MARCH 2023
NATIONAL YOUTH CONCLAVE
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Organised by:

In collaboration with:
Dear readers,

We are thrilled to present the report for the National Youth Conclave, an initiative that aims to recognize the potential of young minds. This conclave was made possible through a joint effort between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, and the engagement groups of Urban 20 India and Y20 India 2023. Its purpose was to discuss the role of youth in advancing India’s urban development goals and nurturing future leaders.

Taking place on March 13-14, 2023, the two-day event brought together young minds to deliberate on the priority areas of Urban20 and Youth20 and cultivate the leaders of tomorrow.

We are delighted to share that Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi personally encouraged the youth of India by participating in the conclave, making it the country’s largest youth summit. National leaders, experts, and innovators from across the nation came together, making it a truly significant gathering.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed leaders, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Shri Anurag Thakur, and Shri Kaushal Kishore, for their faith in us. We would also like to express our thanks to Shri Manoj Joshi for his unwavering support. The guidance provided by Mr Amitabh Kant, Mr Kunal Kumar, and Mr Rahul Kapoor has been instrumental in making this conclave a success. Additionally, we are grateful to the smart cities of Jabalpur, Varanasi, Surat, Shivamogga, and Vadodara, whose contributions were vital to the event’s success. We also acknowledge the support received from Praja Foundation, UNICEF YuWaah, UN Women, UN India, and the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the 3,000+ young people who attended the conclave, either in person or virtually, demonstrating their eagerness to learn and contribute to the advancement of our nation. You played a crucial role as agents of change.

~Team NIUA
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

Shri Narendra Modi

"Coming at a time when India has assumed the Presidency of G20, I am sure that the assembly of young leaders at the National Youth Conclave 2023 will develop a futuristic, inclusive and humane perspective towards national as well as global issues."

The initiative to host the ‘National Youth Conclave 2023’ by National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in association with Smart Cities of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Department of Youth Affairs is commendable. Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to everyone associated with the Conclave.

The gathering of young leaders from across the country will facilitate a vibrant interaction on a wide gamut of issues. The interactive sessions, presentations and discussions at this Conclave will provide an opportunity to the young generation to experience the spirit and essence of democracy from close quarters.

Blessed with unbounded energy, skills and capabilities, our Yuvashakti is one of the most important contributors to the nation’s growth story. With the changing times, a whole new world of opportunities has opened up for youth. Be it information technology, healthcare, sports, or start-ups, our younger generation is excelling in every sphere of activity.

During the last few years, a vibrant ecosystem has been created to empower our youth. Our steadfast efforts are focused on connecting their hopes and expectations with the collective aspirations of the nation. Amrit Kaal is an opportunity to fructify our collective resolve to build a glorious, developed and self-reliant nation. This period is critical for the academic and professional growth of our youth. As our Yuvashakti fulfills its dreams, the nation will also continue its march towards a bright future.

Coming at a time when India has assumed the Presidency of G20, I am sure that the assembly of young leaders at the National Youth Conclave 2023 will develop a futuristic, inclusive and humane perspective towards national as well as global issues. May the Conclave succeed in its efforts to foster and nurture young leaders of the future.

Greetings and best wishes to all the organisers and participants at the Conclave.

New Delhi
प्रधान मंत्री
प्रवासी वित्त 20, तक संबंध 1944
11th March, 2023

(Narendra Modi)
The National Youth Conclave was a flagship event held on the 13-14th of March to bring together young minds, policymakers, and urban development experts from across India to engage in discussions, exchange ideas, and chart the course to further the collective agenda of Youth20 and Urban20 engagement groups.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister sent his appreciation and hopes, which were conveyed by Shri Hitesh Vaidya, Director, NIUA. The letter from the Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that the conclave is an opportunity for the young generation to experience the spirit and essence of democracy from close quarters. He called Yuvaashakti the most important contributor to the nation's growth story and highlighted how the younger generation has been excelling in every sphere of activity, such as information technology, healthcare, sports and start-ups.

The Conclave, held over two days, witnessed over 3000 participants, in person and on virtual platforms, come together to chart the course for the future of Indian youth in the urban sector. It explored the converging themes of Youth20 and Urban20 through a plenary session, panel discussions, and several thematic breakout sessions that focused on critical areas of urban development and youth engagement.

The Hon'ble Union Minister, MoHUA, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, graced the event with a special address to the youth. In his address, he highlighted the government’s efforts and investment in youth development programmes. Further, he also emphasised the pivotal role that the country’s youth is playing in providing ‘out of the box’ solutions to help promote ease of living for India’s urban population. The discussion also focused on Swachta as a new fulcrum for urban development and the significance of the Youth in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Dignitaries at the Inaugural session included-
- Shri Kaushal Kishore, Hon'ble Minister of State
- Shri Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary, MoHUA
- Smt. Meeta Rajivlochan, Secretary (Youth Affairs), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS)
- Shri Anmol Sovit, Chair-Y20 Secretariat
- Shri Praveen Chaudhary, U20 Sherpa
**AGENDA**

**DAY 1**

- **INAUGURAL**
- **Panel Discussions**
- **Minister's Address**
- **Breakout Sessions**

**DAY 2**

- **Breakout Sessions**

Presentations by the fellows of the India Smart City Fellowship

Prajatantra: Policy Presentation on Municipal Finance

Prajatantra: Policy Presentation on e-Governance

Climate Action Planning (CLAP) Now

Presentations of select case studies from Smart Cities by SAAR institutes

Prajatantra: Debate competition

Prajatantra: Op-Ed competition

**Valedictory Ceremony**
SESSION INAUGURAL

The National Youth Conclave’s Plenary Session saw over 3000 delegates coming together to further the agendas of Youth20 and Urban20 through youth engagement. Hon’ble Minister of State, Shri Kaushal Kishore, along with the Joint Secretary, MoHUA, Shri Kunal Kumar, inaugurated the 2-day event and spoke about the power of youth as the architects of the future, emphasising the importance of India’s G20 presidency and the six U20 priorities. The Hon’ble Prime Minister conveyed his message through a letter of appreciation, which was read to the audience by Shri Hitesh Vaidya, Director, NIUA. The letter stated that the conclave was an excellent opportunity for the young generation to experience the essence of democracy and the opportunities in various fields of the urban sector. Smt. Meeta Lochan, Secretary (Youth Affairs), MoYAS, spoke on leveraging Y20 to shape a better society. Hon’ble Minister of State, Shri Kaushal Kishore, launched exhibitions on NMCG, SAAR and Smart Solutions, and Shri Anmol Sovit, Chair, Y20 Secretariat, gave a special address on the importance of cities and the convergence between U20 and Y20. The session concluded with Shri Lakshit Mittal from the Y20 Secretariat stressing fostering youth participation in governance and Ms Manju Rajeev Kanchan sharing her journey to become a successful urban planner and encouraging the youth to work hard to solve urban challenges.

SESSION SUMMARY

The youth are the future leaders of tomorrow. They must work hard and sincerely towards making India a developed country. The honourable Prime Minister of India has laid down the foundation of skill development to train the youth through Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. Youth with skills will in turn give others employment. India is a young country, entering the ‘Amrit Kaal’ beaming with opportunities, and its youth are the beacon of change. While we aim to become the third largest economy of the world, the youth and our demographic dividend render an indisputable advantage in driving our country’s development agenda forward and lead our country and its people towards ‘Amrit Kaal’.

India’s youth are looking to metropolitan places for growth. We need to find solutions to a number of issues with urban infrastructure amenities so that we may effectively serve the youth.
The panelists at the conclave

• Chair: Rahul Kapoor, JS & MD, DAY-NULM & PM SVANidhi, MoHUA
• Rashmi Niggehalli, Executive Director, YUVA
• Aparna Roy, Fellow, Observer Research Foundation
• Anshul Tewari, Founder, Youth Ki Awaaz
• Kalpana Vishwanath, Founder, Safetipin
• Kanta Singh, Dep. Country Representative-India, UN Women
• Shalini Agrawal, Municipal Commissioner-Surat Municipal Corporation
• Moderator: Sayli Mankikar, Head- City Climate Alliance, NIUA

A thought-provoking panel discussion focusing on the nuances of gender inclusion in urban discourses was moderated by Sayli Mankikar and chaired by Shri Rahul Kapoor, Joint Secretary, NULM.

The discussion focused on the strides India has made in achieving gender equity, the progress that still needs to be made, and the world’s changing scenario for the better. The implementation of policy changes and safety measures in many cities post the Nirbhaya incident was highlighted. More and more girls are found in higher education, in STEM fields, and in the parliament, but some of the participation is tokenistic. Although there is growing acceptance for women in the work environment, there is still gendered violence, especially towards trans people and uneducated women. To bring about real change, there is a need for systemic changes. Agency and decision-making power are more important than tokenistic titles, and an enabling environment needs to be created to achieve this agency. Civic amenities need to be looked at through a gender lens. Improving public transport, accessibility, street lights, and quick legal redressal of harassment and violence are examples that were discussed to mainstream gender equality.

The importance of mainstreaming women’s role in climate discussions was also discussed, as they are the most vulnerable to the climate crisis. The panelists also highlighted the need for internet safety and cyber harassment dialogue. The Surat model was cited as a successful example of economic growth by upskilling women in the diamond and textile industries.

“...Aim high, aim for truly having an equitable gender responsive system. We will not accept gender inequality and gender inequity in our country”
A panel discussion titled ‘The Role of Media in Enhancing Youth Participation’ was moderated by Shri Rajeev Jain, Additional Director General and Spokesperson, MoHUA, and panelists from media houses, including Smt. Shivani Singh (Hindustan Times), Shri Kaushik Deka (India Today), Smt. Neha Khanna (WION), Smt. Chitra Tripathi (Aaj Tak) and Smt. Nidhi Sharma (Economic Times).

The discussion centred around how media has immense potential to engage the youth in the urban development process. The youth should have a say in the functioning of our cities as not only are they the inheritors of these cities, but they are also the most impacted by any change in the urban fabric. India’s youth demographic is a valuable asset to the country’s economic future, and the media can play a critical role in securing this future. However, the discussion noted that media tends to overlook the ‘urban’ narrative, and dwindling youth interest is a concern.

It was noted that sometimes, the youth do have strong opinions, but they are often hesitant to express them. The media can foster an environment of judgment-free communication, thereby creating progress in the urban sphere.

The panel noted that the media are change agents, but it is the youth who are the actual change makers.

The media should be the change agent, while the youth should be the change maker

Shivani Singh, Hindustan Times
Kaushik Deka, India Today
Neha Khanna, WION
Chitra Tripathi, Aaj Tak
Nidhi Sharma, Economic Times
Moderator: Rajeev Jain, ADG and Spokesperson, MoHUA

“Change in urban areas often has the greatest impact on youth. Youth are the future of the country and as a result, they must be involved in the decision-making process.”

Rajeev Jain, Add. Director General & Spokesperson, MoHUA

We will certainly prosper if we make the effort to convey & communicate the issues that need to be addressed.

Chitra Tripathi, Aaj Tak

There is an immense need for the presence of youth in all sectors of the urban realm

Shivani Singh, Hindustan Times

Active youth engagement is essential and there is a need to ensure a transparent flow of information to the young people.

Nidhi Sharma, Economic Times

The media’s role is to critically examine a project and how it affects the public.

Kaushik Deka, India Today

It was noted that sometimes, the youth do have strong opinions, but they are often hesitant to express them. The media can foster an environment of judgment-free communication, thereby creating progress in the urban sphere.

The panel noted that the media are change agents, but it is the youth who are the actual change makers.
The National Youth Conclave was graced by Hon'ble Union Minister, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri. The event marked the launch of several publications, students and academia. These included:

- Compendium of testimonial articles by 75 Prajatantra Youth Champions – Prajatantra is the annual youth festival organized by Praja Foundation and NIUA. It is an initiative to pursue youth towards urban governance experiences & learnings and political discourse.
- Compendium of 75 case studies prepared under SAAR
- India Smart City Fellowship Program (ISCFP) Compendium
- National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) Compendium
- The Urban Learning Internship Platform (TULIP) Compendium
- NULP Learnathon – India's biggest urban learning challenge, "The Ribban Learnathon". The objective of the Learnathon is to recognize and celebrate the best practices and innovations in the form of urban solutions, as well as foster collaborative learning.

The launches were followed by the Hon'ble Minister's keynote address on the importance of youth engagement in urban development and how it contributes to the nation's growth.

The minister commenced the speech by drawing the message of the Dais:

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri
Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs; and Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India
Shri Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary, Smart City Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India
Shri Hitesh Vaidya, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs

Master of the Ceremony : Mayura Gadkari, National Institute of Urban Affairs

"Our cities face urbanization of an autonomous and technological kind. The Smart City Mission, in particular, is a fascinating policy to help channel this urbanization."

prime minister of India appreciating the efforts of National Institute of Urban Affairs, Smart City Mission, and Department of youth Affairs on the successful hosting of National Youth Conclave 2023. He then congratulated all the youth - the new India that the honorable Prime Minister has set out. He highlighted the government’s accelerated investment in urban rejuvenation, stating that the cumulative expenditure on urban development between 2004-2014 was 1.57 lakh crores, while the cumulative expenditure on urban development since 2015 has exceeded 18 lakh crores.

The minister also emphasised the significance of Swachta, which has become a new fulcrum for urban development. By building toilets, the government empowered women with their right to hygiene. Through schemes like PMAY, Smart Cities Mission, and Ujwala, the living conditions of various families have improved. Emphasising the importance of the Youth, the minister stated that India is working beyond the philosophy of “Sarvodaya to Antyodaya” on which the SDGs are framed. He further noted that India is nurturing the entrepreneurial and innovative skill sets of its youth, resulting in the creation of 115 unicorns in the last ten years. India’s youth is creating jobs rather than seeking one. The government supports youth development and learning through programs worth Rs. 90,000 crores. The minister concluded his speech with a visionary note, stating that India will become the world leader by 2047, with the youth playing a crucial role in attaining that stature.
The final leg of the mayor speech competition was held during the National Youth Conclave, with ten out of twelve selected participants presenting their budget speeches on developing their respective cities as mayors. The judges posed questions related to issues like pollution, internet access, water supply and flooding, property taxes, and healthcare affordability. Key topics discussed included physical and social development issues, revenue generation, digital governance, and democratic participation. The participants proposed several innovative solutions, including tech-based solutions, start-ups, and pedestrian-oriented planning. Overall, the event provided key insights into the challenges and solutions involved in urban planning and administration.

The judges concluded the session with their key takeaways from all the speeches as well as highlighting key issues identified as missed by the contestants.

Panel:
Dr. Amit Singh, Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma
Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor, Srinagar
Tikandar Singh Panwar, former Deputy Mayor, Shimla

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**
- Discussed the statutory authority of urban development and the relative decision-making power mayor possesses in an administrative quagmire of central and state authorities
- Importance of future leaders to be better grounded in realities and proposed all contestants to spend time in slums and right shelters as a means of connecting to the grassroots.
- Noted that many of the prospective mayors avoided a people-centric position.
- Acknowledged that the present discourse on urban development often seems to ignore the people and fails to assume true participatory nature.
- Highlighted that there is no single right solution for urban development and various possible methods should be considered and contextually appropriate ones should be adopted.
- Noted public communication as the key to any leadership position.
- Need to address tendency to centralize at all levels of governance by the next generation of leaders

The speeches said a lot about the consciousness of the youth who's still in college but is aware about the basic necessities and rights that ensure quality of life. This is #Youth20

“Change is only possible when the most intellectual and articulate individual stand in their local self government elections and choose to stand in their local self government elections. Highly educated individuals drive the change and it has to be brought out at grass root levels”

In Chair: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Chief Advisor, NIUA

The session on “ensuring water security and nudging environmentally-responsible behaviour” focused on sharing initiatives taken on the ground for involving youth in the agenda of water-secure urban areas. The Chief Advisor of NIUA, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, emphasised the importance of young minds taking charge of the water security agenda. The context of the session was set by introducing the Student Thesis Competition (STC) organised by NIUA in collaboration with National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). The speakers presented their research and findings on various topics related to water security, such as traditional knowledge embedded in the design and construction of kunds, a workable spatial planning strategy for a watershed region, blue-green infrastructure, achieving zoonotic resilience in an urban riverine landscape, and adverse impacts of dam construction on rivers and nearby settlements. The speakers also highlighted the importance of an integrated approach to architectural and ecological conservation as a strategy for rejuvenating rivers.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Aman Sharma, STC 1 Finalist
- Arunima Satheesh, STC 2 Finalist
- Manju Rajeev Kanchan, STC 1 Finalist
- Mahini Bhoskar, STC 2 Finalist
- Naresh Behra, Y4W
- Pranav Gahadwal, Y4W
- Adarsh Singh, Madhura Karad, Y4W
- Prof. Anand Khatri, UVCT

In Chair: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Chief Advisor, NIUA

PANEL
Aman Sharma, STC 1 Finalist
Arunima Satheesh, STC 2 Finalist
Karpagavalli, STC 2 Finalist
Manju Rajeev Kanchan, STC 1 Finalist
Mahini Bhoskar, STC 2 Finalist
Muktakrishna, STC 1 Finalist
Rajarshi Banerjee, STC 1 Finalist
Rupal Srivastava, STC 2 Finalist
Shakti Singh, STC 2 Finalist
Naresh Behra, Y4W
Pranav Gahadwal, Y4W
Adarsh Singh, Madhura Karad, Y4W
Prof. Anand Khatri, Founder, Urban Village Charitable Trust (UVCT)
Tikandar Singh Panwar (former Deputy Mayor, Shimla)
The CPIN Talks hosted an engaging discussion on how the country’s youth can support climate action through various projects using technology, community engagement, and leveraging local knowledge. The session showcased innovative solutions that have successfully addressed climate and sustainability challenges in their respective geographical contexts. The session centred around water, waste, and sanitation management at various scales. Water bodies are crucial components of cities and should be preserved as diligently as schools or religious structures. However, with the rapid urbanisation and encroachment on natural ecosystems, water systems have either disappeared or become polluted. There is a need to respect and preserve local knowledge on maintaining our natural systems. One should prioritise, analyse, strategise, execute, plan and monitor. The session also emphasised the need for collaboration among communities, schools, and cities to create better and more inclusive cities that prioritise the environment and its people. With the availability of technology, young people can leverage tools to make a significant impact and promote green entrepreneurship. The large takeaway from the session was, “You don’t need a degree, just passion is required to bring change”.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Importance of local knowledge to bring change. Three new Ps were developed to bring positive change - Passion, Persistence, and Patience.
- Challenges are opportunities that we as youngsters of the country need to seek out. Analyse the problems, strategise the methods and execute to make a change.
- Risk assessment supported by AI technologies with local knowledge can help plan better strategies to manage climate disaster in a city. Traditional practices informing architectural and development practices can be a solution to protect biodiversity from various climate-challenged zones, thus mitigating climate change.
- Providing a dynamic platform to the youth of the country is very important to undertake climate actions. This will help them lead today in the future of tomorrow.
- The current systems of living use many materials that are extremely harmful for the environment but we don’t truly think of the repercussions. There is need to find simple ways of reducing, recycling, composting daily waste to help the larger goal of supporting citing in reducing our footprint.

**SUB SESSION 1**

**HUMAN LIBRARY: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DIVERSE YOUTH AS THEY NAVIGATE CITIES**

**PANEL**

- Kehkasha, YuWaah
- Zohra, representative from the Afghani refugee community
- Ankita, YuWaah
- Ash (Riya) representing the trans community

The human library is a novel experiential technique to learn from living experiences first-hand. The four speakers narrated their day-to-day hurdles to sensitise the audience towards the discrimination they felt as young women from slums, as a migrant, as physically disabled persons, and as trans people in society. Their experiences emphasised the need for inclusive and sustainable urban planning/development and not only in theory but also in the spirit of “Leave no one behind”.

The session was co-designed by YuWaah, 2018, and landed to India in 2019. It was divided into 3 parts, Learning from different representative from different age group. The outcomes of this panel discussion will contribute to a part of the final recommendations that will be put forth to the G20 forum.

**SUB SESSION 2**

**TECHNOLOGY AND BEST PRACTICES THAT EFFECTIVELY CAST ‘YOUTH AS PROTAGONISTS’**

The session was moderated by a specialist from UNICEF, and focused on the importance of technology and best practices that empower youth in urban spaces. The speakers included Nidhi Arya from the TYPF foundation, Priyanka Shendage from UNICEF Maharashtra, and Parul Agarwala from UN-HABITAT. The panelists shared their vast experiences and learnings in managing various programmes, which enabled youth participation in the formulation of urban policy as well as co-creating city landscapes. The session highlighted the need for a platform for young people’s voices to be heard and converted into inclusive urban planning strategies. The closing remarks emphasised the importance of better enabling urban policy planning and development to improve the lives of young people through the 5 Ls: life, learning, leisure, leadership, and livelihood.
It is important to understand the significance of urban governance and its impact on the lives of citizens.

The fellowship offers an insight into an enhanced understanding of policy formulation and implementation at the national and state levels.

The value of collaboration and teamwork in achieving long-term urban development goals is imperative.

The fellowship offers exposure to India’s urban development challenges and complexities, as well as the need for innovative solutions.

There are vast possibilities for youth in the urban sector.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- It is important to understand the significance of urban governance and its impact on the lives of citizens.
- The fellowship offers an insight into an enhanced understanding of policy formulation and implementation at the national and state levels.
- The value of collaboration and teamwork in achieving long-term urban development goals is imperative.
- The fellowship offers exposure to India’s urban development challenges and complexities, as well as the need for innovative solutions.
- There are vast possibilities for youth in the urban sector.

**BREAKOUT SESSION**

**PRAJATANTRA QUIZ COMPETITION**

A quiz competition was held by Prajatantra between nine teams of two young students representing various academic institutions from different states of India, with team names mimicking India’s political landscape. The quiz competition focused on testing students’ knowledge and skills in the area of Urban Governance, which is crucial in India due to various forms of urban local governance. The competition had five rounds based on different themes, covering topics such as India’s constitution, important personalities, key events, and regulatory frameworks related to urban governance. The intention was to promote civic awareness, critical thinking, and national unity, and enhance knowledge about the Indian Constitution among Indian youth through a fun and interactive quiz competition.

**BREAKOUT SESSION**

**DEMONSTRATION OF DIGITAL INITIATIVES NATIONAL URBAN DIGITAL MISSION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

The session discussed the National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM), a flagship mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched in February 2021, intending to digitalise municipal service delivery in the country. The speakers stressed the need for identifying and tackling micro problems to solve macro urban issues. A video documenting the journey and experience of the NUDM Fellows deployed in their respective states was showcased. The key takeaways of the session were the importance of urban governance, its impact on citizens’ lives, and the value of collaboration and teamwork in achieving long-term urban development goals. It was also established that the NUDM Fellowship provides an opportunity to gain insights into policy formulation, and collaboration at national and state levels.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Sharing of best practices from cities and states
- Fostering localized action among youth
- Local leadership creation through engagement, awareness and training of youth
- Synergising youth power with data, innovation and technology in creating safety nets, early warning system and imitate disaster risk reduction
- Collaboration and convergence for collection and strong actions to protect citizens from Climate change induced disasters.

**BREAKOUT SESSION**

**URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE**

The session aimed to highlight the importance of building disaster resilience concerning urban infrastructure and mainstream youth power in building a new India. Mr Ajay Kashyap, the Convenor of Y20, discussed the role of youth in creating change and emphasised the importance of disaster-resilient infrastructure and community engagement. Local leadership was highlighted by Shri Subhendra Kumar Nayak, emphasising the significance of efficient evacuation and early warning systems. Dr Chandani B Neogi stressed the need for local leadership characterised by purpose, persistence, passion, and partnership and urged the youth to build resilience and alliances.

Recommendations for building disaster resilience included sharing best practices, fostering localized action among youth, creating local leadership, and synergising youth power with data, innovation, and technology.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Sharing of best practices from cities and states
- Fostering localized action among youth
- Local leadership creation through engagement, awareness and training of youth
- Synergising youth power with data, innovation and technology in creating safety nets, early warning system and imitate disaster risk reduction
- Collaboration and convergence for collection and strong actions to protect citizens from Climate change induced disasters.

**PANEL**

Ajay Kashyap, Convenor Y20
Subhendra Kumar Nayak, AS, Govt. of Odisha
Dr. Chandani B Neogi, Professor, SPA, Delhi

**DAY 1**

Shri Kunal Kumar, JS & MD, SCM MoHUA
Shri Rahul Kapoor, JS & MD, DAY-NULM & PM SWANidhi, MoHUA
Manpreet Singh, NIUA
Pankaj Sharma, NIUA
Jyothish Jagannivasan, NIUA

Moderators:
Gajedra Bhansali, NIUA
Gautami Ghumatkar, NIUA
Nabamalika Joardar, NIUA
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Theme - Reinventing Urban Governance and Planning Frameworks

Activity – Smart Cities and Academia Enhancing Partnerships;

The session, moderated by Shri Vikash Chandra, Team Leader of Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA, discussed the need to uplift the quality of case studies in SAAR 2.0, which aims to democratise knowledge by creating a capacity grid of Indian case studies. It highlighted the importance of creating a comprehensive compendium of Indian best practices case studies that can be used as a reference document by young scholars and practitioners. By incorporating tangible ways of measuring progress, the compendium can be used to bridge the gap between academia and implementation and create a solution-based knowledge repository that can be adopted by other cities. There was a consensus among the panelists that the revival of existing journals could help bridge the gap between academia and implementation activities by cities. It was suggested that the way ULBs are using the compendium is important for an impactful assessment. The case studies may also be accompanied by recommendations that can be adopted by other cities to create a solution-based knowledge repository. While acknowledging that SAAR 1.0 was a successful trial, there was a need to avail the compendium in multiple institutes nationwide. The panelists agreed that SAAR 2.0 could build on the achievements of the first version and create a reference document for the world to refer to.

BREAKOUT SESSION
SMART CITIES AND ACADEMIA ENHANCING PARTNERSHIPS

Theme: Reinventing Urban Governance and Planning Frameworks

The session, discussed the need to uplift the quality of case studies in SAAR 2.0, which aims to democratise knowledge by creating a capacity grid of Indian case studies. It highlighted the importance of creating a comprehensive compendium of Indian best practices case studies that can be used as a reference document by young scholars and practitioners. By incorporating tangible ways of measuring progress, the compendium can be used to bridge the gap between academia and implementation and create a solution-based knowledge repository that can be adopted by other cities. There was a consensus among the panelists that the revival of existing journals could help bridge the gap between academia and implementation activities by cities. It was suggested that the way ULBs are using the compendium is important for an impactful assessment. The case studies may also be accompanied by recommendations that can be adopted by other cities to create a solution-based knowledge repository. While acknowledging that SAAR 1.0 was a successful trial, there was a need to avail the compendium in multiple institutes nationwide. The panelists agreed that SAAR 2.0 could build on the achievements of the first version and create a reference document for the world to refer to.

BREAKOUT SESSION
ENGAGING YOUTH IN ULBS THROUGH TULIP

Theme: Reinventing Urban Governance and Planning Frameworks

The session, moderated by Shri Vikash Chandra, Team Leader of Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA, highlighted the TULIP program as a unique platform providing valuable internship opportunities to the youth of India. The program offers internships in both engineering and non-engineering fields and has posted approximately 46 lakh internship offers on its portal from multiple cities across the country. TULIP provides students with exposure to industry skillsets. The TULIP portal is fast, accessible, and constantly blooming with opportunities. It was also announced that the portal would soon be available in regional languages, in addition to Hindi and English, to make it more accessible to students across the country. Overall, the session emphasised the importance of TULIP in creating valuable internship options and providing students with opportunities to gain practical experience in the urban sector.
BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTATIONS BY THE FELLOWS OF THE INDIA SMART CITIES FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Theme: Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation, and 21st Century Skills

The presentations in the culmination event of the third cohort of the India Smart Cities Fellowship Program showcased the work of Fellows deployed in different Smart Cities. The presentations offered a comprehensive overview of their innovation projects and initiatives under the Fellowship Program. Shri Rahul Kapoor’s welcome address encouraged the youth to innovate using the information available around them, and connect the dots to successfully co-create. Shri Hitesh Vaidya motivated the young Fellows to create more disruptive and innovative solutions, and scale them to cities to build their capacities. The session consisted of 10 project presentations from the teams Activate, Connect, Adapt, Aspire, Asset, Biome, Empower, Enroute, Improv, and Switch. The solutions presented were from the sectors of public space design, disaster management, citizen participation, climate change, urban service delivery, asset management, resource management, participatory budgeting, waste management and energy. All the solutions had one cross-cutting theme, i.e. data-driven governance. Shri Kunal Kumar’s concluding address urged young minds to consider re-entering the government ecosystem, and to contribute to the nation’s development through their learnings and experiences. This session was moderated by Ms. Nabamalika Joardar.

In Chair: Shri Rahul Kapoor, JS & MD, DAY-NULM & PM SVANidhi, MoHUA
Guest of Honour: Shri Kunal Kumar, JS & MD, SCM MoHUA

BREAKOUT SESSION PREJATANTRA POLICY PRESENTATION ON MUNICIPAL FINANCE

Theme: Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance

The session was structured as a competition where nine out of ten participants presented their budgets, and posed as the Standing Committee Heads of their respective Municipal Corporations. Their responsibilities included presenting on budgeting, revenue generation, financial planning and accountability to ensure the effective management of municipal finances for promoting support of sustainable urban development and providing quality services to the residents. The focus was on financial allocation and policies proposed by the young minds. All speakers outlined key issues, such as financial sustainability, property tax, sanitation, education, solid waste management, and transparency in governance.

KEY TAKEAWAYS
• Benefit in outsourcing the billing
• Importance of asset management
• Municipal bond floating
• Creating digital infrastructure for data base management
• Encouraging accountability and transparency
• Strengthening the property tax system
• Effective Solid Waste Management systems
• Ensuring proper sanitation, health and education to the citizens.

BREAKOUT SESSION PREJATANTRA POLICY PRESENTATION ON E-GOVERNANCE

Theme: Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance

The session was structured as a competition between the young and aspirant professionals – urban planner, medical students, public policy, law, etc. The session aimed at promoting the importance of policies in effective governance. Through this exercise the prime focus was on one of the critical aspects of urban governance that is e-Governance & citizen participation. Through this platform, participants got the opportunity to showcase their innovative policy proposals aimed at developing solutions to tackle the key issues that ULBs face for creating effective urban governance systems within their urban areas, which in turn can help ULB provide better quality public services.
CLAP NOW is an interactive card game for city officials from various departments and other stakeholders to interact, collaborate and together develop a holistic Climate Action Plan. The interactive session held the young audience’s keen attention through the use of technology to understand decision-making in climate action. CLAP Now is an interactive card game for city officials to support them in making climate-positive decisions and actions. The moderators used an application to teach the youth, the larger ideas in the urban climate sector by making them think about their hometowns. Through polls, the audience understood various problems of climate extremities and disaster risks in urban agglomerations. Solutions were also presented from the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, like green roofs, data dissemination, flood management, rejuvenating urban forests, and increasing permeable surfaces. The session catalysed excitement and curiosity in the participants through ideas, questions, discussions and polls. It concluded with a presentation by RTI International on a knowledge product - Sustainable Urban Networks For Dynamic and Resilient (SUNDAR). It is built from key findings from five cities and focuses on the need for inter-departmental conversions for infrastructural planning and resilience in Indian cities.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**
- Equip young participants with parameters of climate issues and actions.
- Identify actions required on ground for a sustainable and low carbon future.
- Promote enthusiasm to commit to climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives at individual levels and as a community too.

The competition required the nine aspirant from different academic institutions to make policy presentation on “e-Governance And Citizens’ Participation” and present their innovative ideas. The format design required the participant to act as a ‘Chairperson’ of the e-Governance Committee of a ULB and present their policy case to the Jury Members which were assumed to be the member of the e-Governance Committee; and the audience in the hall were the elected representatives.

**BREAKOUT SESSION**
**CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING**
**CLAP NOW**

**Theme: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction**

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**BREAKOUT SESSION**
**PRESENTATIONS OF SELECT CASE STUDIES FROM SMART CITIES BY SAAR INSTITUTES**

The presentations by the Indian academic institutes showcased case studies of Smart Cities Mission projects. The objective of the SAAR programme is to document the work being done by cities and provide students with practical experience in the urban development sector. Major projects presented included water treatment plants, multi-level car parking, canal-top solar power plants, micro skill development centres, public bike-sharing systems, social identity site improvement, and slum redevelopment housing.

The studies highlighted the need for a contextual approach to research and suggested including perspectives on emissions management, financial and timeline aspects, and gender inclusivity. The exemplary projects are expected to inspire similar action with learnings gathered from the on-ground documentation.

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**BREAKOUT SESSION**
**PRAJATANTRA: DEBATE COMPETITION**

**Theme: Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance**

**PANEL**
- Arvind Unni, IGISS
- Dr. Gayatri Doctor, CEPT University
- Manish Thakre, Save the Children
- Moderator: Aviral Narayan Dubey, Praja Foundation

The Prajatantra debate competition had seven teams of two participants each, who presented arguments on whether ULBs should levy charges on citizens for the solid waste management process or generate funds on their own. The session included speeches by each team and a Q&A round. One side argued for the polluter pays principle, private partnerships, and differential charging for low income groups, while the other side emphasised the government’s duty to provide a clean environment, behavioural change in citizens’ approach, and exploring other funding options. The session concluded with a vote in favour of charges for the SWM process in the city. Judges emphasised the importance of engagement, individual responsibility, critical thinking, and transparency in urban governance.
The session organised by Praja featured a grand finale Op-Ed writing competition focused on topics related to climate change and disaster management. The objective of the competition was to enhance participants’ communication, critical thinking, analytical, and presentation skills. The competition had five shortlisted finalists who presented their Op-Eds in front of three judges. The topics covered during the competition were “Countering Climate Change in the City,” “Disaster Mitigation and Management,” and “Impact of Climate Change.” The key recommendations from the competition include the role of youth in mitigating the impacts of climate change and disasters, rethinking traditional methods to combat climate change, and promoting a participatory approach within countries to address climate change and its impact.
The Valedictory Ceremony marked the conclusion of the National Youth Conclave, a two-day event aimed at furthering the collective agenda of Youth20 and Urban20. The session was attended by more than 600 participants and featured six speakers who shared their expertise and experience with the audience. Mr Amitabh Kant, in his keynote address, spoke about the importance of G20 for India and its growing young population. He elaborated on the need for sustainable, interactive cities where challenges and opportunities will help shape the youth of tomorrow. Mr Shombi Sharp elaborated on the importance of partnerships and the power of working together for a collective goal. The speakers also recommended encouraging the youth to participate in urban policy-making and governance.

DIGNITARIES ON THE DAIS

Mr Amitabh Kant
G20 Sherpa
India

Mr Kunal Kumar
Joint Secretary
MoHUA

Mr Shombi Sharp
UN Resident Coordinator
India

Mr Hitesh Vaidya
Director
NIUA

Ms Gayatri Doctor
Program Chair
CEPT University

Mr Ajay Kashyap
Convenor
Y20 Secretariat

The Valedictory Ceremony also included award ceremonies to recognise the contributions of participants who excelled in various activities. The winners of the following events were felicitated:

- Prajtantra competition
- Mayor’s Speech Competition
- Presentations on Municipal Finance
- Policy Presentations on e-governance
- Quiz competition
- Debate Competition
- Op-ed Writing Competition.

- Two special awards were announced, the Champions of Democracy and Best Performing Teams.
- The winners of the National Mission for Clean Ganga - Student Thesis Competition organised by NIUA in 2021 and 2022
- Poster Competition organised by NIUA to highlight a few themes of Urban20 and Youth20.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr Hitesh Vaidya. He expressed his gratitude towards the MoHUA and the distinguished guests in attendance. He emphasised the significance of acknowledging small achievements, empowering the youth and recognising their potential. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of sustained collaboration and knowledge exchange by bridging the gap between policy-making and implementation. The event concluded with an appeal to all participants to join hands and continue working towards a better future.

SESSION SUMMARY

The Valedictory Ceremony marked the conclusion of the National Youth Conclave, a two-day event aimed at furthering the collective agenda of Youth20 and Urban20. The session was attended by more than 600 participants and featured six speakers who shared their expertise and experience with the audience. Mr Amitabh Kant, in his keynote address, spoke about the importance of G20 for India and its growing young population. He elaborated on the need for sustainable, interactive cities where challenges and opportunities will help shape the youth of tomorrow. Mr Shombi Sharp elaborated on the importance of partnerships and the power of working together for a collective goal. The speakers also recommended encouraging the youth to participate in urban policy-making and governance.
The Climate Cafe was designed as an interactive space focused on “Learning by Doing ClimateAction”, where the C-CUBE team helped over 400 individuals to experience the fragility of Himalayan ecosystems and the aftermath of the Chennai floods by using VRX technology.

More than 500 participants pledged to make individual lifestyle changes for climate action, which they recorded in simple activities with the hashtag #lifestyle.

The Climate Cafe team was delighted to have inspired more than 600 participants to make informed decisions regarding city management through the use of the “Stop Disaster Game,” which was developed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and allowed for experiential learning.

Many people interested in climate concerns, ideas, and solutions had the opportunity to engage with our experts.
Nearly four billion of the world’s population under the age of 30 lives in urban areas. In less than a decade from today, 60% of the world’s urban residents will be less than 18 years old. In India also, more than 50% of population is below 30 years. These numbers point to the fact that even though our cities are growing, they are also getting younger. Keeping this in consideration youth impact is a key factor in the discourse of our transforming agenda. NIUA is dedicated to bridging the gap between policy and practice by creating and disseminating knowledge, building the long-term capacities of practitioners, and supporting ground-level work that contributes to national and global commitments. The Smart Cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR) program, created an opportunity to engage young minds by creating a compendium. The 75 case studies in the volume reflect the research and analytical skills of scholars from 15 academic institutions in India. These case studies draw valuable lessons from projects under the Government of India’s Smart Cities Mission. From the vertical gardens in Jammu to smart streetlights in Nashik, and from the use of bio-CNG to fuel Indore to improving pedestrian paths in Gangtok, these projects provide rich insights into how urban infrastructure and management can be innovative, effective and sustainable.

These case studies, along with panels from the NMCG thesis competition and the G20 country profiles, were displayed in the form of an exhibition across the gallery space at the conclave.
The purpose of the poster competition is to bring out students’ creative expression and gauge their knowledge and awareness of various trends going around. This competition will not only judge the youth based on their creative aspects but also trigger their thought process towards recent societal trends and challenges.

The winner of this competition was Mr. Yash Rajesh Dhawade; the poster is displayed on the left. The 2nd prize was given to Ms. Tanvi Sawle from the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) Ahmedabad. Her poster spoke of the theme of ensuring water security:

"Water is a finite resource on Earth, and having access to clean water and proper sanitation is a fundamental human right. Water security is crucial because although 70% of the Earth is covered with water, just 1% of it is freshwater. According to sustainable development goals, a city’s economic stability, children’s education, health, etc. are all impacted by poor sanitation and water.

Natural approaches and methods will help to protect the environment and bring about a better tomorrow. Hence, it’s critical to ensure water for tomorrow by adopting solutions that are sustainable from an economic, environmental, and social perspective."

The third prize was obtained by Mr. Rohit Raj School of Planning & Architecture New Delhi on the theme Leveraging ‘local’ potential and identity. His poster brought up:

"The three key issues - poverty, public spaces, and economic disparity - and their manifestation in the digital world are being showcased here. While delivery platforms and streaming services have become symbols of comfort and convenience, a large segment of the population still struggles to afford basic necessities. The poster aims to raise awareness of such disparity and the urgent need to address it. By embracing the city’s unique identity and addressing these challenges, we can build a more inclusive and sustainable future for all."

Two special mention posters were also announced, based on the wonderful concepts mentioned below:

Kanishka. V from the Maruthi Vidya Kendra S.S. Puram Tumkur created a poster on the theme ensuring water security

"Tumkur is situated at a distance of 70 km northwest of Bangalore. In the past, the town had received water form reservoirs located 8 km west of town. The water was received by these reservoirs through canals from the Hemavathi Dam. Water is an essential common asset. We need it everyday for our bodies and for daily..."
chores. The human body consists of 70% water and hence is required for regular fundamental exercise like washing, cooking and so on. The lack of mindful usage among us - as individuals and a whole is the primary reason for the scarcity of water. To conclude, it is an underlying asset for us and our future generation.

Saheli Ghosh from the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi created a poster for the Theme : Leveraging 'local' potential and identity

College street, the image of 'Youths', 'Books', and 'Adda' is one of the most famous historic neighborhoods of Kolkata since colonial times. The area is majorly an educational hub. The market spine famously called 'Boi para' (books community) considered as largest second-hand book market in Asia. The coffee house adda has been a prominent intellectual hub. The streets and squares were famous for various student movements that catalyzed the Indian revolution. Hence, College street carries a strong sociocultural and democratic impact on the city.

The challenge aligned with the “Lifestyle for the Environment” (LiFE) mission. This included a weekly task shared every Friday via email and was also be posted on social media platforms. This commenced on the 10th Feb '23 until the National Youth Conclave on 13th March.

Every week’s winners were announced the following Saturday after the end of each challenge. These included challenges that would promote better practices by individuals on a daily basis.

In order to take part, people had to follow a 2-step plan.
1. Do the activity mentioned in the challenge
2. Post about the activity on social media using the hashtags #U20Y20India #LiFEin(city name of participant)

The top 3 featured cities were selected as the winners at the end of every weekly challenge, and the three consistently featured cities for 6 weeks were be declared as winners on the second day of the National Youth Conclave.

The SWITCH Action challenge, i.e. “Sustainable Wellness Initiative by The Climate Heroes”, is an initiative aimed at encouraging individuals and groups to take collective climate actions on-ground. The actions are not limited to tree plantation, effective waste management, rainwater harvesting initiative, sustainable public space making etc., but goes beyond to focus global attention on climate resilience.

The following process was followed:

Registration: Team details registered with the requirement of 2 to 8 members (Age-group 13-35 years)

Submission:
• A video documentary of 2-3 mins presenting the action.
• 500 words Write-Up outlining intent, methodology, challenges, budget estimate and impact.

Evaluation Criteria:
• Originality of ideas aligning to CSCAF themes
• Understanding of local context
• Community participation
• Feasibility of implementation
• Fulfillment of submission criteria in the prescribed format

Photo top left: special mention poster
Photo bottom right: special mention poster

PRE EVENT ACTIVITIES
5-WEEK CHALLENGE

College street, calculation

CHALLENGE OF
THE WEEK

This Week - Mar 03 - Mar 09 2023

Compost on your own yard/balcony

#U20Y20India

For any Query
events@niua.org

For More Info
https://niua.in/youthengagement

#CLIMATEPROINDIA

Update your activity photos on social media using hashtags #U20Y20India #LiFEin(insert your city name).

You can also tag us @National Institute of Urban Affairs/NIUA

NIUA_India

National Institute of Urban Affairs
National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)
niua_india

This Week - Mar 03 - Mar 09 2023

In collaboration with

DO YOU HAVE A KNACK FOR CLIMATE KNOWLEDGE?
IS THERE A CLIMATE ACTIVITY YOU WANT TO IMPLEMENT?
DO YOU HAVE A #CLIMATEACTION THOUGHT?
ENTER THE SWITCH CHALLENGE!
LET US KNOW THROUGH A VIDEO!
NYC TAKEAWAYS

- The conclave brought together the country’s youth and government leadership as an opportunity for cross-learning.
- The conclave highlighted the need to empower, involve and facilitate youth’s participation in key policy and decision-making.
- Helped focus on solutions for challenges our youth face today by creating discussion opportunities with experts in Urban development.
- Discussions on themes for climate change resilience, governance and planning frameworks, catalysing skills and innovation for better urban futures helped create a clear picture of the current scenario and discuss future possibilities.
- Brought the professionals in the ecosystem to understand the youth perspective and how they believe in both small as well as large changes in the ecosystem.
- The discussions brought forth the importance for future leaders to be better grounded in realities and proposed all contestants spend time connecting to the grassroots. Local knowledge should be treated as a necessity.
- Highlighted how there is no single right solution for urban development and various possible methods should be considered contextually for better impact.
- Challenges are opportunities that youngsters in the country need to seek out.
The National Youth Conclave, India’s largest youth summit, was organised jointly by the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sport (MoYAS), and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). On behalf of NIUA, we express our gratitude to all the supporting organisations for their valuable contribution. We would also like to thank the entire team at MoHUA, SCM, MoYAS and NIUA for their unwavering support in making the conclave a resounding success.

As the first event of its kind, we were both thrilled and apprehensive about its outcome. However, the collective belief in its significance as a vital platform for young individuals propelled us towards achieving our objectives. The success of these two days was the culmination of months of meticulous work and seamless coordination among the various teams within our organisation.

Without further ado, we would like to introduce our dedicated core organisational team behind the conclave:

**CORE TEAM**
- Mayura Gadkari
- Utsav Choudhary
- Aplay Suri
- Himani Verma
- Vikas Chandra
- Kaurishy Parikh
- Veronica Quikumallu Wijunamai
- Ila Singh
- Deep Pahwa
- Mehek Baiski
- Prachi Bharadwaj
- Diksha Gupta

**ADMINISTRATIVE**
- Ramesh Sangam
- Abdul Mabood
- Abhijeet Mishra
- Abhishek Shukla
- Amit Sharma
- Deepit Mehrotra
- Devki Singh
- Inder Kumar
- Jiteshwar Pandey
- Mukesh Patir
- Naveen Mathur
- Nishita Chawla
- Praween Kumar Grover
- Rakesh Sharma
- Rakesh Varshney
- Ramesh Shree
- Rupeesh Chopra
- Sampath
- Sarath Babu M.G.
- TC Sharma
- TP Tiwari
- Yogesh Bhatt

**SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM**
- Veronica Wijunamai
- Aparna Davelidi
- Raghav Kohli
- Tarini Gupta
- Prachi Bharadwaj

**IT TEAM**
- Shafeeq Ahmed
- Anirban Bera
- Abhijeet Mishra
- Brijesh Pandey
- Naveen Dangi

**DESIGN TEAM**
- Deep Pahwa
- Devender S. Rawat
- Bhavesh Bhanot
- Tehan Katar
- Preeti Shukla

**RADIO TEAM**
- Akshay S
- Gaurav Verma
- Sonali Mehra
- Shubhi Chawla

“...To achieve the vision of our honorable Prime Minister for New India, we must view it through the lens of youth. Cities being the key ingredients for the future, we hope to create more such platforms like the National Youth Conclave to share with young India...”

Hitesh Vaidya, Director, NIUA