, an unregulated flux of passengers often results in a passenger flow, which is unidirectional. This severely affects the pace and comfort of the traffic crossing the bridge in the opposite direction. This congestion is intensified with an unplanned introduction of escalators intersecting the existing pedestrian traffic flow at right angles, at regular intervals, with a continuous flux of pedestrians onto the bridge. Elderly passengers and passengers with luggage usually prefer to go by the escalator. But during peak hours the rate at which passengers exit from the escalator is very low compared to the rate at which the passenger enter onto the escalator, due to congestion at the exit points. This creates a horrific situation for the passengers who are midway on the escalator, with the choice of climbing down the escalator or stumbling down the moving steps creating accidents and death. We are merely fortunate that such accidents are not happening. As the railway authority is actively promoting escalators and lifts in the railway stations, it highly recommended supplementing such interventions with sufficient design, planning and managerial modification on the existing facilities, which otherwise would lead to stampedes and accidents. It is high time for Indian Railway to re-evaluate and reframe the existing evacuation plans considering the changes happening with the nature of passenger traffic inside the railway station.

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# DATA OPTIMIZATION NEED OF THE HOUR IN PLANNING

To sail the boat of ever changing trends in the world of Planning, one needs to be extremely dynamic and adaptive when it comes to sound knowledge of various disciplines and fields. For instance, the most prominent example in recent times could be the word, which has been creating a lot of buzz lately i.e. "DATA ANALYTICS". It's not some bizarre notion which wasn't there earlier, but the ways in which it is currently affecting the world is undoubtedly game-changing. With almost all corporate giants and firms in various fields devoting a top notch team for data analysts and data-scientists, it's been quite notable that the world is much more data driven. And also, decision making is now just not dependent on the gut or intuition of the veterans in that field but also on the regression models, data forecasting, data prediction by means of big data and many other data manipulation techniques.

Especially in the field of Transport planning, Physical planning, Environmental planning, etc. where there can be gigabytes or maybe terabytes or petabytes of data to be analyzed, any Planner who possess keen interest in asking right questions pertaining to data and has the ability to find answers of that questions through exceptional statistical analysis will then ultimately gain groundbreaking insights from it. Taking a trivial one, let's take the question of 'Predicting the growth rate and quantitative increase of different vehicles in a region'. Well, this illustration is obviously not that difficult as one can initially verify which method is giving best results by checking 80% data and predicting rest 20% of given data. But can you find out the parameters which are affecting this growth? How many of them are significant contributors? How does each of them quantitatively affect the growth? Which are the highest and lowest? Surely, few of the Planning pioneers will be able to find the solutions of above questions. But getting the appropriate thinking framework for asking these questions is necessary. Eventually, that's being data driven.

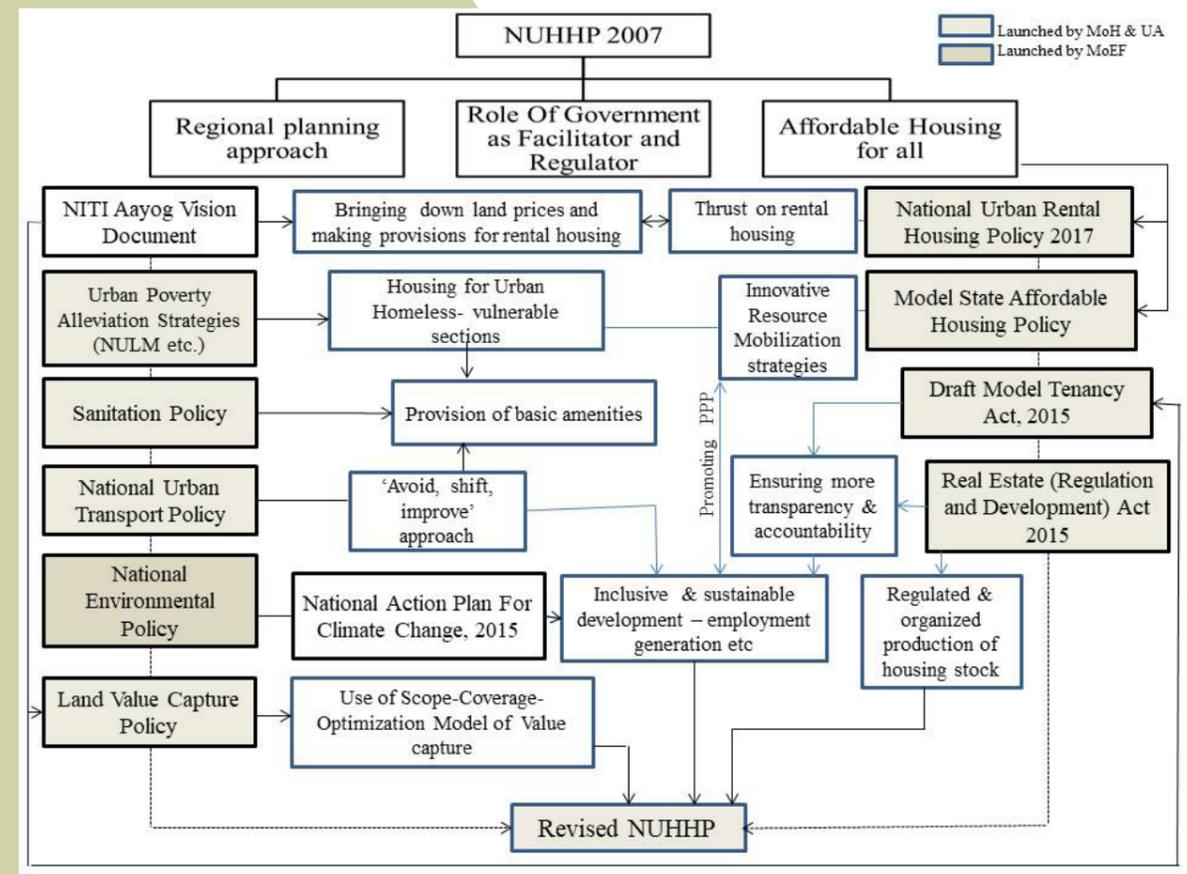
By virtue of remarkable advancements in Data science, Data mining, Modern Statistics, software like R, etc. the data driven approach has been booming at a very fast rate. Regression models, Correlation test, T-test, Chi-square test, Z-test, F-test being the fundamentals which we study truly have a lot of potential in them. So we must keep asking right questions. Make Planning oriented results or predictions more firm and concrete as nothing can predict better than the data itself.

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# THE PLETHORA OF INDIAN POLICIES: IN HOUSING CONTEXT

As per Census of India 2001, about 23.5% of the urban households were living in slums, which significantly reduced to 17 % in 2011. However, the absolute figures increased from 52 million to 65 million which roughly equaled to Thailand's population. Over this, about 1.7 million (2011) people are houseless in India and the most disturbing fact is, even with the country facing severe housing shortage, the proportion vacant houses accounted to about 12% of the total stock. This clearly points onto the issue of poor housing planning (characterized by lack of affordable low cost housing) which arises mainly due to lack of coordination in government bureaucracy. In spite of several initiatives, what our country tragically lacks is coordination and integration between these policies, schemes and programmes addressing these issues.

Fig. Possible Links Between Various National Policies, Acts And Their Relation To NUHHP 2007 & Its Revision



The flowchart shows a link that subsists within the various policies and acts associated to housing that exist in our country. It further highlights their links to the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007 (NUHHP 2007) and what components should necessarily be addressed in its revised version. The NITI Aayog Three Year Action Plan, talks about bringing down land prices and has elaborately explained various causes leading to this issue, along with plausible suggestions that can help curb the issue. It further talks about making provisions for rental housing which can be linked to the National Urban Rental Housing Policy, 2017. The Action Plan also mentions various strategies to tackle the issue of non-availability of adequate housing stock for rental purposes and promotes the adoption of the new Model Tenancy Act, 2015 which are more liberal and ensures more transparency and accountability amongst both parties rather than following the current rent control laws. Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2015 focuses on regulated and organized production of housing stock which is also more transparent and accountable to the buyers as compared to earlier laws. Together, these two Acts can bring about major changes in

the production and utility of housing units in the future. The Model State Affordable Housing Policy will ensure that along with providing affordable housing to all as per the impetus of NUHHP 2007, along with sustainable development using innovative resource mobilization. Sustainable development can also be ensured by the, "Avoid, Shift, Improve" Approach from the National Urban Transport Policy according to which means avoiding the increase in demand for travel both by reducing the number and length of trips. Promoting a shift from personal vehicles to other MRT and non-motorized transport (NMT) modes to reduce energy demand and hence pollution in cities. And further, improve strategy includes use of clean fuels and clean vehicle technology.

Urban Poverty Alleviation strategies like National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) moderately focuses on providing shelter to urban homeless along with provision of basic amenities (which is also the prime focus of Sanitation Policy). NUHHP 2007 does not talk separately about the major issue of homelessness. Homelessness has never been addressed in detail. In India, it is treated as a livelihood issue rather than a housing challenge which is why schemes for construction of such shelter houses come under the NULM instead of putting it under housing (ownership or rental) policies. In order to ensure inclusive development, the revised national housing policy should pay more emphasis on this aspect. Even the National Action Plan for Climate Change and National Environment Policy argues that environmental degradation often leads to poverty and poor health outcomes among populations, thus it emphasizes on ensuring inclusive and sustainable development to safeguards the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.

The Land Value Capture Policy which has been drawn recently suggests that the States/ ULBs should use 'Scope-Coverage-Optimization' Model of Value capture such that they can mobilize additional capital. This mechanism involves 'Scope' which refers to the type of existing and new tools which can be used in the State/ ULBs. 'Coverage' is replication of an existing tool to all parts of the State, and 'Optimization' is related to use of scientific methods to assess, levy and collect taxes from a range of VCF tools. This can be added into revised policy as a means of strengthening the housing finance system. An integrated approach of policymaking, implementation is the need of the hour to combat the housing issues in the long run.

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## ISSUES OF THE LAST MILE CONNECTIVITY

India is seeing rapid urbanisation and motorisation. While the urban population is growing at the rate of 3 %per year, motor vehicles are growing at a rate of 9%. Today buses constitute less than 1% of the total registered vehicles in Indian cities (Road Transport Year book, 2011-12). In fact, very few Indian cities have organised, regularised and regulated public transport system. In the absence of an organised city bus service, the gap is being filled by intermediate public transport (IPT) modes like 3-wheelers auto-rickshaws, Tempos and Tata magic or Eco cars, etc. which provide public transport services. The trips are generated for various reasons - people travel for work, education, market, recreation and other purposes. Most of the planners and government invest maximum time and resources for connecting people to their destination which is ordinarily called last

mile connectivity but due to the limitation of major transport system (public transportation) it faces the failure to achieve the last mile connectivity. Because of that people have to walk or seek alternatives. The Mobility share of various transport modes is interesting considering the fact that a huge section of people rely on informal private passenger vehicles. This segment consists of autorickshaws and other IPT vehicles called 'share autos', operated by private players. Currently due to affordability and accessibility majority people prefer this mode of transport to achieve the last mile connectivity. Also, IPT has been playing an important role for the urban poor in providing both mobility and employment. It is accessible, available, flexible, adaptable and affordable (Anvita Arora, Mata Jarnhammas, 2010). As the aggregate share of private and para-transit is increasing, the concern or need to look at this

is required but Current policies do not however recognise their contribution or consider it as a public transport. Depending on a city's size and transport expectations, IPT modes may fall under two broad categories - 1) contract carriage services, which are flexible demand-based services where the passenger determines the destination and 2) informal public transport services, characterized by a fixed route with intermediate stops for boarding and alighting. Indian cities use both these IPT modes. But this sector faces tremendous challenges in Indian cities due to their unregularized nature of operations. And thus, a need to study the system arises along with a need to develop an action plan for regularization of IPT (paratransit) to achieve last mile connectivity.

**Faisalalam Sheikh**  
MSUB

## STEP WELLS: THE HIDDEN SOURCES OF WATER

We cannot plan for future while leaving behind our precedents, which have proved to be far more resilient than what we are today.

As planners what do we imagine while addressing the water supply of a city? Some might imagine it in form of a grid network or in form of water tanks while others may think of it in form of dams and canals. With the availability of tap water, we rarely consider our traditional systems of water, like step-wells, as part of our water supply system due to which they are seen in a dilapidated condition today. Step-wells were an integral part of water supply in regions of North-West and Western India since ages. They have proved their idea of being resilient by supplying water in extreme conditions of floods as well as drought, with cool water in summer and warm water in winter.

The two-major contributors to negligence of step-wells today are that we as planners address only things which we see and in this case, we have neglected the sub-surface hydrology of our city and second is the lack of knowledge of traditional water system. With the onset of heritage conservation drive today, many step-wells are demarcated as heritage monuments but only the super structure is considered as part of heritage. Because of which we encroach upon the aquifers of step-wells by constructing concrete jungle above it, leading to step-wells being dead and neglected.

We all are aware that our past is important but we don't conserve till we benefit out of it. Hence it is time to form the concept of De Novo which links the traditional knowledge with the system of new knowledge improve the conditions of our cities multi-fold.

**Nayruti Mistry**  
MSUB

## CONCRETIZING TRANSITION – PLIGHT OF MANGROVES

Mumbai's historical record identifies that there were seven marshy biologically rich islands which have become a concrete peninsula today. As recent as 100 years ago Mumbai was adorned with Ecosystem of Mangrove Forest where tropical birds used to hum. Mangroves are spirit of Mumbai and are indispensable to ecosystem. They are catalyst to Ecosystems Ecology where every element of ecosystem is related or dependent on changes happening to Mangroves. If we lose Mangroves cover we will lose wetlands.

Mangroves or I would like to term them as Barricades not just only stop erosion but they act as protectors for territorial species from devastating phenomenon like floods and Tsunami. The most affected local people are Koli Community, who worships Mangroves as they know this well knitted system of Mangroves root is breeding ground for marine organisms. So Concrete in place of Mangroves will bring us shortage of food supply. Mangroves play the bitterest role as they tolerate high salinity of water and reduce the flow to shores and on the other side also tolerate toxic pollution of soil from entering the ocean. Mumbai holds population beyond its capacity and presents an image of a body crowded with double the number of necessary organs. In the hustle to host as many as possible, city's infrastructure has become a Pandora's Box.

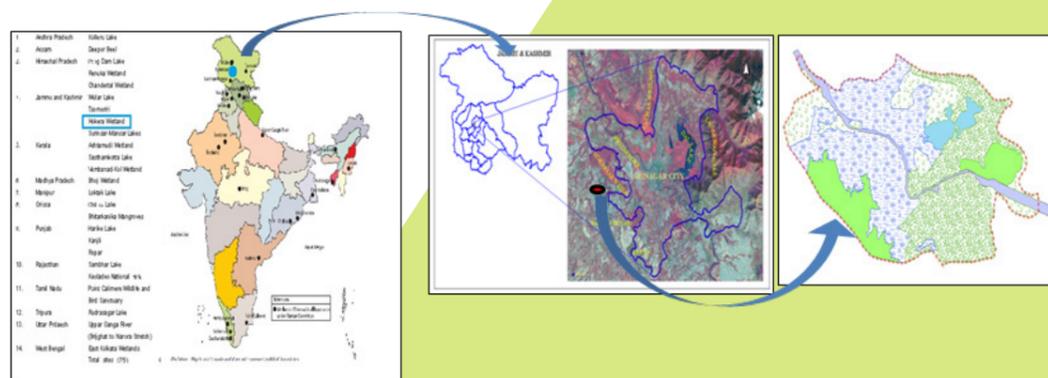
To understand importance of Mangroves we need to understand relation; Western Ghats that runs parallel to West Coast and acts as barrier so that areas near to Western Ghats get heavy rains. On the other side, Mangroves acts as sponges and absorbs extra water and helps return this to Ocean and this is what Mangroves are supposed to do. So now we can imagine if we do alternations with landscape as rapidly as we have done, what will be results? Evidence which presents what will happen when we tried to change landscape is Bandra – Kurla Complex (BKC). Construction of BKC is to be blamed for 2005 floods. This commercial area is built on what was once Mangrove Forest which always controls high tides and acted as drainage system to channelize flow of water to ocean.

An eye opening contrast is, in Mumbai till date more than half million flats are unsold and over a quarter million flats are unoccupied, but still construction is going on at a staggering pace. To hit Bull's Eye we need to say that these constructions are nothing but parking plots of black money of Developer – Politician Mafia. The best way to challenge above problems is to promote environmental sensitization. This battle to regain the required Mangrove cover can't be won without support of People, Political Groups, Environmentalist, Technocrats and Bureaucrats. Mumbai preserved Rajiv Gandhi National Park and it acts as respiratory system for the city, same importance or rather greater focus must be led down for Mangroves as they act as "Wall of Fortress" which will dilute any external challenge for city of Mumbai.

**Smruti Jain**  
MSUB

# PLANNING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND TOURISM IN HOKERSAR WETLAND, SRINAGAR

The valley of Kashmir is rich for natural heritage of magnificent lakes and vivid/picturesque wetlands. Most of these wetlands and lakes are important for habitation of bird and wildlife. Hokersar, one of the important picturesque wetland in the valley of Kashmir is considered to be the heaven of migratory birds in Kashmir. This wetland provides habitat to numerous indigenous and alien species of flora and fauna. It also acts as one of the major flood absorption basin. It is a permanent eutrophic wetland and is spread over an area of about 13.7 km<sup>2</sup>. It is fed by permanent streams like Doodhganga, Sukhnag and intermittently by flood waters.



Source: (Kuchay and Sultan, 2014)

Although, Hokersar wetland has lot of potential in terms ecotourism development but due to excessive siltation and biotic interferences, this wetland has experienced serious dilemma in terms of habitat fragmentation and changes in land use and land cover patterns. As a result, peripheral areas of the wetland is being used exploited in ample ways viz., dumping ground, garbage piling, and vegetable gardens and for plantation. Agriculture in the vicinity of the wetland has resulted in heavy accumulation of chemical pesticides and fertilizers and thus rendering it unfit for its resident flora and fauna. Anthropogenic activities involving routine use of wetland water for irrigation, washing and bathing have resulted into elevation of heavy metal pollution within the wetland. Lack of planning, has rendered the environment of the Hokersar wetland to serious threat.

Keeping in view the present situation of Hokersar wetland, the study was on the basis two objectives for this research project which were achieved.

The first objective which was for environmental conservation has achieved by giving various planning proposals like no construction zone, buffer area with plantation, removal of illegal encroachments from the wetland, siltation control techniques and with some scientific techniques. Therefore, the main target of the objective was ecological restoration of wetland which have achieved by proposing some strategies related conservation as well as for the hydrology of the wetland. The proposals have been suggested for native species and removal of non-native species, which will also help in maintenance of healthy plant community. The second objective which was for the purpose of eco-tourism development for Hokersar wetland is also achieved by suggesting some proposals related to tourism infrastructure development like walking, cycle tracks, pathways, information centre and also their interrelationship with each other.

**Musaib Ahmad Wani**  
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# COP-23 AND INDIA TO ITS COMMITMENT

COP, Conference of parties, is an annual conference in which many member parties from all over the world take part. The main objective of the annual COP is to review the conventions implementation. The international political response to climate change began at Rio Earth summit in 1992 where the convention included the adoption of the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It entered into force in March, 1994 and now it has a universal membership of 195 parties. In the history of conference the first COP held in Berlin in 1995. Significant meetings since then are COP-3 where Kyoto protocol was adopted, COP-11 when the Montreal action plan was produced, COP-15 Copenhagen where an agreement to succeed Kyoto protocol was unfortunately not realised, COP-17 Durban where the Green energy fund was created. COP-21 was held in Paris. It has bound a legal and universal agreement on climate change with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C. COP-23, The Bonn Summit, is crucial to determine the continued success of the Paris agreement. The essential foundation of Paris summit was how to international climate action will be advanced.

The Emissions Gap report 2017, which is an annual audit of national mitigation efforts and the goals achieved by countries in their voluntary National Determined Contribution (NDCs), finds that pledges to reduce current emissions are only about one-third of what is needed to prevent temperature increase and there is still much ground to cover.

India stands on the edge of an Energy Revolution. In just past year, the country added 11.3 Gigawatts (GW) of renewal energy (RE) capacity making considerable progress towards its challenging target of 175 GW of RE by 2022. India's states Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are generating renewables to power growth. Cities like Indore are having ground-breaking effective waste management systems to deal with plastic which is more hazardous than we think. There recycled plastic is used in road construction and cement factories like that thousands of tonnes in emission and building better livelihood for those entrusted with keeping our cities clean. The Indian Railways, one of the biggest consumer of electricity in the country is planning a future based on renewal energy. Steel rolling mills are adopting technologies which are helping in increase energy efficiency. They are aiming to save emissions equal to 3 million cars each year. The savings in doing so is 1000 crores in single year. Khadi handloom sector has big achievements as many are replacing power looms with solar-run systems. These achievements can lead India to be a strong country on this platform. Still there is much to achieve, resolve and reduce. These achievements are remarkable at international level. At the ground reality it should be taken care of growing gas chambers in the country. There should be some strong reforms at national level also by which individuals should make to feel their responsibility towards environment.

**Reeta Meena**  
SVNIT, Surat

# DYNAMIC INCLUSION: A CRITIQUE OF CULTURAL PLANNING

Planning, design and culture cannot be seen as three very different entities in our lives. All together stem out of passion, involve human interaction without which they have no emotional value. All are influenced by such diverse ideas from the past and the future- history, science, social context, or even psychology which is why I probably have a liking towards the three equally. That being said, we have learnt that planning is a dynamic process which alters a city's evolution over time. But was there a different planning process every other time? Since time immemorial, there has been just one way to plan our cities; through various traditional plans such as master plans, local area plans, etc. These plans are but dull and formal instruments that basically outline the land earmarked for residential, commercial and so on. Such plans are made without taking into consideration, important dynamic aspects that change from city to city such as their cultures.

Various concepts have been introduced all over the world relating to cultural quarters or music cities or even night cities but they have all been flawed with one major aspect. These concepts are not in line with other discussions, often held outside of planning circles, about the types of cities we want to live in.

These concepts are placed into the pre-determined plans which in turn increase the number of issues. Take music, for example, even though it's important, this sector is inserted into the discussion too late resulting in issues that planning cannot fix which leads to licensing, regulation and restriction. If music was integrated more ingeniously into the local plan making, this could change. The same goes for night cities too. Night time economy, if managed carefully and considerably, can coexist with residential space and prosper with commercial life, libraries, gyms, cafes and restaurants.

The plans that are being made at present should definitely focus more on housing and other civic services, but it should also consider the facts that make an area more liveable and more attractive to the present generation. Planners should try and envision the change, not just in terms of economy, but also in terms of culture.

All the plans that have been made up until now have traditionally included sectors such as infrastructure, transportation and environment. It's time for us to think long and hard about the cities we wish to live in by 2035 for it's time to change the way we plan by including the dynamic aspects such as the city's culture like music, art, museums and the night economy.

**Sai Siri**  
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Inakadate village in Minamitsugaru district of Japan is an example of a small village achieving self-sufficiency through community participation, rather than involvement of external agencies such as large private players for PPP projects. Through an innovative form of landscaping to create images with live crops, Inakadate village has successfully stimulated its economy by attracting tourists and has led to a significant increase in household incomes. Plagued with the issue of ageing population, incomes from agriculture were dwindling for the village residents. The only other source of income for them was a Neolithic-themed amusement park showcasing the historic roots of the village in relation to rice cultivation, it being one of the oldest paddy growing regions in north Japan.

Since the village traditionally cultivated numerous varieties of paddy, each with naturally different coloured blades, a few villagers suggested cultivating them creatively to form images and words. What started as a small experiment with simple designs, grew into creation of more and more complex and larger designs, such as Mona Lisa, with the increase in experience of the villagers. 2003 onwards, with growing popularity, tourists started coming in, and donating for this innovative project. Thereafter, the villagers felt the need to plan better and began using modern digital techniques to create and visualise designs to be made, with help from the village teacher. However, the final creation of these complex designs was done only manually by planting and reaping local varieties of rice.

Post 2009, they began charging an entrance fee and in 2013, the village earned 39 million Yen (about 2.26 crore rupees) only from entry fee, out of which about 5 million was spent on design, cultivation, security and other arrangements. With the revenues generated, eventually they have also built a railway station, thereby improving accessibility and attracting more tourists.

There are many lessons that one can gain from this successful example, the most important one being that driving and encouraging local level development and self-sufficiency through community participation goes a long way improving economies, increasing incomes and eventually having a better quality of life.

Currently there is immense interest in the development of Smart cities, however smart villages are equally important. In the Indian context, villages are the heart of the nation and hence for development to percolate through to the grassroot level, focus must be devoted to the progress of

## AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO CREATING SELF-SUFFICIENT VILLAGES: LEARNING FROM JAPAN

villages, and community participation is a sure shot way of ensuring their overall development of the villages. PRIs should be strengthened and agro-tourism can be seen as a way to revive rural economies, as well as other initiatives such as the milk federation cooperative model. What is required alongside is strategic marketing and ventures into new revenue opportunities from allied activities such as food processing.

There have been initiatives in India as well, in promoting agro tourism through community participation to boost village economies, such as the 'Agri Tourism Development Corporation' that operates in Maharashtra, creating frameworks for tourists to stay in villages to get an essence of rural lifestyles and experience it first-hand, in turn, supplementing incomes of the village locals. Such mechanisms should be adopted across India and policies and economic and environment frameworks need to be created to incentivise innovation, with non- intrusive technology interventions.

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## KUTHAMPULLY: AN INSIGHT INTO THE WEAVERS VILLAGE

Third November 2017, six of us started our journey from Rampavarmapuram to Kuthampally a small village that borders Thrissur district in Kerala. Our Semester project was to conduct a socio economic survey on the economically weaker section of the society. Thiruvallamala-as the name suggests a hilly village in the northern terrain of Thrissur district, our bus halted there and from there we had to catch our next bus to Kuthampully – the weaver's village. Elated, the bus had its passage through a series of shops, "handloom" the name read on the boards. The bus had its final stop near the Nila (Bharathapuzha River) nearing to a temple dedicated to Soudeshwari. All of us headed straight to the tea stall just opposite to the bus stop. We had a discussion with the local people enjoying their chats while having a sip from the cup of tea, a few of them had their own versions about the evolution of the settlement which stated that the settlement might have evolved around the temple. It was the rhythmic and pulsing beat of the looms that welcomed us in. Devanga, as the community is called are migrants mostly from Karnataka, they have tales with Kuthampully which are about four generations old. The process begins from the spinning stage at Kuthampully, the yarn is either obtained from Surat in Gujarat or from Tamil nadu. Kuthampully, the land which weaves out the most

beautiful fabrics and has marked its name in the handloom has a history that date back to about 500 years ago. 'Devanga', as the community is called are migrants mostly from Karnataka, they have tales with Kuthampully which are about four generations old. According to legends the devanga brahmins created by Shiva to weave cloth to cover the limbs and bodies of devas and men.

The process begins from the spinning stage at Kuthampully ,the yarn is either obtained from Surat in Gujarat or from Tamil Nadu. Women in the household also help in the production process along with the male members. Houses were similar in layout and have almost the same spatial character with a common area for weaving, a store area along with a Pooja room, a kitchen area and a detached bathroom in most of the houses. Most of the houses depended on common wells despite the water supply provided by the water authority for more than half a day for drinking purposes. The houses were semi pucca with tiled roof and mud wall, with floors laid out in red oxide. A majority of the weavers who are currently active fall under the age group 31-56. The average monthly income of the weavers ranges between 3000-6000 INR. According to most of the respondents, Kuthampully earlier boasted of having 3000 looms but this number has decreased to about 300 in the present times many of which were installed by the cooperative society. The weavers work from morning to evening and approximately work for 10-12 hours a day. The main challenges faced by these weaver's include the less payment despite the time and effort they spent in the weaving process, and also they were gaining less profit despite their struggles. The massive production with the help of power looms has also disturbed the marketing of handlooms, however the demand for customised unique pieces are still showering a light upon the handloom industries. The only need which was felt for the hour was a proper waste dumping program. Although some spaces were provided, the distance of travel also proves to be a hectic problem, so even the initiatives remain of no use to no one.

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## PLANNING INITIATIVES FOR MITIGATING URBAN HEAT

Since the advent of industrial age, it has become evident that human activities are adversely impacting environmental Ecosystems and resulting in climate change. Recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history and each of the last three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any preceding decade since 1850. In South East Asian region, it is observed that temperature has been increasing at a rate of 0.14°C to 0.20°C per decade since the 1960s, coupled with a rising number of hot days and warm nights. In India, annual mean temperature showed warming trend of 0.51oC per 100 year, during the period 1901–2007, while the recent trend for period 1971–2007, showed a mean temperature rise of 0.2oC with a much steeper increase in minimum temperature than maximum temperature. In addition to the global climate trends, the temperatures that are observed due to anthropogenic activities in urban areas are found to be higher than to its rural surroundings. This phenomenon is called as Urban Heat Islanding (UHI). This UHI effect, which is the relative warmth of a city compared with surrounding rural areas, may also be affected by changes in water runoff, pollution and aerosols. Urban heat island effects are often very localized and depend on local climate factors such as windiness and cloudiness (which in turn depend on season), and on proximity to the water bodies. The effect of this phenomenon in addition to the climate change have caused temperature rise in the pockets of city, which is causing pressure on the urban infrastructure. The purpose of this thesis, is to study and identify such areas in the city and propose strategies to mitigate such effects using the Geographic Information Systems(GIS) based tools. For the case of the study, the city of Bhopal is taken and the landsat-8 satellite data is taken for 30 May 2016.

**Panchagnula Krishna Dutt**  
Alumnus, MANIT, Bhopal

## PLANNING TO AVOID HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT AT URBAN PERIPHERY

With exorbitant growth in the human population through the 20th century, the habitats shared by wildlife are continuously shrinking and becoming isolated. Humans and wildlife have shared the same landscape since historical times and often live in close proximity, as the wildlife habitats are located both inside as well as outside protected areas. The increasing competition for the available resources results in a number of confrontations around the world between humans and wild animals – a phenomenon termed as 'Human Wildlife Conflict'. Over the recent decades, human-wildlife conflicts have become more frequent and severe due to fast paced infrastructure development, extension of transportation networks and expansion of agricultural and industrial activities, leading to increased human ingress on the land that was previously wild and uninhabited. Over the past 15 years, the city of Bhopal has grown at a rapid pace increasing deeper into the forested areas and destroying wildlife habitats. Bhopal is surrounded by a garland of forested areas. Despite the fragmentation of forests at various places, the tigers and leopards still trail through these areas taking advantage of natural drains and riparian vegetation along the rivers. However, due to unsuitable habitat, the population of herbivores has decreased; leading to dangerous situation which forces the large predators to resort to preying on cattle at the urban periphery. Thus, in order to ensure the safety of domestic animals as well as to prevent any human injuries and fatalities, this issue holds utmost importance and should be well catered through planning interventions. The fundamental purpose of this thesis is to identify potential ways to prevent creation of conflict zones in Bhopal facilitating the coexistence of humans and wildlife, instead of perceiving animals as a threat. The study has enabled us to establish the causes and extent to which the urban growth has influenced human-wildlife conflict at the periphery. The current mitigation strategies have been analysed for their low ranging benefits and the long term planning strategies have been brought to focus, which can prevent conflict creation & work towards conflict resolution.

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## FINANCIAL LEVERAGING STRATEGIES FOR URBAN TRANSPORT

Archimedes famously said: "Give me a lever long enough and a place to stand, and I can move the Earth." To lift a heavy object, there is a choice: whether to use leverage or not. A task can be performed, say to plan & implement a metropolitan scale urban public transportation system, directly – risking injury or better, say incompleteness or loss – or one can use a lever, say a financial leveraging aid like borrowed capital or any other debt, or by utilizing innovative leveraging strategies like land value capture or by implementing the PPP Built-Operate-Transfer strategy, to transfer some of the weight, and then lift the object that way. Using leverage is simply the art and science of getting much more done with the same, or less effort. Leverage is a process that involves borrowing resources that are paired with existing assets and utilized to bring about a desired outcome to a project. Leverage normally designates a strategy simply for arranging better finances & resources for investment, in which the borrowed capital, or any other debt, is invested with the expectation of hopefully yielding a higher return to equity. Even if the direct return only equals the interest charged on the loan borrowed for investment in a particular scheme or a project, an implementation firm still stands to benefit since the investments acquired will produce return over and over again further on down the road, as present in case of many transportation projects running under the PPP Build-Operate-Transfer scheme. Additionally, leverage can provide a direct line of funds if a good business opportunity arises in a time when the firm has no funds of its own available to invest. It often happens that the government faces some critical issues related to the funding or financing of large scale urban transportation projects, as this process is very cumbersome due to the expensiveness of the capital investments on the transportation infrastructure & the recurrent expenditure occurring on the maintenance & up keeping of the project. Thus, apart from a heavy initial investment, it also requires continuous stream of financial resources till the returns

from the project start to repay the original incurred cost. These issues can be effectively tackled by applying appropriate financial leveraging strategies according to the nature, type & potential outcome (both good as well as worst case) of the transport project/scheme. Some available leveraging strategies of finance are parking fees, land value capture, land tax, public private partnership and advertising at city/local level; fuel taxation & vehicle taxation etc. But, like the opposite side of a coin, there are common risks involved as well as here, leveraged investing can magnify both losses and gains, i.e., the gain or loss experienced will be magnified relative to the performance of the investment done on a project. Also, the degree of financial leverage required to achieve the desired outcome will vary, based on several factors like maintaining a favourable leverage ratio between available assets & resources in hand & the amount of acquired debt, the degree of financial leverage inherent in the proposed deal etc. The focus of any type of leveraging is usually to better the financial position of an entity or agency responsible for the execution of a project in some way. Often, the approach is employed when there is a very good chance at success and that success can be significantly increased in terms of a return by augmenting existing resources with others that are borrowed for the short term, like in the cases of a large scale urban transport project. As with any type of growth strategy, it is a good idea to investigate the potential outcomes of any financial leveraging strategy before engaging the strategy. This means looking at worst case scenarios as well as what gains could be achieved under the best of circumstances.

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## MARKET ORIENTED PLANNING: A CASE STUDY OF BHOPAL

Markets are thousands of years old. Their traditions anchor us in the past, and yet they remain as relevant as ever to contemporary city life. They are indispensable parts of the city contributing in developing overall development of the city's vision. Market and commercial spaces are the backbone for the city and the lifeline of its economy. Over time, the definition of markets has changed. They have grown from merely a place of transaction of goods in the ancient times to a source of entertainment, tourism and cultural importance in the city, apart from its economic and commercial importance in the present day. The primary objective of the markets from planning point of view is to study the market as a unit of space and various kinds of activities associated with the various kinds of goods required by the consumers. (Shinde) Planning needs to incorporate the evolutionary and dynamic aspects of communities to be successful and keep in mind these aspects beforehand and project the further direction of growth of the city. Apart from local markets, a city also sustains informal markets that can be seen everywhere and anywhere. These markets play a huge role as it creates rural – urban linkages and also helps economically weaker sections to flourish in the society and helps urban planner to plan the city accordingly to prevent encroachment and deterioration of the city through illegal activities. In the case of Bhopal city, the importance and strategic location of the market from the central core area has been transformed. Once a city where everything was concentrated in the Chowk Bazar area, to the development of malls and multiplexes the city has evolved through the ages, also changing the scope and limits of urban planning in the city. The development of new township in B.H.E.L. and Bairagarh gave rise to neighbourhood markets and the concept of 'live near the work place', which helped in reducing the traffic congestion in the city. The coming up of New Market in T.T. Nagar also lead to

increase in land value of the residential colonies in Malviya Nagar and other adjacent areas. Further new commercial markets came up such as M.P. Nagar, 10. No. Market, Bittan Market etc. to cater to the needs of the residential colonies. Traditional Markets have been greatly influenced with the coming up of new and modern markets. These markets need to be treated as a municipal infrastructure so as to manage it on a regular basis and make them sustainable such that they can withstand modern markets, accomplished with services and facilities. If such developments are allowed and no attempt is made to revitalize traditional markets, then cities in India, Indonesia and others, will lose their cultural uniqueness. The old City market in Bhopal city is facing many problems due to increase in population density and inadequate infrastructure to meet the needs. To revitalize traditional markets, it is necessary to recognize the culture that is the basis of the market formation so that the uniqueness of traditional markets can be maintained and give the identity of cities. (Widiastuti, Paturusi, & Dwijendra, 2017) Various planning theories have been given by eminent personalities that directly or indirectly focus on the markets as CBD around which the entire city is planned and activities take place through transportation routes. In Von Thunen's "Isolated State" model, production and sales to a metropolitan market are investigated as functions of distance. Wilhelm Launhardt's location theory is grounded on market areas as sets of exclusive sales in a territory surrounding a firm or localized industry (Launhardt 1886). Christallers' Central Place Theory of market location (K=3 Principle) can be very well applied, to an extent in context of today's cities as well.

**Shruti Jain**  
*MANIT, Bhopal*

## ROLE OF MEDIA IN POLICYMAKING PROCESS

The procedure of policymaking is a political procedure which is influenced by various social and financial elements and the media assumes a characteristic part in forming the social setting in which policies are produced. Through media, natives figure out how government policies will influence them, and governments pick up criticism on their approaches and projects. The media goes about as the essential medium between the individuals who need to approach policymakers controlling the extent of political talk and managing the stream of data. Policymaking takes after a methodical grouping where issues are recognized, arrangements contrived, approaches received, actualized and finally, assessed. In all actuality, the arrangement procedure is more liquid, where policies are shaped through the battle of thoughts of different promotion unions. The policies, on which the media centres can, and frequently does, assume an imperative part in deciding the central issues for policymakers. Look at administrative undertakings, one of the essential parts of the media in a liberal majority rule government: that is to go about as the 'Forward Estate' of government to guarantee that the legislature can be considered responsible by general society. Be that as it may, the deliberate deregulation of media frameworks worldwide is reducing the capacity of natives to definitively partake in policymaking

**Rishabh Kori**  
*MANIT Bhopal*

process administering the media. The following unwinding of possession principles and control, has brought about a move far from decent variety of generation to a circumstance where media proprietorship is getting to be plainly expanding concentrated by only a couple of prevalently western worldwide combinations. Media is the dynamic member during the time spent policymaking and their capacity to invigorate change or keep up the present state of affairs relies upon their decision of subject or arrangement issue and how they outline it. The media may likewise impact strategy results through their capacity to prohibit certain approach alternatives from the media, which defines the limits for honest to goodness open level headed discussion. Such examinations have driven a few scientists to set that the media impacts all approach forms, while others recommend it assumes an unimportant part in arrangement making forms; a more probable situation is that its level of impact fluctuates significantly, being issue situated in nature. With time, we need to change our policies in like manner. Changes are dependably the most hard to acknowledge. It requests strength, conviction and ability. We have to get average citizens, the genuine partners of any state into standard of national basic leadership. The concentration of administration is to move from 'a couple' onto 'all'. For that, our arrangement detailing ought to experience a change in outlook. We have to develop 'comprehensive' as opposed to 'select' model of administration. We would be wise to initiate transformative change instead of the one directed by brutality. The test is gigantic, so ought to be our responsibility to take steps to conquer it.

# INTERVIEW OF ALUMNUS HARISANKER M.

*First Grade Overseer, Thrissur  
Cooperation, Government of Kerala*



**What unique role do you play (as a planner) in your organization? What are the projects that you are involved in?**

Presently I am involved briefly in Public works and projects of Thrissur cooperation. I have also been involved in giving building permits (as per KMBR 1999) and sanctioned Master plans and DTP schemes. I have assisted with the AMRUT wing of Thrissur cooperation with the project planning. In all these activities we have to be within the framework of government's policies, rules and regulations.

**What skills obtained in your college have helped you advance in your professional career?**

To certain extend AutoCAD and ArcGIS have helped me in my works. The habit of self study has also helped me a lot in studying about new projects and techniques which I acquired from college life.

**Do you think GIS is mandatory for a planner? If so, why? Is it a must in the institution you are working in?**

GIS is not mandatory for a planner, it simplifies his/her work and makes the decision making process less tedious and more effective. It helps to analyze multiple parameters in a single image. Otherwise the paper works will be very tedious.

**What is the actual scenario for young planners in India when talking about job opportunities and to be briefer in Kerala?**

We need more of planning firms where the fresh urban planners can practice thereby providing a launch pad for his/her works as an urban planner. Unlike the North Indian cites, we need more of planned cities in Kerala. They can also play a major role in urban transport and non motorized transport planning thereby making our cities less congested and providing a better framework of urban environment.

**What additional efforts can be given by planning schools to make students suited for the private sector?**

Holding periodic workshops and talks with eminent experienced personalities in the

planning field, site visits to planned cities and other planning areas and discussions with those involved in the project shall improve the practical knowledge of the student from college times. Involving students in live projects taken as consultancy work by colleges would help a lot.

**What are the chances for a young planner to fit into the private sector?**

He/she can very well fit into the private and public sector if he/she has gained experience in the field after a year or two and being empowered with the adequate tools and techniques. The young planner must be updated every time and must be willing to study about new things all through his/her life as a planner.

**Do you think inclusivity in the planning course that is incorporating admissions from various fields, help in the job atmosphere? If so why?**

Yes, planning is not a monopoly of civil engineers and architects. It is a team work. it is an interdisciplinary process involving sociology, economics and much more. So it is necessary that experts from all fields are nurtured as an urban planner. This inclusivity will help a lot in making better decisions making process.

**What is your advice to the student planners?**

1. Always be a student who is willing to study new things every day. Be aware of the environment around you, the government policies, the changing scenarios of cites, the new developments etc. read newspapers daily and keep yourself updated every time.
2. Be aware of new tools and techniques and compare it with your local context and its application.
3. Always include the common people and try to acquire their ideas and aspirations and translate it to the language of an urban planner.
4. Look at the issues around you and try to find solutions by studying various successful case studies and brainstorm and discussing with your friends will help in better planning atmosphere.

Interviewed By: **Milan Susan Elias**  
*Government Engineering College, Thrissur, Kerala*

A	S	M	C	R	N	T	N	C	K	G	X	Z	T	K	G	D	I	T	G	K	A
X	U	G	H	B	O	R	E	I	E	L	C	H	U	T	O	M	K	V	K	M	R
D	S	N	O	L	H	A	Y	T	C	Z	W	K	E	L	B	H	O	S	D	O	P
P	T	A	X	N	A	N	H	Y	H	Q	V	K	T	V	E	X	D	V	W	L	O
U	A	I	D	P	O	S	E	B	A	L	O	J	A	N	E	J	A	C	O	B	S
B	I	T	W	C	H	P	C	E	R	Z	L	O	F	R	E	E	W	A	Y	S	I
L	N	R	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	P	L	A	N	N	I	N	G	X	B	H	T
I	A	S	X	A	L	R	X	U	E	X	Q	D	Q	X	G	A	L	Q	D	A	I
C	B	D	V	U	H	T	V	T	S	L	W	D	S	H	A	M	B	H	A	V	V
S	L	Y	L	O	C	A	L	I	C	X	L	E	T	Y	T	D	M	X	O	M	I
X	E	I	B	A	K	T	Z	F	O	K	E	R	A	L	A	N	I	R	U	D	S
A	N	A	L	Y	S	I	S	U	O	Z	V	H	X	O	Q	M	X	W	H	E	T
X	O	S	D	I	X	O	Z	L	L	Z	S	D	N	A	R	A	E	R	C	T	A
C	H	R	Z	K	R	N	H	C	E	M	R	I	N	N	E	W	D	E	L	H	I
A	M	A	N	S	A	R	A	S	Y	B	U	I	T	Z	C	V	N	M	J	U	A

### Clues:

1. The last hierarchy of urban roads. (5)
2. The representative of social inclusion in post-World War I America. A Perry arch-rival. A cause of gentrification. (10)
3. Expressways in America. (8)
4. A planning theory embedded in every other planning theory. (16)
5. S\_P (8)
6. The state of India with greatest proportion of literate women. (6)
7. Number of settlement patterns in the Mansara Treatise. (5)
8. The movement which countered the Industrial Revolution with regard to the built spaces in a city. (13)
9. Current Chief Planner of Town and Country Planning Organisation. (9)
10. Primary groups theorist. (13)
11. Chapter 12 of the Master Plan for Delhi 2021. (14)
12. Pluralism celebrates the concept of \_\_\_\_\_. (7)
13. \_\_\_\_\_ cities are built on concepts and ideas ranging from deep green to light green. (11) 14.
- What kind of critical realist does not recognize that all observation is fallible and has error and that all theory is revisable? (10)
15. Ancient forms of Indian town planning according to the Silpasastra texts are contained in this very treatise. (7)
16. Which land use prophesizes the idea of walkable distances. (5)
17. The best planned city in India, based on popular belief of practitioners and professionals worldwide. (8)

H	D	P	R	I	N	V	V	V	B	S	V	V	V	S	N	V	W	V						
I	H	T	E	D	M	E	N	N	I	R	M	E	C	H	N	K	Z	R	H	C				
V	T	O	R	E	V	V	N	D	S	Z	T	Z	O	X	I	D	S	O	X					
T	E	T	M	X	W	O	X	H	A	Z	O	N	S	I	S	A	T	V	N	V				
S	D	V	I	N	V	T	V	A	K	E	O	F	Z	Z	K	A	B	I	E	X				
I	W	N	X	W	D	T	A	L	E	T	X	C	I	T	V	O	T	A	T	S				
A	A	I	H	B	W	H	S	D	M	T	S	T	A	T	H	N	A	D	B	C				
I	V	R	O	T	V	G	X	O	D	O	X	E	U	E	X	R	T	V	X	S	V	I		
T	H	W	X	G	N	I	N	N	V	L	P	L	V	N	O	I	T	R	A	N	T			
I	S	A	Y	M	E	R	F	O	T	Z	R	Z	E	R	C	F	H	C	M	I	B			
S	B	O	C	J	V	A	N	V	J	O	L	A	B	B	S	E	O	P	D	I	U			
O	T	M	A	V	D	X	L	V	L	K	L	A	H	A	H	N	X	A	T	P	T			
P	O	D	S	O	H	B	T	K	E	L	C	A	V	H	T	O	N	S	D	S	D			
R	K	K	W	O	T	H	C	T	E	I	R	O	B	H	G	R	E	U	X	M	R			
V	I	K	A	V	A	V	H	B	M	V	H	S	G	K	G	N	T	N	C	R	N	M	S	V

Puzzle Designed by Anirudh Ray, SPA Delhi

# CADENCE

# Tiny Wings

There she stood,  
Paralyzed with fear,  
Anxiety fluttered inside,  
Like butterflies in closed jars,  
Battering their wings,  
Trying to get outside.

Her eyes dry of tears,  
she accepted her fate,  
Screaming is useless she understood,  
They all are blind for god's sake.

She tried to put up a fight,  
But one against six, she lost her might.

You are a toy, a woman, they roared without any shame,  
She did not hide her face,  
And I am what you can never even imagine to be,  
she said with dignity and grace.

They tore her apart for their own joy,  
Her soul lay there vacant and fragile,  
"One day..." she took her last breath,  
Smiling as bright as the sun  
as fresh as an orange,  
not for anyone but for herself.

They beat her badly, told her scars;  
And as it always ends,  
Thirst for iniquity,  
Those descendants of Satan,  
slashed her tiny wings, ruthlessly.

Zeel Patel  
Nirma University

# The Song of History

An ornate wooden masterpiece  
Of black and silver  
With strings of gold  
Faint as a sliver  
The guitar of history sleeps in a shady corner

Each string balances a city  
Opulent and complete in its existence.  
With people who consider themselves God,  
But are just history's tiny piece

History comes and plucks  
Once in many days,  
At one of the golden strings.  
A cacophony of notes wrings through the airs.

The string vibrates violently,  
And the city starts to tumble,  
But magically through resilience  
Retains its previous grandeur.

There will once come a time  
When the string will snap,  
And thus creating the notes of history  
The city will collapse.

Arushi Verma  
School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

# A Weeping City

A hundred dark shadows loom above her unkept and amorphous head,  
Her throat choked up by the toxic fumes that are now so extensively spread.

Congested spaces and vanishing greens scar her wrenching heart and aching soul  
for the trophies of golden sunlight and morning tranquil now seem like a faded memory as a whole.

She valiantly endures to feed the over-spilling and restive populace,  
providing the spark to their lofty dreams, passively swallowing all the unwarranted rage.

Each day transcending into yet another colorless void, she is hopelessly strained  
Losing that distinct charm and character that was once so proudly valued and maintained.

She is, what millions call home  
The thread that unifies all glories and the platform that widens all scope  
A city that under the blanket of our oblivion, quietly continues to suffer  
Waiting for a miracle to impede upon the roads we have chosen, that would otherwise only get rougher.

Anushree Banerjee  
School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

# The Cry of a Slum Dweller

Nestled within the bounds of the drain that flows nearby  
Aspiring to be looked up to  
Drawing unpleasant looks of every passer-by  
A piteous yet sweet little slum lies.

Here kinship is beyond bonds of the blood  
Religious intolerance not in our ways  
Any violators of this notion are forever disbud  
Lazily creeping through the hours of the day  
The grownups fritter away afternoons with their hearsays  
And urchins with grins from ear to ear, relish as they recklessly play.

The marble floors of your mansions would never gleam  
And your clothes would never sparkle  
Had our mothers sat back at home to repose  
They say, "Your slum will get notified  
The best which we can assure."  
Leaving behind all aspirations and hopes to succumb for sure

As lonely as the Arctic Sea, your towns would have looked  
Devoid of our exuberant slums that since long have stood  
But alas! All my posits will go in vain  
Voices would never be heard  
Left as are we, confined within the bounds of this very drain.

Mrinal Shrivastava  
School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

# The City Faded

To be there again,  
 But to be there...  
 The only thing alive,  
 As nostalgia creeps into me.  
 The concrete benches in the station,  
 Made slippery after constant use  
 The dais sinking down as time takes its form..  
 What awaits?  
 It takes what it takes, creepily yet rigidly.  
 What do you and I have?  
 But to give way to its form.  
 The waterways rusted to its core  
 Gigantic walls rising to its soar  
 Roots penetrating through the wall  
 The soul still awaits the call.  
 The courtyard made dark and damp.  
 How long can one stand?  
 But alas!!  
 None to stay or to say...  
 The city takes its form.

Sullenly looking at the faces known  
 Gradually all becoming forlorn  
 Embracing the nestles and briars  
 Hearing the long lost criers  
 Retaining all the gust and hue.  
 Let's stand together to retain them,  
 As they are very few.

Bushra Saba  
 SPA, Bhopal

# The Wave

Among the Greenfield's and the swaying trees,  
 Stood his home-  
 But then came the unwanted guest,  
 Making it blue, both above and on the land.  
 He saw expressions change,  
 Now perplexed and troubled  
 The waterway arose to demolish further  
 And then there he was under the sky,  
 No bed or bread.  
 The water did go,  
 But also swept away a lot more-  
 People, memories and his childhood.

In grief and in pain,  
 Brokenhearted he questioned-  
 "O Lord, is your mercy non-existent?"  
 The water around sparkled,  
 He saw the rising sun today,  
 A million rays of hope he identified.  
 Change shall come in waves to wash,  
 His grief; his new home will deny  
 The laws of buoyancy.

Sayani Mandal  
 SPA, Bhopal

# When Bhopal Stopped Breathing...

It was a fateful night  
 A night like no other,  
 Which makes all people  
 Even after all this time, shudder;  
 When the tired people lay down  
 And closed their eyes,  
 Little did they know  
 That ahead, death lies.

Their dreams turned to nightmare  
 Their breaths turned to pain,  
 They ran around spluttering and coughing  
 All of them crying out in vain;  
 When the morning came by  
 The streets were full of the dead,  
 Those all who slept planning the future  
 Never woke up instead.

The daughters buried their fathers  
 The mothers buried their infants,  
 Their cry for help and justice  
 Were dismissed as useless rants;  
 A deal was offered by the owner  
 And the government got involved,  
 A bargain was made and settlement  
 provided  
 The problem, for them, was solved.

32 years have passed since then  
 People are still suffering and dying,  
 And hordes of governments that  
 came after  
 Are still trading secrets and lying;  
 Poisoned water, we now, drink  
 Poisoned air we breathe in,  
 The life in Bhopal is up and about  
 But none can fill the crater that is  
 left within.

The tragedy that had befallen this city  
 Because of that damned factory, for what it was  
 worth,  
 Its was a crime against the whole humanity  
 And it was a crime against our own mother earth;  
 Now 32 years have gone by  
 The authorities haven't set anything right,  
 So all of us can still say that  
 The justice to Bhopal has been denied!

Shaiyya Singh  
 SPA, Bhopal

They said it was a gas leak  
 From the plant of Union Carbide,  
 As slowly the time went by  
 They lost count of how many had died;  
 The gas claimed 3,000 lives in a day  
 And 8,000 more in the following 2 week,  
 More than 5 lakh lives were ruined  
 Due to that deadly gas leak.

The owner left our country  
 Fled back to the sanctuary he was raised in,  
 He left people mourning in his wake  
 Those innocents who were paying for his  
 sin;  
 The money came from time to time  
 500 dollars were deemed fair,  
 Forgotten were those who went cripple and  
 blind  
 Unanswered went all their prayer.

The time has went on to heal  
 But the gas has its side-effects,  
 The younger generation is being born  
 With incurable birth defects;  
 Was it their mistake to be born here  
 In this city with a degraded past,  
 They can't walk, speak, see or hear  
 For the most, their first breath is their last.

# Resilience is Elasticity!

(Dedicated to Shyam Charan Mamidala, a lost friend)

I started to think about resilience,  
In the silence, alone in my room!  
I recalled the loss of a beautiful friend,  
In a road accident on bicycle.

Until few years back, everything was great!  
He was the best student, active and in fact handsome!  
We were together and we just thought we were making memories...  
It seemed as if we would last forever!  
But then, he disappeared from our lives!  
The death, which he bought at hundred rupees a pack for last few years!  
Cool or not? But he is right now there,  
Away from us,  
But still probably watching us,  
From a distant place amongst the brightest of the stars!

While living, we always insisted not to die!  
We always tried to live as if we are going to die tomorrow!  
But we never tried to live imagining,  
“What if I do not die tomorrow?”  
I never worried about it!  
And now, I am suffering for the day I lived yesterday thus!

And when I recently have gone through the pages of my diary!  
I understood that I knew it was going to happen!  
I wrote thus!

“I am a rock,  
Rigid and strong!  
Grew more strong around the clock,  
As the molten metals clog.

I stood alongside the ocean,  
And hit by the strongest waves.  
I smirked as I reflect them to return.  
But they weathered me to caves.”

But stubbornly, we are more rigid than elastic.

Adithya Bandari  
VNIT, Nagpur

# Resilience

Resilience?! What’s resilience?  
Why has there been much silence  
when it comes on to the topic of resilience?  
Let us yearn to discern the difference,  
and have our thoughts gel in concurrence.  
Resilience?! What’s resilience?  
It is the patience.  
The endurance;  
Not just persistence.  
But in fact, the tolerance  
and forbearance.  
That is what we call Resilience.  
Let us plan not just for Climate resilience  
or Disaster resilience;  
but for Community resilience  
and for building Urban resilience.  
Let us vow as an entity to ensure some resemblance,  
And not make resonating views a mere coincidence.  
Let our thoughts behold an equivalence,  
after all that’s what underlies our existence!

Sejal Mathur  
School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

## चलो हम विकास की ओर बढ़े!

क्या कहना इन मुश्किलों का, डटकर है खड़े

चलो हम विकास की ओर बढ़े .. !

गम है किस बात का अगर, दिल से पढ़े

चलो हम विकास की ओर बढ़े .. !

मंझिल तो बोहोत ऊँची, आसानीसे चढ़े

चलो हम विकास की ओर बढ़े .. !

गर्व को दूर रखकर, खुदगर्ज़ से लड़े

चलो हम विकास की ओर बढ़े .. !

रास्तों का क्या कहना, कितने भी हो टेढ़े-मेढ़े

चलो हम सफलता की ओर बढ़े .. !

Ninad Deshpande  
College of Engineering, Pune

## बेरोजगार मौसिमी

वो मौसिमी चल पड़ा,  
अपने तसव्वुर में झुमते।  
अपनी राह को राहों पे दूँढते,  
वो पैर चल पड़े हैं उन रास्तों पर ,  
जहाँ मंजिल का नकाब गुमशुदा है।

अपनों को छोड़,  
अपनी मिट्टी से पैरों को उठाकर,  
चल पड़ा है वो,  
आँखों में हजारों सपने लिए ।

अरमानों की प्यास को सहलाते,  
लो आ गया वो पानी का सैलाब,  
एक पल लगा जैसे प्यास खत्म हो गई।

मगर पानी की गहराई देख पता चला,  
ये तो समंदर है, जिसका कोई किनारा नहीं।  
उस समंदर में हर मछली किसी बड़ी मछली  
का शिकार है और जीवन के संघर्ष में मौसिमी बन तैर रहे हैं।

दिलों में बसे ख्वाबों के मोती  
एक एक कर उन हौसलों के धागों से टूट कर  
बीखर गए।

अरमानों का पीटारा वही आ पहुंचा जहाँ से मौसिमी के बेरोजगारी का सिलसिला शुरू हुआ था।

Diksha Jadhav  
College of Engineering, Pune

### दरिद्र दिल्ली में दृढ़ता

नजफगढ़ के नाले के साथ साथ चलता बच्चा  
कंधों पर बैग लटकाए, चेहरे पर मास्क बांधे  
चल रहा है, चपरासी से नज़र बचाकर  
आज स्कूल का मेन गेट लांघे

उसको लगा कि आज कुछ नया सीखूंगा  
गणित के, रासायनिक खाद से, मन को स्तब्ध करनेवाले, फार्मूलों से बचकर  
आने जाने वालों पर इतिहास के सन् या हिन्दी के अनुलोम विलोम चीखूंगा

किसी को राजा तो किसी को रंक कर स्थापित  
चल तो दिया वो, पर रुके कहाँ जाकर  
अब तो 'हकीकत नगर' का बाल न्यायालय भी आ गया  
जहां बिजली चुराने पर लाये जाते हैं टिल्लू और सागर

पर गलती न तो उन बेचारों की है  
न बेलों में उलझी नंगी तारों की है  
एक बड़ा-सा जाल है, तारों का नहीं, दुर्व्यवस्था का  
कोई एक पहलू नहीं है उसके मोहल्ले की इस अवस्था का  
कुएँ का मेंढक बाहर क्या फुदका, फन्ने खाँ हो गया  
शहर घूम कर यूँ लगा, अपना कच्चा घर अब मकाँ हो गया

शहर बुरा नहीं है - शायद सुंदर भी है, पर अभी कुछ दिख नहीं रहा  
कोहरा है आँखों के आगे, बिल्कुल ज़िन्दगी के जैसे - ऊपरवाला भी कुछ लिख नहीं रहा  
वो भी शायद सोच रहा है कि इतनी भसड़ मचा दी है  
मज़े-मज़े में ये दुनिया कुछ ज़्यादा ही रचा दी है

अपने चमत्कारों की चौड़ समझाने के लिए इंसान बनाया था  
बन गया था, या बनाया था, इस पर तो विवाद है ही  
लड़ाई तो यह भी है कि बनानेवाले के किस अवतार के राह को अपनाया था

माहौल कुछ यूँ है कि हरी सब्जियों और लाल टमाटरों को आपस में भिड़ाया जाए (तरबूज अभी भी  
सैकुलर है)

या चुपचाप से ज़िन्दगी जिया जाए, खाया, पिया, और उधार लिया जाए (भले ही दफ्तर में साहब  
रैगुलर हैं)

अब इस सब में पिसता तो वातावरण ही है, और खबरें सुनने वालों के दिमाग भी  
दीवाली पर पटाखे जलाए, लड़ियाँ जलाई, और अमूमन कुछ लोगों ने चिराग भी  
हाल यह है कि ग़ालिब ने भी 'माना कि दिल्ली में रहे, खावेंगे क्या', खैर तब बात जीवन स्तर की  
नहीं थी

पर अब तो सांस लेने के भी लाले हैं, दिक्कत केवल घर या दफ्तर की नहीं थी

वह जानता था कि काफी दूर निकल गया था, विचरते हुए, विचारों में  
ऑड-ईवन की बदौलत उसे दिखा कि आ गया था वह यमुना के किनारों पे  
गंगा को मैला होते सुना था, यहाँ तो यमुना भी रंग बदल रही है  
नजफगढ़ के नाले की गंदगी से यमुना की शीत लहरें शौचालय में ढल रही हैं  
नाले से तो दुर्गंध आती ही थी, अब नदी से भी आती है  
कुछ लोगों की यह अनदेखी न जाने कितनों को रोग देती जाती है

इन रोज़मर्रा की बुनियादी चीज़ों से ऊपर उठा जाए तो कैसे  
सपने खरीदने निकलो तो विमुद्रिकरित होने लगते हैं जैसे  
यह तो राजधानी है, यहां पर भी ऐसी कठिनाइयाँ हैं  
मुगलों के महलों को ढकतीं मेट्रो स्टेशनों की ऊंचाइयाँ हैं

यह शहर बहुतायत का गोरखधंधा है  
जीने से मतलब है, उसूलों से अंधा है  
प्राणधारण भी दूँभर है यहां, दृढ़ता से मुंह मोड़ कर  
कौन जाए 'ज़ौक' पर दिल्ली की गलियाँ छोड़ कर

Riya Gupta  
President Emeritus, NOSPlan  
School of Planning and Architecture  
New Delhi

# *The Affronted Glory*

I am a very old kingdom,  
A hamlet full of ruins;  
But I have numerous tales to tell,  
Of tragedy and defeat and of treacherous wins.

Back in my glorious days,  
I wore the crown of a princely state;  
I flourished in its glamour and splendor,  
The shadows of which can be seen till this date.

I was marked by the three grand palaces then,  
The title of Rani, Chaman and Goind they attain;  
Alas! Now they have lost their life and soul,  
Only fragments of their skeleton still remain.

I was born as Jagdishpur centuries ago,  
And served the realm of Dewaras for 200 years;  
Till came the Dost Mohd. Khan who murdered them all,  
Staining my prosperity with blood and tears.

Hence, I was renamed as Islamnagar,  
And turned into a fortified town;  
Standing at the bank of Halali River,  
I became proud home of kingdom's crown.

With a royal hamam and a Mughal garden,  
Chaman Mahal was the lord's court;  
Rani Mahal was where queens dwelled,  
And Gond Mahal was the oldest in the fort.

Now I am left abandoned and empty,  
For most of the part, I am ignored;

Some efforts have been made to re-establish my beauty,

But hose seem lazy and bored.

To what do I owe this insult?

This aura of negligence that pierces me like a dart;  
After all I hold centuries worth of memories,  
The splendid history of my nation in my heart.

- Shaivya Singh  
SPA Bhopal.

# THESES TOPICS

We all know, it's that time of the year when the thesis topics have to be finalized, and we're waking up a day before the deadline, clueless, searching desperately for an epiphany to strike us at the moment when you're just give up. But alas! This is a conundrum all planners know all too well, so we bring to you a list of some of the best topics from each college.

1. *Planning strategies for ageing population in Thiruvananthapuram city, Nithya J U, M Planning (Housing), College of Engineering Trivandrum*
2. *Assessment of the impact of Urban geometry on Outdoor thermal comfort – A case of Kochi city, Minna Daniel, M Planning (Housing), College of Engineering Trivandrum*
3. *Moving Towards Low Carbon City: Case Of Thiruvananthapuram, Vincy Vijayan, M Planning (Housing), College Of Engineering Trivandrum*
4. *Planning Interventions To Integrate Bicycle Facilities With The Existing Transportation Network Of Thrissur City, Harisankar M, Masters In Urban Planning, Government Engineering College, Thrissur, Kerala*
5. *Tactical Urbanism As A Tool For Spatial Planning - A Case Of Kozhikode City, Kerala, Nahlah Basheer, Masters in Urban Planning, Government Engineering College, Thrissur, Kerala*
6. *Revitalisation Of River Kallai Using Tourism As A Strategy, Reshma P.S, Masters in Urban Planning, Government Engineering College, Thrissur, Kerala*
7. *Mainstreaming Ecological Economics of Ecosystem Services in Planning Process, JYOTI GILL, MSUB*
8. *Inclusive Housing: Paving The Way For Resilient Cities, Khyati Gulati Tewari, MSUB*
9. *Cultural Identity and Spatial Transformation of Kumbakonam, Sowmya P.S, School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada*
10. *Multi-Hazard Vulnerability Assesment And Its Mitigation Strategies, Dhiman Das, Masters of Environmental Planning, SPA-Bhopal*
11. *Measuring Urban Form Sustainability and developing a conceptual framework: A case study of Thane, Jismi Varghese, BIT Mesra, Ranchi, Jharkhand*
12. *Environmental Capacity of Urban Roads, Naina Gupta, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi*
13. *Planning for Inclusive Mobility of Urban Poor-Kolkata, Suchismita Nayak, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi*

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BEAATEN  
PATRI

IT'S NOT THAT PLANNING IS NOT GOOD AS A PROFESSION AND SHOULD BE QUIT, I JUST HAPPEN TO CHANGE MY WAY CONSIDERING ALL THE AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES I HAD AND PUTTING MY BEST FOOT FORWARD! THE SHIFT SEEMS TO BE A QUICKER AND MORE EFFECTIVE WAY TO BRING ABOUT THE DESIRED CHANGE. THE PATH CHANGED BUT THE AIM WILL ALWAYS BE THE SAME!

*Having entered into Planning was highly unexpected and yet one of the most meaningful incidents that occurred. After getting selected at SPA Delhi for B.Planning, a course which was completely unknown, but the only information I had from ITPI's website about the course was good enough for me to take the "risk" involved. The course structure & curriculum was something I never imagined and something completely different from other traditional courses I knew at that time which made it a bit of fun. But during the 4 years of planning the "fun" element faded day by day and in the end it vanished. Fun changed into relatively deep understanding of Planning Education, who frames policies & "why", how our cities evolved, the daily issues & everlasting implications of even smallest of unnoticed & ignored actions, in short "how cities work". This was indeed a thought provoking journey as the temptation to explore about planning and cities grew each day and which was quite fascinating! But after 4 years I decided to "quit" the imaginary cities, bury the "utopian" vision and the views which I formed in planning. The reality was nowhere near to what I learnt, "academic exercises" lost their meaning when execution came into play. Planners were nowhere in the picture, planning was lost in the merciless battle of professions to outperform others. The stark difference between theory and practicality made me question my journey and mend my way. Listing down all the possible options I could and exploring the pros and cons for each, I was left with utter confusion and dilemma. Continuing with Planning was something I always wanted (and I still do) but didn't opt for.*

*I decided to quit planning as a "student". Though the decision was painful but one of the best decisions. I wanted something as complex & fascinating as planning and yet something completely different from it. The incredible flying machines were complex and fancy enough to keep*

*my interest and additionally the profession provided time to stick with my plans for "Planning" which I wanted to continue with. So I chose to become a commercial pilot.*

*Unluckily planning lacked the key elements which a person looks for in a profession, for me these were "freedom", "reputation" and "money". I won't deny the possibility and the fact people do enjoy all these three in planning profession, but to my knowledge the number will be just as little and insignificant as the "tiny grand total" of planning professionals working in the country. Aviation, on the other hand, provides with surplus aspect of time which I can devote to planning. Things in both the fields are remarkably same, fundamental problems plaguing planning remain very similar to that of aviation but the latter evolved as they have been systematically addressed.*

*Yet the endless possibilities, authority, responsibility and the change which can be brought about by planning remains unsatisfied in any other profession known to me. I still have numerous questions and doubts daily which can never be answered by any other profession. The flame that burnt for planning never extinguished.*

*My understanding and vision related to planning never fitted in the conventional definition and boundaries of planning, the expectations and thought process seldom matched with colleagues. After revisiting the 4 years, thinking about my expectations and the roadblocks which prevented me from pursuing planning made me change my path. I decided to do that with starting of a website about planning for the beginning (something which I earlier attempted and partially achieved while serving NOSPlan for 3 years). Experience and learnings from NOSPlan made the decision harder yet practical, it brought around the much needed change in perspective and insight to the larger picture. A website appeared to be an ideal way to start with as this allowed me to put in my 8 years of experience of working with websites to work along with the freedom and flexibility of working. "PlanningTank" as a website might be familiar to some of you but that remains my passion and connection with Planning. Each roadblock which I identified till now and the ones I continue to discover are attempted to be addressed through website. It helps me to contribute to the field and stay connected to planning. Apart from direct involvement in the field, indirect contribution and support are still crucial for a successful turnaround of the profession.*

Shubham Aggarwal  
President Emeritus, NOSPlan  
Alumnus, School of Planning and  
Architecture, New Delhi



Ayush Chaudhary,  
Pursuing MBA in Department of  
Management Studies, IIT Madras  
Alumnus, School of Planning and  
Architecture, Bhopal



*I decided to pursue Management in Department of Management Studies, IIT Madras after completion of my Bachelors of Planning from SPA Bhopal. I took this decision, since it was the only way I could keep my options wide and open, if I decided to do masters in planning then I would have to narrow it down to one specialization of planning, which I didn't want, and just having a bachelor's degree in planning is not enough for getting good jobs and career. Moreover, management is a field, which would not only keep my options wide and open, but also enhance my bachelor's degree. B.Plan syllabus revolves all around planning but does not touch upon the financial aspect of planning, which is one of the major reason of failures of plans, with management I can learn about the financial aspects.*

*Another reason for pursuing degree in management is that it would widen my job options too, which are not only restricted to planning but other domains also, and high paying too. I strongly believe planning jobs are one of the most underrated and underpaid jobs, the wages received are too less in comparison to amount of work done and importance of work done. Moreover, with management I would be able to look at the business or entrepreneur side too, which somewhere in future, I wish to do. Management would help me set it up and grow it in an efficient and sustainable manner. It would help me to know how organizations work be it in any aspect financially, or marketing side or with employees.*

*However, in the end I would at the same time urge others, to pursue and continue planning, if they are able to narrow down to a particular specialization of planning and are keenly interested in it. Yes, initially pay would be low, but with experience it grows at much faster rate compared to other professions.*

# 3 Reasons Why You Should Consider Not Doing A Master's Program Right After Undergraduate Studies

There has been an increasing trend to immediately go for Master's after completing the B. Planning programme in recent years. While on an individual level, the reasons and motivations may vary, collectively there is a driving perception that it is difficult to find a job with merely a Bachelor's degree. It would be worth affirming here that this perception isn't entirely misplaced; the market does have a positive predisposition towards candidates with a Master's degree as opposed to those not having it. However, by yielding to this perception, one does potentially deny themselves an experience that can have benefits for the long run, as well as, to an extent perhaps, do disservice to the entire philosophy behind the conception of the Bachelor's programme, howsoever imperfect its operationalisation may have been.

Given the current popularity of a certain form of narration, I am listing below 3 reasons below why one should not consider doing a Master's program immediately after undergraduate studies.

## 1. You lose your standing as a B. Planner:

The undergraduate program equips you with a uniquely broad perspective on issues that cannot be usually attained through a Master's degree, given the inherent focus on "specialisation". Indeed the undergraduate program was conceived with such intent. It is quite a loss on your part as

well as the industry and policy-making machinery of the country if you deny yourself the chance to apply that perspective to real issues concerning urban India.

## 2. You underutilize what a Master's program offers you:

One does not need to perhaps labour this point much, but it is still worth reaffirming here given its significance. When one directly progresses from a Bachelor's program to a Master's, she goes without the knowledge of areas and subjects that need substantiation or a greater grip on. The latter is an understanding that one definitively acquires by gaining work experience for few years post Bachelor's. Indeed, one can be at a disadvantage against others in a class where a civil engineer, an architect or an economist is able to draw on her work experience to absorb better that what is being taught. Lastly, a few years in the industry opens one's eyes to the wide range of options that lie for Master's, which are often not known at the time one is finishing the undergraduate program.

## 3. Survival against odds:

A dip into the industry immediately post Bachelor's is never easy, right from finding a job, to finding the right job, to making one's supervisor acquainted with the skill sets that a B. Planner can offer and competing with other professionals who can offer specialised perspectives and arguably perform tasks that require a greater degree of technical know-how. Surviving against these odds can offer a combination of experience and resilience at a very early stage that one does not get when she lands a comfortable job post Master's, one which then helps throughout the career during difficult times. And survive one does; often in time the versatility that a B. Planner offers can make her indispensable for the organization.

To borrow a quote from an author who massively shaped the imagination of the millennial generation, going for a Master's immediately post Bachelor's against taking an uncertain dip in the industry comes down to choosing between what is easy and what is right. The choice, of course, remains one's own.

**Gaurav Dubey**  
Alumnus School of Planning and Architecture New Delhi  
Gaurav Dubey manages the sustainable mobility programme at Centre for Science and Environment. He worked for over 3 years post Bachelor's before going on to attain a Master's degree.

I HAVE GOT THE CHANCE TO WORK WITH PRESTIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS LIKE BBC LONDON, MICROSOFT INDIA, RGMVP INDIA AND GAIN GENEVA, AND IT IS ONLY NOW THAT I CAN TRULY LAUGH AT MY COMPANY'S NAME - 'JOBLESS STUDIOS'.

At an early age of 11, I was admitted into a military school called Sainik School Nagrota, the literal opposite of the tranquillity of Ladakh, where I was born and brought up. I will not wax eloquent on the endless subject of a Sainik School upbringing for the sake of the reader but will permit myself to skim past it. As you can imagine, the Tibetan Buddhist culture of my homeland was met with its arch-nemesis. One had to fight the Darwinian battle in its most literal form to make it through this place. In the initial stages, kids who were admitted into the school would tend to segregate and join their own regional sub group. Ladakhis, Biharis, Kashmiris and the several other regional students would fight to find their place in the context of the most obvious difficulties that a defence ministry run boarding school would present.

Over time regions turned into batches and when the batches grew up, one could finally live like half a decent independent individual. But within a year or two every kid found his balance in this mayhem. Looking retrospectively, I realize that I found my balance by using my "creativity", for the lack of a less pompous sounding word, to survive for the first few years. I would write endless journals bearing my insights and reflections and later apply it in real life situations and pride myself at its successes. But the perpetual question always remained unanswered. Would I get a better outlet for this dormant energy rather than devise ways to tackle the hostile environment I was in?

After school I applied, cleared the exams and made it into School of Planning and Architecture, as randomly as random can get. Being a prime architecture school in India, SPA is the centre of regional diversity for all the people who represent that brow-beaten little group of non-engineering/medical aspirants. At S.P.A, even the most ridiculous idea would find an audience of at least ten people. There was a minority for everything. It is here

at S.P.A that the underlying dormant energy within me started becoming my identity. I put my foot through every door, namely music, drama, sports, and even the student council: everything but my academics. But all this while I didn't bank on a single area of expertise.

One of the running pastimes in my time at S.P.A was making funny videos. I can't imagine any other college where such activities could be considered as anything but a waste of time. But at S.P.A people would enjoy it thoroughly and even anticipate the next gag or have suggestions for the same. One of these videos caught the attention of a senior of mine named Sahil who was pursuing cinematography at Film and Television Institute of India. He let me assist him with the camera during a couple of projects. This was like the first semester of a film school for me, soon after which cinematography ceased to exist in the realm of the unknown and I knew I could do it. Our first movie was called 'Studio Love' with the working production house title as 'Jobless Studios'.

Soon after my apprenticeship I put in the hours to polish my skills online and the perpetual barrage of funny-films let me apply everything I learnt, like Studio Love.

I went through the normal routine of doing a job immediately after I passed out of college. But this time, a certain small video project came my way and inevitably the day time job and my ambitions clashed. I decided to leave the job after a year and pursue filmmaking no matter what the shape of the beast was. Luckily my batch-mate Nakul Jain had similar intentions. We started off by accepting a few commercial and corporate film projects until they opened doors for the really exciting ones such as Architect Ranjit John and Better than Cure.

Ever since then, as opposed to the fear of having a dearth of projects, we have had to deal with excess work. Our work started getting noticed online and at film festivals and in the process we didn't realize when and how our passion became our primary profession. The biggest honour for me was when I was called back to SPA by my professors to teach the current students of both planning and architecture. I keep wondering if it would be the same for me had I focused only on academics and not on what SPA Delhi really has to offer to an individual.

Smanla Dorje Nurboo  
Alumnus, School of Planning and  
Architecture, New Delhi

The first big battle in education is post the 12th board examinations i.e. entrance for various fields and colleges. To get admission in SPA I had to qualify AIEEE and the very next battle starts after getting into the course. Mostly students are unaware and under informed about town and country planning courses and career but an institution of National importance convinces them somehow to pursue a profession they themselves are not very clear about.

I started the course in the year 2008 and it was difficult to figure out the subjects but soon things were understandable. The syllabus has been molded and shaped several times as per the need of the hour.

मैं अकेला ही चला था  
जानिबे मंजिल मगर  
लोग साथ आते गए  
और कारवां बनता गया

So, we all hail from the same profession but sometimes an off-beat career or profession attracts us more or in other words there is some other work that we can do better. There are so many seniors from Architecture and Planning both who took these eccentric careers and they have been successful in doing so. These unconventional careers are difficult call for us as we have already invested four long years in a professional course and that too from a pioneer institution and it is certain that the majority of the students pass out as planners and get employed as ones. But, if we are looking for an off-beat career then we have to be courageous enough and to take a step forward and we must first start with a PLAN. That is where 'planning' comes up as a help for us. I too took a step out of the fraternity into an entirely new world and it has been a pleasant journey so far. Though I started my career as a research associate in Institute of Town Planners India but before that only I was certain about taking up an unconventional career. Art has been my favorite forte including visual art, communication art, fine art and writing.

I started working as an Illustration artist and simultaneously I gave time to study art. I worked as an illustration artist for a year and gained enough experience

Amaan Safavi  
Alumnus, School of Planning and Architecture,  
New Delhi

The first big battle in education is post the 12th board examinations i.e. entrance for various fields and colleges. To get admission in SPA I had to qualify AIEEE and the very next battle starts after getting into the course. Mostly students are unaware and under informed about town and country planning courses and career but an institution of National importance convinces them somehow to pursue a profession they themselves are not very clear about.

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Though we do not take the theory subjects more seriously as most of them go out of syllabus after a semester or two but the studio exercises are the best guide or medium to understand the process of studying and enhance our cooperative and analytical skills. Studios are not only for presenting work, there is always scope of improving which we learn by receiving criticism from our mentors on various projects. Methods of research, group exercises, graphics study, calculations, extrapolation, team work, software, technical writing etc. help us to develop creative and professional skills, interpersonal, communication and interactive skills. They reinforce your presentation skills and builds leadership qualities too.

So, we all hail from the same profession but sometimes an off-beat career or profession attracts us more or in other words there is some other work that we can do better. There are so many seniors from Architecture and Planning both who took these eccentric careers and they have been successful in doing so. These unconventional careers are difficult call for us as we have already invested four long years in a professional course and that too from a pioneer institution and it is certain that the majority of the students pass out as planners and get employed as ones. But, if we are looking for an off-beat career then we have to be courageous enough and to take a step forward and we must first start with a PLAN. That is where 'planning' comes up as a help for us. I too took a step out of the fraternity into an entirely new world and it has been a pleasant journey so far. Though I started my career as a research associate in Institute of Town Planners India but before that only I was certain about taking up an unconventional career. Art has been my favorite forte including visual art, communication art, fine art and writing.

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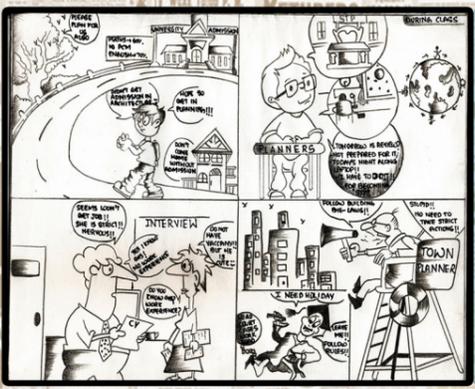
# Comic Strip



By Shambhavi, SPA Delhi



By Rukhsana Badar



By Rahul Jawa, JNDU



By Pakhi, SPA Bhopal



By Rukhsana Badar



By Shambhavi, SPA Delhi



MSUB



By Rukhsana Badar



Student life cartoon, GECT



By Shambhavi, SPA Delhi



By Rukhsana Badar



By Rukhsana Badar

Can You Guess these Cities from their Plans?



LOGO COMPETITION



XIX ANNUAL NOSPLAN CONVENTION



Amit Patjoshi & Dharna Dang SPA Bhopal



Rohit Khahdelwal



Dileep Kumar MANIT Bhopal



Dheeraj Babu COE Trivandam



Akshitha JNAFAU



Soosanna Jaxon GEC Thrissur



Chandrika Rai



Kunwar Sarthesht SPA Bhopal



Sathya Priya & Rohit



Prithvijith V.S Nair GEC Thrissur



Joshi seelam SPA Bhopal



Rishabh Kori MANIT Bhopal



Devanshu Saindane



Akshitha & Vishnu Shashank



Shahana Usman GEC Thrissur



Vishnu Shashank JNAFAU



Priya Assudani MANIT Bhopal



Pranjal Ashok Kawre & Damini

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"PlanningTank.com was started in India with the aim to increase awareness and improve quality of planning by means of education, networking & technology. Having realized the problems faced by planners, time and efforts wasted in trying to find the required information website provided adequate information which is neither too brief and nor too detailed. We wish to tap the rapid technological advancements and integrate them with Planning for much better and resilient settlements. We are now serving planners and allied professionals all over the world and not just India. Considering the diverse need of planning and trying to bring them under one roof we focus on academic & educational articles, quizzes, news, survey & questionnaire templates, college information and job updates! Our ultimate aim is to create happy, healthy and sustainable human settlements."



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