



National Institute of Urban Affairs

in the loop

quarterly newsletter

April - June 2024

MAIN STORY
PAGE 01

SPOTLIGHT
PAGE 02

KNOWLEDGE CONNECT
PAGE 16

FEATURE
PAGE 17

BOOK REVIEW
PAGE 19

WHO'S NEW
PAGE 20



NIUA's social media handles



facebook.com/NIUA.India/



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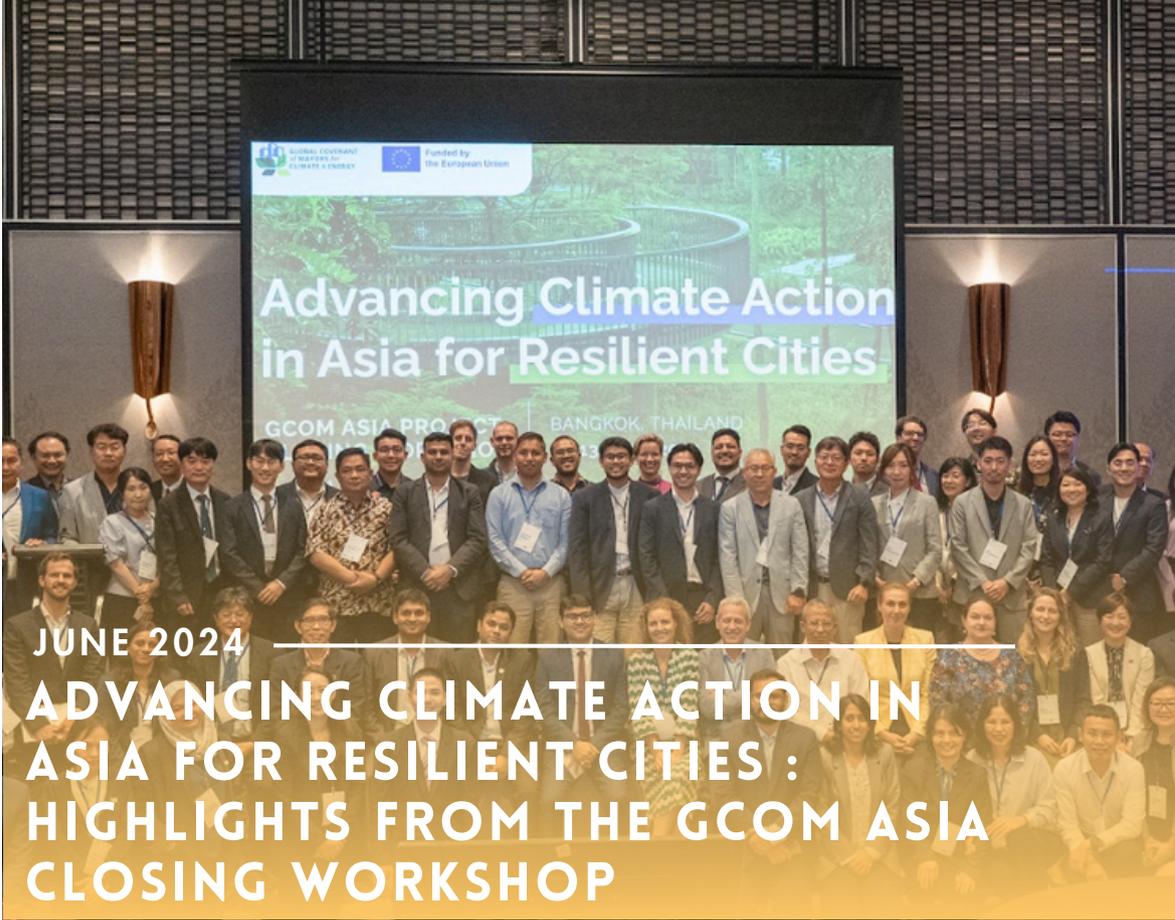
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[NIUA TV](https://www.youtube.com/NIUA-TV)



In June 2024, the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) and the European Union organised a workshop in Bangkok focused on urban climate resilience. Representatives from C-Cube's Climate Action Plan team, including Anshul Abbasi and Nidhi Rai Jain, shared their CAP methodology.

Indian cities like Leh, Pune, Jamnagar, and Junagadh presented their innovative strategies to tackle climate challenges. The workshop facilitated knowledge exchange across Asia, with C-Cube highlighting its ongoing commitment to advancing climate action and urban resilience in Indian cities.

16TH FINANCE COMMISSION QUESTIONNAIRE DRAFT FINALISED

The committee finalised the draft state-level questionnaire by adding questions to the existing questionnaire. On 19 June 2024, the modified questionnaire was shared with all the states. States will respond to the questionnaire, which will help assess the financial condition of urban local bodies in India. The collected data will serve as inputs in framing the urban memorandum for the 16th Finance Commission.

NIUA VISITS JAMNAGAR & JUNAGADH AS PART OF THE GCOM CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROJECT

To help prioritise and refine the City Climate Action Plans for Jamnagar and Junagadh, our team conducted a field visit to both cities from 15 April to 26 April 2024.

The visit facilitated the validation of planned climate actions and interventions through meetings with individual stakeholders.



TRAINING WORKSHOP ON MULTI-LEVEL CLIMATE ACTION

At the Multi-level Climate Action workshop in Bangkok on 12 June -13 June 2024, representatives from India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and China gathered to discuss climate governance and integration. Vaishnavi Shankar and Yashwanth Puducheri from NIUA, alongside officials from Panaji and Coimbatore, represented India. During the panel on Leveraging City Networks for Climate Action, Vaishnavi presented C-Cube's work in building an ecosystem for urban climate actions. She highlighted initiatives such as the ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework, City Climate Alliance, Climate Practitioners India Network, and Climate Data Observatory.

WEBINAR ON 'CITIES OF TOMORROW': STRATEGIC PLANS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The online webinar was organised by C-Cube in collaboration with WWF, featuring conversations with Mr Mangesh Dighe, Environment Conservation Officer from Pune Municipal Corporation, and Mr Stanzin Rabgais, Executive Officer from Municipal Committee Leh to share learnings and experiences while developing their respective cities' Climate Action Plans on 27 June 2024. Additionally, experts from NIUA and WWF presented key aspects of preparing Urban River Management Plans (URMPs) for the benefit of city officers and administrators nationwide.

City officers and administrators nationwide gained insights into developing Climate Action Plans through the experiences shared by Pune and Leh. Participants also gained valuable knowledge on preparing URMPs, which can be applied in their respective cities.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SARAL PROJECT UNDER CDRI FELLOWSHIP TO MAINSTREAM DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

The Strategic Actions to Build Resilience for All (SARAL) project aims to mainstream disability inclusion into Disaster Risk Reduction. The NIUA, with support from the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and collaboration with Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center, piloted this research study in the Ganjam district of Odisha. After the project's completion, a roundtable discussion was organised on 03 July 2024, with relevant experts and stakeholders, to disseminate the findings from the study. The efforts and future plans of the district and state administration were spotlighted during the event which will further shape future initiatives ensuring a more inclusive and resilient approach to disaster management.



CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS IN ODISHA

Three batches of three-day technical training were held for a total of 90 core sanitation workers under Odisha's GARIMA scheme. The training programme enhanced the workers' knowledge about health, safety guidelines, protocols, and contributed to improving their safety, dignity and welfare.

A two-day technical training was held for 150 TULIP interns engaged in the Ama Pokhari initiative in ULBs across Odisha. It oriented the new interns to the initiative and provided insights on SOP for better supervision of work and practical knowledge.



CITIIS 2.0 INITIATION WORKSHOP

The CITIIS 2.0 Initiation Workshop was organised on 16 May-17 May 2024 for the 18 Smart Cities selected under CITIIS 2.0. Close to 100 participants attended the workshop, including Municipal Commissioners and CEOs from the 18 Smart Cities.

The workshop marked the start of the Maturation Phase of the programme and provided the participants with in-depth knowledge of essential aspects of CITIIS 2.0. The Smart City teams also received insights from the Joint Secretary and Mission Director (Smart Cities Mission), MoHUA, senior officials from AFD, KfW Development Bank and the European Union, as well as technical specialists.



MISSIONS IN 17 SMART CITIES SELECTED FOR CITIIS 2.0

On-site missions were held in 17 cities selected under CITIIS 2.0 to meet municipal officials and Smart City SPVs to discuss proposed interventions and visit project sites. The visits provided in-depth understanding of the CITIIS 2.0

programme's requirements and expectations, especially the environmental and social safeguards that the projects need to comply with, including the technical and operational aspects of the project proposed by each city.



'SUPPORT MY SCHOOL' CAMPAIGN IN VISAKHAPATNAM

A campaign was conducted across all 40 Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation schools under the CITIIS 1.0 programme to draw new admissions. School headmasters/ headmistresses, teachers, parents, old students, local

leaders and Sachivalayam staff participated in the campaign. As a result of the campaign, which ran from 13 June to 31 July 2024, a total of 932 new students have been enrolled into the GVMC schools supported by CITIIS.

ICC'S PARTICIPATES IN THE 6TH ASSOCHAM CONFERENCE

On 9 July 2024, Utsav Choudhury spoke on the panel on 'Need of Accessible Infrastructure and Transport System for Inclusivity' at the 6th ASSOCHAM Conference on Empowering Persons with Disabilities through Accessible & Assistive Technology - 'Innovation and Sustainable Solutions for Equal Opportunities'

ICC REPRESENTATIVE SPEAKS AT A PANEL ON POLICY-MAKING INITIATIVES ON ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE CITIES

ICC's Kanika Bansal represented NIUA as a speaker in a panel discussion on policy-making initiatives on Accessible and Inclusive Cities on 13 August 2024. The panel was part of a joint training programme on Universal Design and Accessibility in the Built Environment by Enable Me Access, in partnership with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD). The training program aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of Accessibility Auditors and Accessibility trainers from the Council of Architecture, in universal design and accessibility within the built environment, which are crucial for promoting inclusivity and compliance with accessibility standards.

NIUA INTERACTS WITH YLAC STUDENTS WORKING ON 'ACCESSIBLE TECH PRODUCTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES'

The Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC) was founded in 2016 to increase the participation of young people in the democratic process and build their capacity to lead change in society. As part of their Young Researchers for Social Impact programme, 100 exceptional teens aged 15-18 are engaged to produce meaningful and in-depth research on tech policy, accessibility and inclusion, education policy, and digital privacy. Out of these, 12-13 students are working on projects in the field of Accessible Tech Products for Persons with Disabilities, with whom Kanika Bansal from ICC spent an hour engaging in a discussion and interaction.



COLLABORATION BETWEEN NUDM AND PMIDC

The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) and the Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Company (PMIDC) are collaborating to improve municipal infrastructure and services through shared initiatives.

The NUDM team has tailormade two services for the Dept of Local Govt, Punjab including 1. Self-Certification (OBPAS) 2. Asset Management as per their requirements and specifications.



INSIGHTS FROM INDORE'S SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES (SWM)

Key insights and best practices from Indore's successful Solid Waste Management (SWM) initiatives were shared, highlighting effective waste management strategies and implementation.

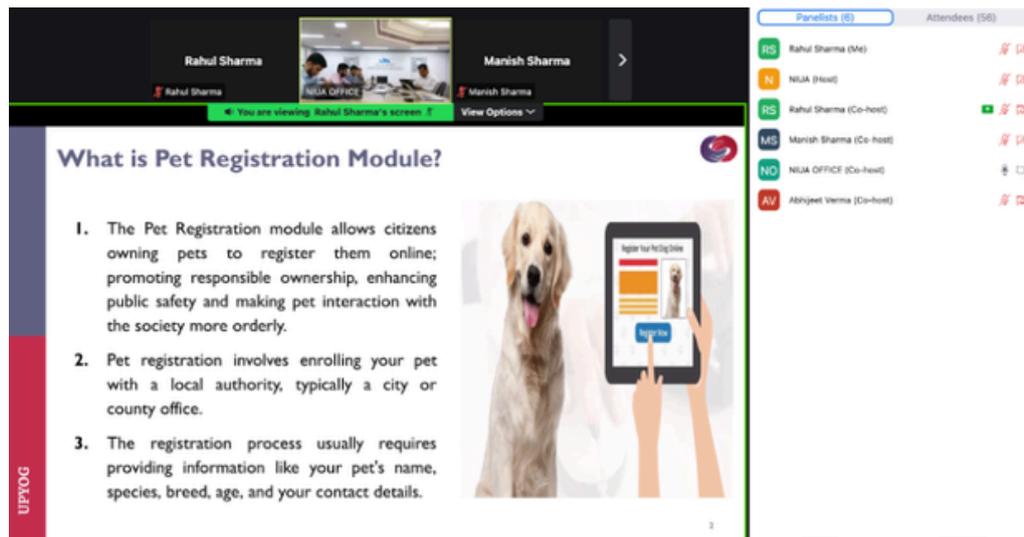
Based on these insights, NUDM will develop a digital platform for SWM to enhance efficiency, transparency, and sustainability in solid waste management practices.

TRANSFORMING LOCAL GOVERNANCE: A DIAGNOSTIC STUDY FOR PUDUCHERRY'S LOCAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

A visit was conducted to Puducherry's Local Administration Department on 07 May 2024 to understand and document their strategies for transforming local governance. NUDM undertook a diagnostic study of the existing online services with the officials from LAD, ULB and Town Planning Department.

WEBINAR TO INTRODUCE THE PET REGISTRATION MODULE OF UPYOG

A webinar was organised to introduce and explain the new Pet Registration Module available on the UPYOG platform, aimed at streamlining pet registration processes.



The screenshot shows a webinar interface. At the top, there are video thumbnails for Rahul Sharma and Manish Sharma. The main content area displays a slide with the following text:

What is Pet Registration Module?

1. The Pet Registration module allows citizens owning pets to register them online; promoting responsible ownership, enhancing public safety and making pet interaction with the society more orderly.
2. Pet registration involves enrolling your pet with a local authority, typically a city or county office.
3. The registration process usually requires providing information like your pet's name, species, breed, age, and your contact details.

To the right of the text is an illustration of a golden retriever and a hand holding a tablet displaying a registration form. The bottom left corner of the slide has the UPYOG logo. On the right side of the screenshot, there is a list of participants:

Panelists (5)	Attendees (56)
RS Rahul Sharma (Me)	[Mute] [Unmute]
N NUA (Host)	[Mute] [Unmute]
RS Rahul Sharma (Co-host)	[Mute] [Unmute]
MS Manish Sharma (Co-host)	[Mute] [Unmute]
ND NUA OFFICE (Co-host)	[Mute] [Unmute]
AV Abhijeet Verma (Co-host)	[Mute] [Unmute]



NIUA AND ADB FORGE KEY PARTNERSHIPS IN NORTH EAST INDIA

The ADB team from NIUA conducted a stakeholder engagement tour in the North East Region, meeting with senior officials from the states of Nagaland and Tripura.

This led to the formation of strong relationships, with valuable state-level insights contributing to the development of the guidance documents that NIUA is preparing in collaboration with ADB.



NIUA AT THE 'WORLD WATER FORUM', BALI, INDONESIA

The 10th World Water Forum, held in Bali from 18 May -25 May 2024, attracted over 20,000 delegates from 160 countries. Dr Mahreen Matto from NIUA highlighted key tenets in sessions on water-related disaster risk reduction and the development of sanitation services.

The forum emphasised strong political commitment, local-level planning, community involvement, persistent policy advocacy, enhanced stakeholder capacity, interdisciplinary collaboration, and robust fund supervision. It also advocated for an integrated approach to climate resilience in the WASH sector, emphasising the inclusion of marginalised groups and the combination of adaptation and mitigation strategies.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL ORGANISED BY ICIMOD

This regional workshop aims to disseminate and validate the findings of the scoping assessment by bringing together relevant stakeholders from the Hindu Kush Himalayas countries such as government officials, researchers, scientists, urban planners, and policy think tanks. This shared platform will also provide an opportunity to discuss the countries' priorities for developing sustainable and resilient mountain settlements through synergies with crosscutting and interdisciplinary sectors.



RELEASE OF PARVAT MANTHAN PODCAST EP01

The first episode of the Parvat Manthan Podcast, featuring expert Sanjeev Bhuchar, discussed springshed management as a nature-based solution for water security. The episode delved into the importance of springs for human life and ecosystems and the effects of urbanisation on the drying up of these springs.



RELEASE OF PARVAT MANTHAN PODCAST EP02

The second episode of Parvat Manthan Podcast with Pradeep Sangwan (Healing Himalayas) focused on waste management in the Himalayas and the difference individuals can make to initiate the change they want to see. He discussed how his organisation successfully cleaned up 800 tonnes of waste from the major trekking routes in the Himalayas.



SCBP ATTENDS 'HANDS-ON LABORATORY TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN FAECAL SLUDGE MANAGEMENT' ORGANISED BY CSE IN AAETI, NIMLI, RAJASTHAN

The training aimed at equipping the participants with the laboratory

exposure of testing of parameters of faecal sludge samples. These parameters included faecal coliforms, Helminth EGSS, BOD & COD, TSS, Total Nitrogen, among others. The training provided a networking opportunity for working professionals of various backgrounds in the field of FSSM. Through the workshop, participants learned the intricacies and workings of laboratory testing and the financial aspects of running an environmental lab. It was a networking opportunity as well.



WORKSHOP FOR ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT WITH THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE & EKISTICS, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA UNIVERSITY FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH-STUDY

To mainstream inclusive sanitation in Darjeeling, NIUA-SCBP signed a

Letter of Intent with the Faculty of Architecture & Ekistics, Jamia Millia Islamia University. Two interns from the University have been engaged to assist with the city-level household survey in Darjeeling. A workshop to orient the student-interns regarding the nuances of city sanitation planning and conducting household surveys was organised to prepare them for the field visit to Darjeeling, scheduled for June. The student-interns presented their secondary research on the different components of a city sanitation plan (CSP), and the maps generated for Darjeeling based on open-source data.

CITY-LEVEL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY SCBP TEAM FOR MAINSTREAMING INCLUSIVE SANITATION IN DARJEELING

The SCBP team visited Darjeeling in collaboration with the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI), Darjeeling Municipality, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), and Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA).

The primary objective of the visit was to conduct a comprehensive household survey focused on essential urban service components – water supply, wastewater management, stormwater management, solid waste management, and access to toilet facilities. The data collected for the following parameters will be utilised to develop an inclusive city sanitation plan for Darjeeling.

The learnings from this visit offers a unique opportunity for SCBP NIUA to collaborate with the Municipality of Darjeeling to strategise and formulate improved WASH solutions to aid Darjeeling's sustainable development. The analysis report is currently under preparation.





STUDY ON SOLID WASTE QUANTIFICATION, COMPOSITION AND MASS FLOW ANALYSIS IN MUMBAI AND AHMEDABAD

NIUA and Kushaagra Innovation Foundation are conducting a study on solid waste quantification, composition, and mass flow analysis

in Mumbai and Ahmedabad, aligned with C40's 'Pathway Towards Zero Waste' initiative. This research spans surveys across various monsoon seasons, aimed at enhancing waste management strategies in these cities. Initial surveys and reports have been completed and reviewed with local officials, leading to modifications in methodologies based on their feedback. With over 1,200 samples collected in each city and ongoing chemical analyses, forthcoming steps include completing post-monsoon surveys in Ahmedabad and finalising reports to detail waste quantification and composition. training aimed at equipping the participants with the laboratory



ON-STREET PARKING MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Varsha Singh from NIUA participated in the workshop on 'On-street Parking Management' on 02 May 2024. The workshop was organised by the Centre for Sustainable and Equitable Cities (C-SEC) in collaboration with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE (ICDRI)

On 25 April 2024, Sarika Chakravarty from NIUA was invited as a discussant for the Roundtable on the Development of Standard Operating Procedures for managing Extreme Heat Wave scenarios by Metro Rail Systems and Services. The event was conducted as a part of the 6th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2024, held from 24 April–25 April 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

URBAN MOBILITY CONCLAVE

Sarika Chakravarty from NIUA was invited to participate in the inaugural Urban Mobility Conclave organised by ORF Mumbai, IIT Delhi and OMI Foundation on 7 June 2024 in Mumbai. The session comprised a focused expert roundtable discussion exploring three critical aspects of achieving integrated and sustainable multimodal transport systems in urban India: i) Institutional and Governance Integration, ii) Physical and Operational Integration, and iii) Information and Fare Integration.

The discussions further produced two policy reports: a special report co-produced by the organisers capturing the deliberations with additional research and analysis as required, and a compendium of research articles in the ORF-Global Policy (GP) Series Journal.

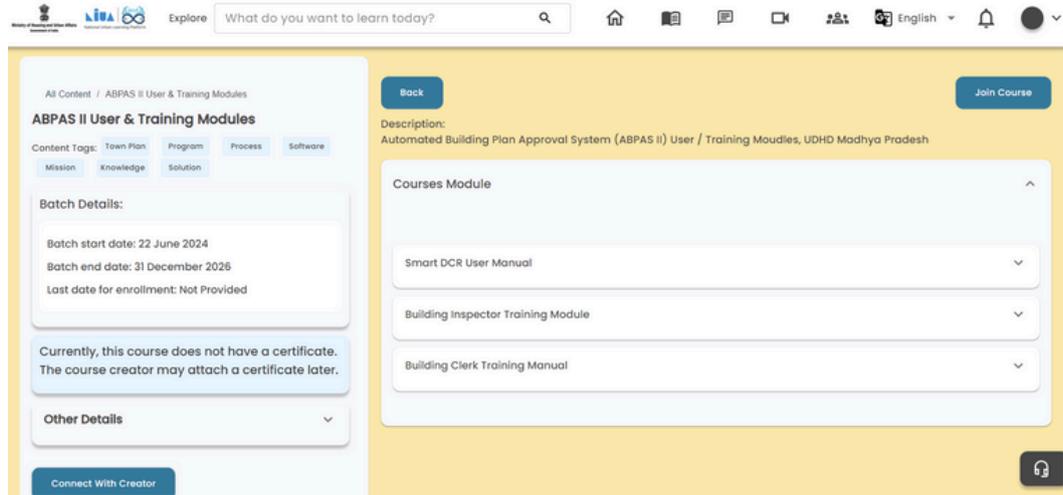
URBANSHIFT PMU SURAT SITE VISIT

The Project Management Unit (PMU) of the UrbanShift team visited Surat from 17 April–19 April 2024 to discuss the project activities with the Project Implementation Unit, meet with officials of the Surat Municipal Corporation, Surat Urban Development Authority, and Khajod Urban Development Authority officials regarding the Dumas Sea Face project activities.

URBANSHIFT PEER EXCHANGE WORKSHOP AT THE ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2024

Shri R Kesavan, IAS, Secretary, Housing and Town Planning, Government of Puducherry, participated in the UrbanShift Peer Exchange Workshop titled 'Applying Nature Based Solutions in Cities' at the ICLEI World Congress 2024, in São Paulo from 18-21 June 2024. As a speaker for the session on Climate Action Good Practices Pitches, Shri Kesavan put Puducherry on the global map by discussing its initiatives towards achieving coastal resilience by maximising the use of Nature-based Solutions (NbS).





[Course](#) 

ABPAS II USER & TRAINING MODULES

This is a course on Automated Building Plan Approval System (ABPAS II) User/ Training Modules, created in collaboration with Urban Development and Housing Department, Madhya Pradesh. The course includes Standard Operating Procedure on using the portal which will be helpful for employees of ULBs of Madhya Pradesh.

URBAN PLANNING IN THE HIMALAYAS: A JOURNEY OF A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SHAPED BY SIKKIM'S MAJESTIC TERRAIN

Situated in the heart of the Eastern Himalayas, Sikkim, the small yet culturally vibrant state presents unique challenges and opportunities for urban planning. Embarking on a journey in a land both mysterious and enchanting, Nongthangba Thangjamm, a North East Region—Young Professional Program (NER-YPP), shares his experience of traversing the complexities of urban development in fragile, mountainous ecosystems.



Dominated by steep slopes, dense forests, and unpredictable weather, Sikkim's landscape creates a formidable environment for urban development. Landslides and infrastructural vulnerabilities are common, making any urban planning project a careful balance between progress and preservation. For Nongthangba, the dichotomy became apparent during a five-hour drive from Bagdogra to Gangtok, dotted by inaccessible pathways. The region's rugged beauty was immediately evident, but so were the difficulties ahead.

As a young professional aligned with the Urban Development Department of Sikkim, Nongthangba contributed to the Sikkim Integrated Urban Development Project (SIUDP), proposed by the Government of Sikkim and overseen by the MoHUA. Sikkim's topography, characterised by steep slopes, lush forests, and frequent landslides, demands a careful and innovative approach to urban development. While the state's efforts are focused on infrastructural planning to

address the urgent need for transit hubs and tourist infrastructure, urban planning in Sikkim presents unique challenges. The terrain requires a careful balance between enhancing accessibility and preserving the region's natural landscapes. At the same time, planners must prioritise the population's safety and well-being, navigating the area's physical and environmental constraints.

For Nongthangba, the lessons learnt in balancing human needs with environmental preservation will shape his future endeavours. With their pristine beauty, Sikkim's landscapes continue to inform and inspire those planning its future.

Nongthangba Thangjamm
NIUA-ADB Young Professional

BALANCING GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMICS: IN SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC

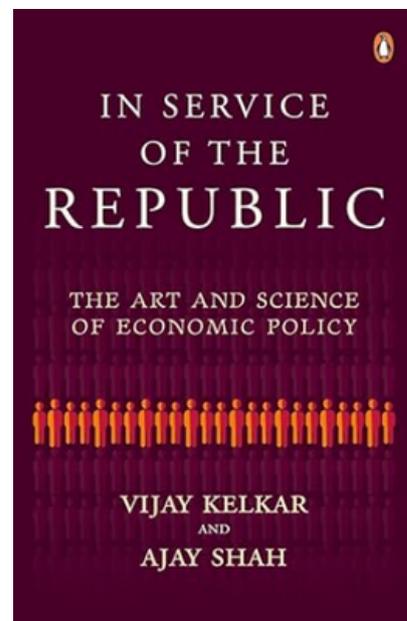
Vijay Kelkar and Ajay Shah

The book presents an insightful analysis of India's economic policy, balancing the complexities of economics and governance. The authors emphasise that strong institutions and good governance are fundamental to sound policymaking. They skilfully blend the theoretical 'science' of economics with the 'art' of politics, highlighting the challenges of applying economic models in India's diverse, real-world context.

The book is rich with examples, such as the implementation issues of the Goods and Services Tax, to demonstrate how neglecting on-ground realities can lead to policy failure. Kelkar and Shah argue that robust institutional capacities are essential for policy success, comparing India's shortcomings with international practices.

While the authors advocate for market-driven solutions, they acknowledge the necessity of government intervention in addressing market failures. However, their focus on economic growth overlooks critical issues like social inequality and income redistribution. Despite these limitations, 'In Service of the Republic' is a thoughtful and well-researched guide for policymakers, offering a comprehensive roadmap for overcoming India's economic challenges.

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20 Who's New



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● Editorial ● Design



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