

From Director's Desk



HITESH VAIDYA
DIRECTOR

2021 marks the completion of 45 years of NIUA's relentless pursuit of sustainability and inclusiveness in cities across India. While we are going through this global health crisis, we must reflect on our past, but more importantly, focus on the future.

I feel privileged to pay tribute to the many remarkable people associated with NIUA and their significant achievements that have made NIUA what it is today—a premier national organisation focusing on the urban sector. I am the 10th Director of NIUA, the organisation where I started my professional journey many years ago. NIUA has produced a large number of urban professionals who are now spread across the country, contributing to India's urban development.

NIUA has consistently accomplished the purpose for which it was set up by the Government of India—to bridge the gap between urban research, practice, and policy. It has also become the first port of call for national and international agencies wishing to work in the urban sector in India. NIUA has played a key role in shaping and driving the urban narrative of India, as part of the National Commission of Urbanisation, the drafting of the 74th Constitutional amendment, as secretariat to the HPEC for Urban Infrastructure, policy and advocacy support to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in conceptualization and rolling out of various urban flagship missions.

NIUA has established its credibility through its hands-on approach leading to successful conclusion of projects and hand-holding initiatives in states and cities across India. Our publications, knowledge products, capacity building and networking-initiatives are used across the country, and these efforts have contributed towards bringing the three tiers of urban governance closer.

Our motto for NIUA is **RISE**, which stands for **R**esult and impact oriented, **I**nnovative and inclusive, **S**calable and sustainable, **E**ngaged and ever-evolving!

NIUA has been contributing towards positioning India and its unique urbanism in the global development agenda. I have always believed that cities have the potential to change people's lives for the better and make this planet a happier home for them. NIUA, with its team of brilliant people, will continue to reinforce its niche as a thought leader and an urban knowledge-hub for unpacking this potential for the cities to become smart, inclusive, safe, and resilient.

Hitesh Vaidya

To learn about the 45th Anniversary events and launches, find the details here:
<https://www.niua.org/45th-anniversary-niua>

