

April 2019



Dear Readers,

As some of you may be aware, the Urban Resilience Unit (URU) was established in collaboration with the 100 Resilient Cities (100 RC) Program of the Rockefeller Foundation in August, 2018 at the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). The Unit aims to promote and support the development of resilient cities across India. Through our work, we are bringing together theoretical frameworks and practical city assessments for developing evidence and policy frameworks to build local capacity and embed resilience in the urban discourse. These will be used to mainstream resilience within the activities of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, state and city level development agencies and urban local bodies (ULBs).

To learn more, please visit our [website](#) and keep reading to know of our recent developments.

Best wishes,
Dr. Umamaheshwaran Rajasekar
Chair, Urban Resilience Unit
National Institute of Urban Affairs

URU organizes high-level consultations for MoHUA



URU supported MoHUA in organizing two high level consultations towards smart and resilient urban initiatives in 2018. Key experts from development organizations, multi-lateral organizations, the private sector, research and academic institutions, NGOs and city managers such as Smart City CEOs, City Commissioners, and Chief City Resilience Officers were consulted for developing “Smart Cities Hub” (July, 2018) and “Building Urban Flood Resilience” (October, 2018). The first workshop led to the initial ideation for the recently launched “India Urban Observatory” by MoHUA in March 2019. The recommendations from the second workshop focused on scaling up actions and mainstreaming urban flood resilience across Indian cities, and were presented to the Honorable Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri.

URU contributes to building a national narrative on urban resilience



Through its research, engagement, and knowledge initiatives, URU is extensively working towards building a national narrative on urban resilience and mainstreaming the same in urban planning and development processes at various levels. To this end, URU is actively engaging with international and national agencies to foster discourse and partnerships to enable resilience building action in Indian cities. These include UN Habitat, UN Global Compact, International Urban Cooperation Program of the European Union, and Human Settlement Management Institute, to name a few. URU also contributed to the development of a national level Climate-Smart Cities Assessment Framework under the Smart Cities Mission of Government of India. Besides, URU has organized and contributed to 13 events, including workshops, consultations and training programs, since July 2018. These include the 2nd International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure organized by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the 10th GRIHA Summit, the Climate Resilient Cities Forum organized by WWF-India and the National Workshop on 'Urban Climate Resilience: The Context of River Basins' organized by National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Bihar State Disaster Management Authority and Gorakhpur Environment Action Group.

URU conducts 'Resilience Studios' with planning schools



Building capacity of future urban planners and managers is our key focus and we are closely working with faculties of urban planning, management and development courses to embed resilience within their curricula. In the first phase, URU conducted 3 Resilience Studios for graduate students of Department of Environmental Architecture at Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati School of Architecture, Pune; Department of Urban Regeneration at Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi and Department of Environmental Planning at School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal. These sessions introduced the urban resilience lens within their ongoing studio exercises, wherein students were trained to apply resilience frameworks and tools as part of their urban and environment planning exercises.

URU launches Webinar Series on 'Building Resilient Cities'



A webinar series was launched in February 2019 with an intention to bring wider exposure to students and young professionals on ways to build resilient cities. The webinar series follows the Indian academic cycle with 4 webinars per term. In the February-May 2019 series, we had Mr. Amit Prothi (Associate Director, Asia Pacific, City & Practice Management, 100 Resilient Cities) introducing the City Resilience Framework and discussing resilience in SE Asian cities; Dr. Eric Chu (Lecturer in Planning & Human Geography, University of Birmingham) elaborating on the comparative perspectives of urban resilience; and Prof. Geeta Mehta (Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University) illustrating how public spaces and amenities can build resilience. The last webinar for this term will be organised in May 2019 and the next series will begin in July 2019.

[WATCH WEBINARS](#)

Upcoming events

Join Urban Resilience Unit and Dr. Rajib Shaw (Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University & Co-founder, RIKAI India) for the next webinar on May 8th 2019 at 3:00 p.m. To attend register at <https://forms.gle/uSBsK2xmdPHNA2iK7>

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