

COVER
STORY



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ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE



Collage By- Vatsala Sinha , School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal





Editor's Note

Dear Esteemed NOSPlan Community,

As we embark on another year of progressive urban discourse, it is my privilege to welcome you to the much-anticipated Annual Newsletter of 2023. This edition, a tapestry of insights and innovations, encapsulates the dynamic landscape of urban planning, featuring a diverse array of topics that underscore the complexities and opportunities within our field

- **Cover Story: "Impact/Contribution of G20/Y20 on Urban Planning and Development"** Our cover story unravels the profound influence of global forums - the G20 and Y20 - on the tapestry of urban planning and development. We dissect the policies, collaborations, and initiatives that have emanated from these platforms, shaping the very fabric of our cities. This exploration serves as a compass, guiding us towards a future where international cooperation is paramount in crafting sustainable urban environments.
- **Feature Topics:** I) How Careless Planning is Violating Nature and Leading to Disasters In a world grappling with the consequences of haphazard urbanization, our feature sheds light on the repercussions of careless planning. Through poignant examples and expert analyses, we navigate the delicate balance between progress and environmental preservation, emphasizing the need for conscientious urban development.

II) LiFE Movement (Lifestyle for Environment) In the wake of global environmental challenges, we delve into the LiFE Movement, dissecting how lifestyle choices intersect with urban planning. Our exploration transcends traditional boundaries, showcasing how individual decisions can collectively contribute to a sustainable and eco-friendly urban future.

- **NewsPlan Digest: Latest Happenings in the World of Planning** Stay abreast of the latest trends, breakthroughs, and challenges in urban planning with our NewsPlan Digest. From groundbreaking projects to policy shifts, this section serves as your go-to source for staying informed and inspired.
- **Open Editorial:** I) The Concept of Linear Cities as a Solution for Mitigating Urban Sprawl Explore a visionary concept that challenges conventional urban layouts. Linear Cities offer a paradigm shift, fostering sustainable and organized urban growth. This editorial prompts us to rethink urban design, envisioning a future where cities seamlessly integrate with nature.


II) AI and the Future of Cities: Exploring Emerging Trends and Applications Embark on a journey into the intersection of artificial intelligence and urban planning. Uncover the transformative potential of AI in optimizing city functions, enhancing efficiency, and crafting smart, resilient urban spaces.

III) Exploring Design Solutions to the Housing Crisis: Urban Design Network Conference 2023 Dive into the highlights of the Urban Design Network Conference 2023, where innovative design solutions to the housing crisis took center stage. Discover how creative minds are reshaping our urban landscapes to address the pressing need for accessible and affordable housing.

This edition is a testament to our collective commitment to envisioning and creating cities that are not just spaces but thriving, sustainable communities. I extend our gratitude to all the members of NOSPlan Publication Cell, the Associate Editors, and my Executive Council who have enriched this newsletter with their invaluable insights.

Happy Reading!

Ishika Dixit
Editor-in-Chief



Impact/Contribution of **G20/Y20/U20** on urban planning and development

“Urbanization is accelerating at an unprecedented pace today, with more than half of the world's population residing in cities. Recognizing the pivotal role of cities in global development, the G20, along with its youth-focused counterpart, the Y20, has been instrumental in shaping urban planning strategies that address the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century”.

The G20, U20 and Y20's Commitment to Sustainable Urbanization.

The Group of Twenty (G20), comprising the world's major economies, has been a driving force in shaping international economic policies. In recent years, the G20 has expanded its focus to address pressing global challenges, including those related to urbanization. As cities become hubs of innovation, economic activity, and cultural exchange, their sustainable development is crucial for the well-being of nations and the planet. The theme for G20 under India's presidency, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," emphasizes universal kinship and advocates for environmentally sustainable choices through the LiFE movement. Within the G20 framework, the Urban 20 (U20) has emerged as a platform that specifically addresses urban issues. The U20 brings together mayors and urban leaders to share insights, best practices, and recommendations for sustainable urban development. By focusing on key areas such as environmental responsibility, water security, climate finance, and digital innovation, the U20 contributes directly to shaping the future of cities. One of the notable impacts of U20 on urban planning is its focus on environmentally responsible behaviour. Cities, responsible for a significant share of global emissions, have been urged to adopt sustainable practices. In tandem with the U20, the Youth 20 (Y20) focuses on catalysing digital urban futures. Digital innovations are transforming the way cities function, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. The Y20 emphasizes the need for digital infrastructure, open data access, and responsible AI deployment. By addressing challenges such as digital literacy gaps and data quality issues, the Y20 contributes to creating inclusive and tech-savvy urban environments.

India's G20 Priorities and the New Delhi Declaration

India's priorities within the G20 framework are comprehensive. They include i) Green Development, Climate Finance and LiFE, ii) Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth, iii) Accelerating Progress on SDGs, iv) Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure, v) Multilateral Institutions for the 21st Century and vi) Women-led Development. India's first priority revolves around tackling climate change by aiming to lead discussions on a just transition to clean energy and advocate for environmentally conscious practices through the LiFE initiative, especially for developing countries. In parallel, India is aspiring for an accelerated, inclusive, and resilient growth, focusing on integrating Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) into the global trade ecosystem. Doing so, will stimulate economic development while ensuring that the benefits are distributed inclusively. India's G20 presidency coincided with the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aimed to reaffirm the commitment of G20 to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals especially after the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The human centric approach to technology within the G20 emphasizes the need for technology to serve humanity's well-being rather than merely be an end in itself. India's priority also included advocating for a reformed multilateral system in order to enhance the effectiveness of these institutions, making them better equipped to address contemporary global challenges and promote international cooperation. It also recognizes the pivotal role of women in fostering inclusive growth seeking to create a more equitable and just global landscape where women actively contribute to and benefit from the development agenda. The G20 New Delhi Declaration reinforces these priorities with actionable frameworks. The endorsement of G20 principles by Multilateral Development Banks and Development Financial Institutions emphasizes the cornerstone role of these principles in sustainable urban development. Quality Infrastructure Investment (QII) indicators, disaster risk reduction, and enhancing capabilities for resilience highlight a multifaceted approach to address global challenges. The G20 Summit insights for urban planning and development emphasize financing strategies, inclusivity, infrastructure quality, disaster risk reduction, sustainable lifestyles, and environmental sustainability. The impact and contribution of G20, U20 and Y20 has been profound on urban planning and development. These forums have collectively shaped a vision for inclusive and resilient urban environments through prioritized initiatives, actionable frameworks, and a commitment to sustainable practices.

By- Chinmayee Kalangutkar, SPA Delhi

HOW CARELESS PLANNING VIOLATES NATURE AND LEADS TO DISASTERS



By- Shivani Garg, Guru Ramdas School of Planning, Guru Nanak Dev University



1. Image of nature's beauty- Nainital
2. Image of Dalhousie highway landslide (2023)
3. Image of Shimla (2023)



Almost every year India's Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh face disasters in June like flash floods and landslides because of excessive rainfall. But this year the scenario was drastic, such conditions have been seen after 10 years (last faced in 2013). Other states like Haryana and Punjab also face this effect due to the release of excessive water from various dams. Flash floods in some areas can be seen in such states as well. But why such disastrous conditions and more drastic effects were seen in 2023 than in 2013? The conditions should have been improved when such areas have already faced such conditions in previous years. Are our urban planning strategies and over-exploitation of nature failing in such areas? The answer will always be "YES". People are being allowed to play with nature by doing unscientific constructions in the ecologically fragile Himalayas, depleting the forest cover and structures near streams blocking the flow of water are causing frequent landslides in such areas. Many infrastructure projects are done for the betterment of the public like widening of the roads, commercial construction along the hilly terrain roads (to facilitate the public), blasting of tunnels (to shorten the routes), and hydro projects are also being developed at the cost of nature. Nature terrains and slopes are being modified, natural courses of rivers and water bodies are being changed and over-exploitation of natural resources is being done by the public in the name of urbanization and development. If we talk about the Manali- Leh highway, every year it faces landslides (construction of hotels, commercial areas, tourist spots by cutting hills), Shimla faces floods and then a shortage of drinking water (originally present channels of water drainage have been blocked because of which water couldn't find its way to escape) and large destruction takes place along Ganga's river bed in Haridwar- Rishikesh (width of the river has been reduced by the public and construction of various buildings have been done, due to which capacity of the river is reduced). After seeing all such disasters people are continuing to challenge nature. On one hand, we talk about green buildings, sustainable habitats net zero developments, and zero carbon footprint areas (increasing the quantity of nature in the urban developments artificially) and on the other hand, we are destroying our natural habitats and natural sources. There are different norms for development in different areas mentioned in various government documents and books which we studied during the urban planning study. But in reality, do such norms exist or are followed? Even after the presence of strong rules and regulations, penalties, etc, nature got exploited to such an extent. Recently Char Dham connectivity highway has been under construction, do you think such large infrastructure development in those hilly terrains/ areas that already suffer disasters will be able to accept such changes? Planning should be done to solve the problems of the people while safeguarding our nature not to create problems by exploiting nature.

LIFE MOVEMENT (LIFESTYLE FOR ENVIRONMENT)

By- Dipsha Das, SPA Delhi



LiFE is a public movement to mobilize individuals to become “pro-planet people”.

India's per capita carbon footprint is 60% lower than the global average. This is because our lifestyle is still rooted in sustainable traditional practices. In fact, sustainability has always been a part of our tradition, culture and values. This shows that India still has been following the practices to attain sustainability since the early ages. India's Achievements in Conserving the Environment!

• INCREASE IN FOREST COVER

India's forest cover is increasing and so is the population of lions, tigers, leopards, elephants and rhinos. The total forest cover is 21.71% of the total geographical area in 2021, compared with 21.67% in 2019 and 21.54% in 2017.

INSTALLED ELECTRICITY CAPACITY

India's commitment to reach 40% of installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources has been achieved, 9 years ahead of schedule.

• **ETHANOL BLENDING TARGET** The target of 10% ethanol blending in petrol has been achieved 5 months ahead of the November 2022 target. This is a major accomplishment given that blending was hardly 1.5% in 2013-14 and 5% in 2019-20.

RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET The country's installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity stands at 150.54 GW (solar: 48.55 GW, wind: 40.03 GW, Small hydro Power: 4.83, Bio-power: 10.62, Large Hydro: 46.51 GW) as on 30th Nov. 2021 while its nuclear energy based installed electricity capacity stands at 6.78 GW. All of this goes to show the competence of the Indian government and also shows how India emerged to the forefront of the global leaders within such a short time. The achievement of the 10% ethanol blending target before the estimated timeframe was truly a feat for the country. India's focus on using renewable energy more widely has attracted attention from all across the globe as India's rank in the global reports for renewables keep increasing.

The increased forest cover has not only increased the green covers but also encouraged the preservation of animals that were slowly walking towards extinction. Some short-term impacts of the summit are as follows:

1. **Carbon Emissions from Travel:** The travel involved in bringing leaders and delegations together for the summit resulted in a significant carbon footprint, particularly since attendees used air travel. This contributed to short-term increases in greenhouse gas emissions.
2. **Resource Consumption:** Organizing a large-scale event requires considerable resources, including energy, water, and materials. The immediate impact strained local resources and contributed to environmental degradation.
3. **Waste Generation:** Hosting a major summit generated a substantial amount of waste, including single-use materials used during the event. If not managed properly, this could contribute to local pollution.

Overall, we see that the long-term goals mostly have a positive impact whereas, the short-term immediate impacts are on the negative spectrum. Hence, both of the impacts have their own pros and cons and the government all across the globe has started implementing the initiatives taken jointly by all the nations participating in the G20 summit; where, India seems to have been in the forefront of it all in most cases.



INDIAN CITIES MAY NOT BE SPRAWLING, BUT THEIR DENSITY IS A MAJOR CONCERN ESPECIALLY IN A PANDEMIC

By- Vatsala Sinha, SPA Bhopal

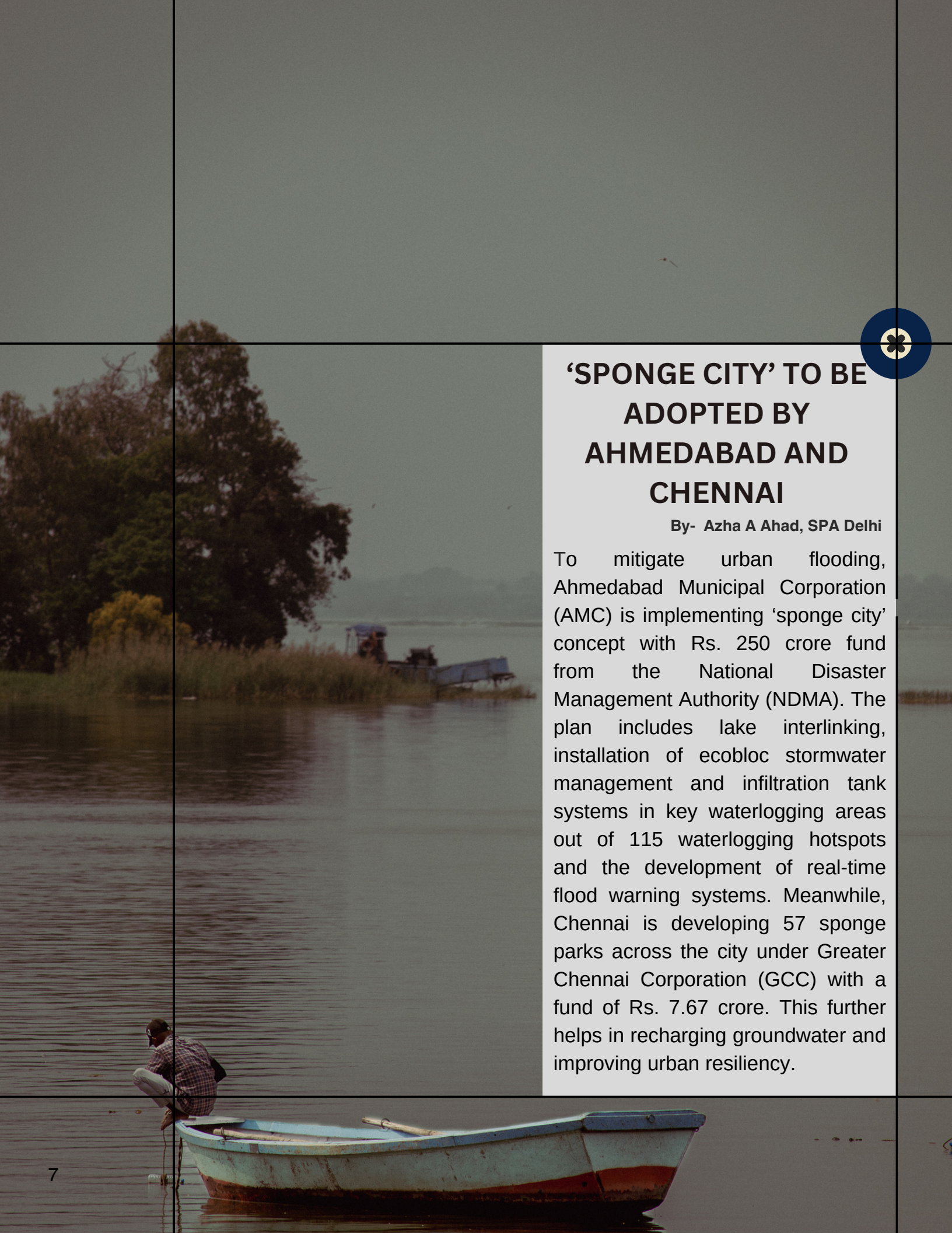


Indian cities are also often characterized as sprawling. However, they often defy the global metrics of urban sprawl. For instance, instead of low-density development in the suburbs, centers of Indian cities are growing denser all the time, and population growth is distributed between the center and the periphery. An example of this is Mumbai, a city that added 4.2 million people on its peripheries and 3.7 million in the city center between 1990 and 2014.

This pandemic sounds an alarm about the consequences of inefficient planning and management of cities and poses an opportunity to rethink and rebuild the areas that are most important to the country's growth. Now is the time to rectify perennial issues such as archaic FSI restrictions and static city development plans. Undertaking such reforms in combination with policies to promote public transport, widen streets and improve the overall efficiency of urban governance will help navigate India's rapid urbanisation.

More critical is the need to embrace urbanisation as a key plank in the national development strategy. Failing to do so can be quite costly, as seen in the United States where policies to contain growth are estimated to have reduced per capita GDP by almost 50 percent from 1964 to 2009. India, a country of nearly 1.4 billion people cannot afford to make such a mistake. Ultimately, policymakers must develop means of ensuring that our cities can make room for growth within their existing urban centres and that growth on the periphery is orderly, well-serviced and sustainable.





‘SPONGE CITY’ TO BE ADOPTED BY AHMEDABAD AND CHENNAI

By- Azha A Ahad, SPA Delhi

To mitigate urban flooding, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) is implementing ‘sponge city’ concept with Rs. 250 crore fund from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The plan includes lake interlinking, installation of ecobloc stormwater management and infiltration tank systems in key waterlogging areas out of 115 waterlogging hotspots and the development of real-time flood warning systems. Meanwhile, Chennai is developing 57 sponge parks across the city under Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) with a fund of Rs. 7.67 crore. This further helps in recharging groundwater and improving urban resiliency.

ASPHALT ART INITIATIVE EXPANDS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM TO THESE 25 NORTH AMERICAN CITIES

By- Vatsala Sinha, SPA Bhopal



Image 1: A 2021 Asphalt Art Installation in Pittsburgh, PA. Lead artists: Tim Englehardt and Randi Stewart. Image-Sean Carroli

Image 2: A 2021 Asphalt Art Initiative Installation in Lancaster, PA. Lead artists: Fern Dannis and Peter Barber. Photo- Christopner Leaman

Another round of funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies' Asphalt Art Initiative has been announced in an effort to improve the pedestrian safety of 25 different cities in North America. Grants of up to \$25,000 were awarded also in Mexico and Canada for the first time in the program's history. This fourth round will bring the total number of cities impacted by the program to 90. The initiative says they chose from a field of 200 applicants, and that each selected project will be installed by the end of 2024.

Mexico City, San Francisco, Calgary, and Portland are among the larger metros of the group, which also includes smaller American cities like Stamford, Connecticut, and Anderson, South Carolina.

"What started as a low-cost, high-impact way to make New York City streets safer has grown into a life-saving movement spanning 90 street transformations across 20 countries," Janette Sadik-Khan, Principal for Transportation at Bloomberg Associates, said in a press announcement. "As the cities around the world fight against traffic deaths, the Asphalt Art Initiative shows how much progress you can make with a fresh coat of paint and fresh thinking about how to design streets that are safer for everyone." The selected cities will receive technical consulting provided by Bloomberg Associates in partnership with tactical urbanism firm Street Plans

Provencher Roy uses recycled glass material to complete Darwin Bridges reconstruction in Montreal

By- Vatsala Sinha, SPA Bhopal



Provencher_Roy has shared photos following the firm's completion of a bridge reconstruction project in Nuns' Island, Montreal. - The new Darwin Bridges makeover represents the first instance of Ground Glass Pozzolan (GGP), a recycled glass product developed with researchers from the Université de Sherbrooke and the City of Montreal, being used in an architectural design worldwide. - The project succeeded in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 44 tons, while using over 88,000 pounds of locally sourced recycled glass (the equivalent of 70,000 wine bottles). A green space was enacted in a void created by removing the existing central median strip, and safety lighting has been installed to prevent tunnel sensation.

“The concept was always there, but the design and construction standards of the time favored the automobile. For this project, we were therefore working in a paradoxical 1960s context, on an innovative urban project to improve the user experience, while also contending with the formal urban treatments required for road transportation,” Project Manager Jacques Rousseau explains. “Our intention therefore reconciles these two rudimentary propositions in the development of a solution that at once enhances the architectural language and fulfills safety regulations.”

A I and the future of cities: Exploring Emerging Trends and Applications

In the recent times, we have seen the power of Artificial Intelligence and how it can be used in our daily activities to help and assist either in work or at our houses. The concept of smart homes and smart home gadgets are prominent examples which almost everyone uses at daily basis. With the recent news of Dubai's G42 partnering with OpenAI, who are the developers of ChatGPT to revolutionize industries with AI can be proved as a giant leap of the AI collaborating with the city infrastructure to develop AI-ready infrastructure. This partnership generative AI models in sectors of G42's expertise, including financial services, energy, healthcare and public services, setting an example for every city and showing that AI can function in various different sectors.

**By- Manas Singhal,
SPA Delhi**



Linear Cities: A Sustainable Antidote to Urban Sprawl

By- Ali Faraz & Ahsun Alam, SPA Delhi

As urban sprawl engulfs cities, eroding defined boundaries, the need for innovative solutions becomes imperative. The concept of Linear Cities emerges as a viable remedy. Originating in 1882 with Arturo Soria's Ciudad Lineal, linear settlements feature a central spine flanked by residential clusters, offering an organized alternative to a chaotic urban expansion. From Edgar Chambless's "Roadtown" in 1910 to Yona Friedman's Spatial City in the 1950s, diverse interpretations surfaced. Friedman's model, merging industry, transport, and ecology, finds resonance in Gujarat's GIFT City today. In 1965, architects Graves and Eisenman proposed a New Jersey Linear City, pioneering a modernist vision that echoes in 21st-century endeavors like Neom in Saudi Arabia—a 170-kilometer Linear City designed for sustainable living within a desert landscape. The prospect of Linear Cities, evolving over decades, aligns with contemporary challenges. Neom's ongoing construction underscores global interest in this approach. While its success remains uncertain, speculation persists. As planners, embracing this concept demands meticulous consideration of ecological and social ramifications, emphasizing the delicate balance between innovation and sustainability.

The concept of Linear Cities as a solution for mitigating urban sprawl

Urban sprawl refers to the unplanned and uneven pattern of urban expansion, typically into peripheral areas. This leads to issues like increased private vehicle usage, loss of agricultural land and open spaces, inadequate infrastructure provision, and social segregation. Linear cities have been proposed as a sustainable alternative model of urban development to combat sprawl. The concept involves concentrating development along narrow axes in the form of transit corridors, with high densities and mixed land use. This would allow efficient public transport connectivity while restricting lateral expansion. When planned properly with self-sufficient neighborhood clusters, linear cities can prevent disjointed development, reduce travel needs and infrastructure costs. Their feasibility however depends on strong policy frameworks for urban growth management. While criticisms about lack of flexibility and social diversity exist, linear urban forms demonstrate promising potential to achieve orderly, equitable and environmentally sustainable human settlements.

EXPLORING DESIGN SOLUTIONS TO THE HOUSING CRISIS: URBAN DESIGN NETWORK CONFERENCE 2023

By Vatsala Sinha, SPA Bhopal



The Urban Design Network Conference focused on Design Solutions to the Housing Crisis, featuring four presentations. Vicky Payne opened by acknowledging the challenging context and emphasizing the instrumental role of planning and urban design in addressing the UK's housing crisis. David Milner discussed the interconnectedness of transport and urban design, advocating for vision and people-led placemaking. Katy Lock presented new settlements as a solution, emphasizing Garden City Principles and the need for a strategic national spatial approach. Jas Bhalla explored urban densification, highlighting improvements in walkability and reimagining density. Helene Gosden focused on Retrofit at Scale, addressing the need to retrofit 28 million UK homes by 2050, with an estimated cost of £500 billion. The event concluded with an audience Q&A, touching on issues like private vehicle use, mid-density housing challenges, preferences for suburban housing, and the impact of financial factors on development quality.

FIND THE FOLLOWING TERMS IN THE GRID BELOW:

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

1. Zoning
2. Infrastructure
3. Density
4. Sustainability
5. Transportation
6. Green Space
7. Gentrification
8. Mixed-Use
9. Master Plan
10. Resilience
11. Redevelopment
12. Smart City
13. Community
14. Brownfield
15. Housing
16. Public Realm
17. Pedestrian
18. Land Use
19. Traffic
20. Blight
21. Revitalization
22. Facade
23. Public Transit
24. Urbanization
25. Eco-District
26. Zoning Code
27. Cityscape
28. Civic Engagement
29. Complete Streets
30. Sustainable Design