



National Institute of Urban Affairs

in the loop

quarterly newsletter

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July - September 2024



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AUGUST 2024

URBANSHIFT CITY ACADEMY, JAKARTA, INDONESIA

NIUA delegation led by Dr Debolina Kundu, Director (AC), attended the UrbanShift City Academy in Jakarta from 27-29 August 2024. Organised by UNEP, WRI, C40 Cities, and ICLEI, the event gathered representatives from Indonesia, India, and China to discuss Circular Economy, Nature-Based Solutions, and Climate Action Planning.

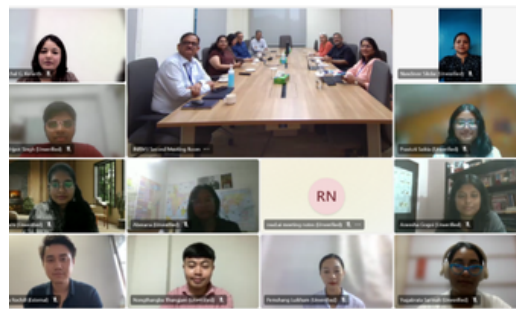
Dr Kundu underscored the importance of capacity-building while NIUA representatives presented on India's climate governance, circular economy practices, and coastal resilience projects. The stakeholders actively participated in discussions on climate-related issues and emphasised the need for knowledge sharing, and exchange of best practices, for a sustainable future.

MEETING OF THE URBAN MEMORANDUM COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT PRESENTATION FOR 16TH FINANCE COMMISSION

The committee convened in August 2024 to review the draft presentation for the 16th Finance Commission. The committee suggested multiple changes to the draft presentation, on the basis of which an updated presentation will be prepared soon for the 16th Finance Commission.

NIUA CONCLUDED THE FIRST PHASE OF THE ADB-NIUA NER YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YP) PROGRAM WITH A SUCCESSFUL SHOWCASE

Ten talented YPs presented their innovative findings to senior ADB and NIUA officials, setting a high standard for Phase 2. In the next phase, five exceptional YPs will continue to support states in driving impactful change.



C-CUBE CONDUCTS AN INTERACTIVE SESSION ON 'CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING' AT THE CITIIS 2.0 WORKSHOP, NEW DELHI

The C-CUBE team, comprising Ms Nidhi Rai Jain, Ms Kaveri Bahure, and Ms Mandvi Misra, successfully conducted a session at the CITIIS 2.0 Technical Workshop on the state-level Component 2. The day-long workshop was attended by over 100 participants from 22 states and union territories across India.

The session focused on understanding the Climate Action Plan (CAP) process, using the Leh CAP developed by NIUA as a case study. Participants engaged in an interactive exercise to gain insights into climate actions and the urgency of developing city-level CAPs. Additionally, the team introduced the CLAP NOW!, a tool designed to raise awareness and encourage engagement in climate action planning.

CITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN REPORT SUBMISSION, LEH AND PUNE

The Climate Action Plan was developed by NIUA in collaboration with GCoM and funded by the European Union. The Leh City Climate Action Plan Report was submitted to the Leh Municipal Committee in the presence of Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS Advisor to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, and Administrative Secretaries from various departments.

The Pune City Climate Action Plan Report was submitted to the Environment Department of the Pune Municipal Corporation, chaired by Mr Madhav Jagtap, Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. Mangesh Dighe, Environmental Conservation Officer.



CITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN REPORT SUBMISSION, JUNAGADH AND JAMNAGAR

The Junagadh City Climate Action Plan Report was submitted to the Junagadh Municipal Corporation (JuMC) chaired by Dr Om Prakash, IAS - Commissioner, JuMC, on 12 July 2024. The Jamnagar City Climate Action Plan Report was submitted to the Jamnagar Municipal Corporation (JMC) chaired by D N Modi, IAS - Commissioner and other JMC line department heads on 16 July 2024.



CLAP NOW! CARD GAME AT STC SEASON 4 GRAND FINALE, MUMBAI

The interactive card game CLAP Now!, developed by C-CUBE, was prominently showcased during the workshop on 'Developing City-Wide Climate Action Plans' at the Grand Finale of the Student Thesis Competition (STC) Season 4, themed 'Reimagining Urban Rivers.' Organised by NIUA, Namami Gange, and TISS, the workshop drew over 80 student participants.

FIRST STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FOR DEVELOPING DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

The National Disaster Management Act of 2005 mandates that all Ministries prepare their Disaster Management Plans (DMPs) in alignment with the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) 2019. In June 2024, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) tasked NIUA with developing its DMP by the feedback and requirements from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). On 05 September 2024, an inception meeting was held with the Mission Representatives. To sensitise and incept the line agencies of MoHUA, a workshop was organised on 27 September 2024. Through the workshop, participants discussed and devised solutions for specific disasters, such as establishing a dedicated disaster management committee to support the development of regional plans and masterplans, transitioning from heavy grey infrastructure to green-blue infrastructure in cities, and incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) components in tenders.





INDIA FORUM FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS) ANNUAL SUMMIT, NEW DELHI

The India Forum for NbS, launched in 2022 as India's first national-level consortium for urban nature-based solutions, is a coalition of research, practice, and finance organisations working to shape climate-resilient

cities and communities across the country. NIUA and WWF presented a decision-making tool designed to help select the appropriate NbS practice for a given site and climate stress. The session, led by NIUA and WWF, featured an interactive segment with over 100 public and private stakeholders to build synergies on three major climate stresses: water scarcity, urban flooding, and high temperatures.

NIUA HANDS OVER CLIMATE ACTION PLANS TO LEH AND JAMNAGAR CITIES, NEW DELHI

The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), represented by Dr Debolina Kundu, Director (AC), along with Mr Pier Remitti, Co-Managing Director of the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), and Ms Eline Houwer, EU Delegation to India, handed over the Climate Action Plans (CAPs) for Leh and Jamnagar cities to their respective representatives at the GCoM South Asia Cluster Meeting organized by the All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIIISG).



Sustainability at its heart, Climate 11 Summit in Leh unveils City CAP

Gyalson for global support amidst disproportionate impact

■ Earth News Service

LEH: In a pivotal move for environmental sustainability, the Leh City Climate Action Plan (CAP) was officially unveiled during the Climate 11 Summit on September 6th in Leh. The event, which drew an impressive array of environmental experts and dignitaries, marked a crucial moment for the city's commitment to combating climate change. The Chief Guest, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, inaugu-



rated the long-anticipated plan. The CAP aims to reduce Leh's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and bolster its resilience to climate change.

The summit, dedicated to addressing urgent climate issues, featured notable speakers including Sh. Norphel, the famed 'Ice-

man of India" and Padma Shri Awardee, Sh. P. Stobdan, former Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, and defense expert, Jigmet Takpa, former Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and Sh. Upendra Tripathy, former Secretary of P11

and Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), served as the event's Chief Guest.

Developed by the C-CUBE at NIUA, in partnership with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), the Leh CAP outlines a strategic roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the looming challenges posed by climate change. The initiative, which is funded by the European Union and aligned with the latest IPCC guidelines, positions Leh among a growing number of global cities committed to bold climate and energy targets.

'PARTICIPATORY CLIMATE ACTION' (PCA) SURVEY UNVEILS INSIGHTS FOR COLLABORATIVE CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN INDIA

The PCA was conducted under the 'Transformative Climate Action through Participatory Frameworks (TCAP)' project in partnership with the United Nations University (UNU-EHS), NIUA and TERI, and funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The survey was conducted across India to identify and understand key challenges and innovative strategies for enhancing climate resilience through collaborative efforts involving various stakeholders. Over 800 responses were collected from government agencies, NGOs, academia, the private sector, and citizens from more than 50 cities, identifying issues of limited capacity, lack of policies, and funding gaps. The findings will inform the development of a roadmap for inclusive climate action and resilience-building efforts.

LEH CITY LAUNCHES CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AT #CLIMATE11SUMMIT

The Leh City Climate Action Plan (CAP) was officially launched during the #Climate11Summit, marking a major stride in the city's efforts toward climate resilience and sustainability. The summit, organised by Climate Trends, witnessed the introduction of the Leh CAP by Adv. Tashi Gyalson, Chairman

Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development



T-CAP: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE IN VISAKHAPATNAM, INDIA

On 21–22 August 2024, a two-day community engagement exercise in Vishakapatnam successfully involved women from marginalised groups, including fishing communities, construction labourers, informal

settlements, and sanitation workers, to address heat adaptation challenges. Working in smaller groups, participants first identified key issues and analysed their root causes and consequences. They then explored potential solutions and action steps for individuals, households, and communities, discussing forms of collective action and where external support might be required. Deepshikha Sinha from NIUA-C-CUBE supported the activity, alongside the United Nations University (UNU), under the T-CAP project.



YOUTH SABHA 2047: SHAPING INDIA'S FUTURE, NEW DELHI

The Sabha featured five sessions engaging youth on food, oceans, cities, energy, and health. Organised by CEEW and the UN Foundation, the event highlighted stories of inspiration and action led by young people driving change.

Ambika Malhotra from the Climate Centre for Cities (C-Cube) at NIUA presented in the session on “Cities and Prosperity: Ensuring Economic, Social, and Technological Progress”.



'SUPPORT MY SCHOOL' CAMPAIGN IN VISAKHAPATNAM

A campaign was conducted across all 40 Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation schools under the CITIIS 1.0 program 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 joined the GVMC schools supported by CITIIS.



DANICS WORKSHOP

NIUA hosted a training program for officers from Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu Administrative Service (DANICS) under National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) focusing on Urban Data Governance, Digital Public Goods and Municipal Finance. The conversation centred around the significance of digitalization in urban governance. Led by Mr Manpreet Singh, Chief Programme Officer, the NUDM team provided an overview of the Mission and emphasised the need to improve urban service delivery through data governance. The team provided insights into the Urban Platform for delivery of Online Governance - an open-source, configurable platform - UMEED dashboard, knowledge standards, municipal finance and accounting to drive data-based governance.



MUNICIPAL CORPORATION DELHI (MCD) TO ADOPT FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING MODULE UNDER UPYOG

With a vision to enable the online delivery of digital urban services for the benefit of citizens, the NUDM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the

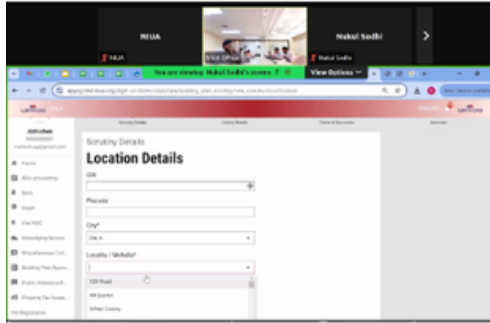
Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on 01 July 2024. NUDM is conducting a study of MCD's accounting processes to implement a comprehensive Finance and Accounting (F&A) solution on UPYOG, preparing detailed specifications based on the identified requirements. NUDM will also provide support through an assessment report, update the MCD Accounting Manual, and offer technical assistance in developing IT modules related to finance, accounting, budgeting, and asset management.



NIUA HOSTS AN INDUSTRY CONSULTATION ON NUDM

NIUA hosted an industry consultation to discuss the NUDM and its implications for urban development and technology integration. The workshop enhanced

understanding of the need for comprehensive collaboration and industry feedback to create more effective and inclusive urban digital solutions. Going forward, the lessons and feedback from the consultation will be incorporated into the NUDM framework, with a focus on fostering innovation and developing a more dynamic and responsive urban digital ecosystem.

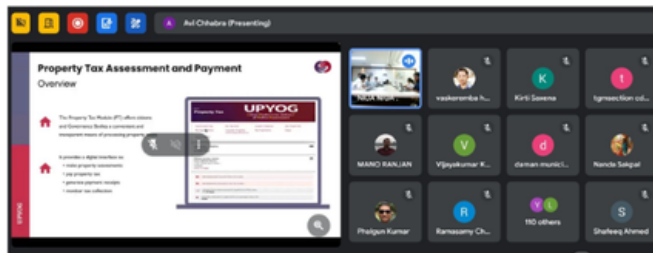


NUDM ORGANISES WEBINAR ON UNDERSTANDING LATEST UPYOG ENHANCEMENTS

NUDM organized a webinar to provide an overview and understanding of the latest enhancements and updates to the UPYOG platform. Over 150 stakeholders from industry and state partners participated in the webinar.

NUDM CONDUCTS WEBINAR ON THE E-WASTE MANAGEMENT MODULE OF UPYOG

On 30 September 2024, the NUDM team hosted a webinar on the e-waste management module developed on UPYOG. The team demonstrated important aspects of the module, including its definition and key features, such as how to request disposal, vendor management, payment handling, and generating an e-certificate. A demo of the module was provided, and participants' queries were addressed.



WEBINAR ON THE PROPERTY TAX MODULE OF UPYOG

NUDM hosted a webinar on Understanding the Property Tax module of UPYOG. The session covered a range of

topics, including an overview of the Property Tax Module, technical requirements and specifications, and detailed features such as assessment, updation and mutation, and self-assessment. Additionally, there was also a live demonstration of the module.



NIUA MEETS URBAN DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE (UDD) FOR URBAN SANITATION PROGRAMME IN UTTARAKHAND

The meeting strengthened the partnership between NIUA and UDD and focused on NIUA's ongoing efforts in Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) in the state of Uttarakhand, including recent update

on the action plan and future initiatives aimed at ensuring effective urban sanitation strategies to address the state's sanitation challenges.

As a way forward, NIUA and UDD will have regular progress reviews and communication meetings, extend used water management plans for additional towns and support the development of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), implement the Desludging Calculator and provide training for sanitation workers on occupational safety and health, support ULBs in preparing and updating their FSSM bye-laws and assist them in implementing actions under the notified bye-laws, develop a dashboard to track FSSM progress with UDD providing the necessary data, provide technical support to the Urban Development Directorate on FSSM, compile a compendium of best practices in waste management for Uttarakhand, conduct state-level advocacy on biosolids management by organising roundtable meetings to draft policy guidelines for faecal sludge co-composting in Uttarakhand, and facilitate capacity building programmes and training for state government officials.

NIUA-PARVAT MANTHAN ORGANISES A PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING CUM EXPOSURE VISIT ON INCLUSIVE AND CLIMATE-SENSITIVE WATER AND SANITATION PRACTICES, LEH, LADAKH

Climate impacts on WASH services have far-reaching implications that transcend borders. To collectively address regional challenges through a collaborative approach, the ParvatManthan initiative, led by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in partnership with BORDA South Asia, NFSSM Alliance, ICIMOD, and LEDeG, facilitated a peer-to-peer learning exposure visit from 20 to 24 August 2024 in Leh, Ladakh, focusing on inclusive and climate-sensitive WASH practices.

The visit provided a platform for decision-makers from Northeast and Himalayan states, Nepal, and Bhutan to convene. It highlighted the inclusive sanitation efforts in Leh and aimed to promote a comprehensive approach to WASH that could be replicated in other hill cities, with the broader goal of fostering sustainable and inclusive development in the Himalayan region.



ONLINE PANEL DISCUSSION WITH DASRA

NIUA team member Dr Mahreen Matto was part of the panel session on 'Collaborative Action Towards Inclusive Sanitation'. Dr Matto deliberated on the importance of inclusive sanitation for improving the Indian urban landscape, the impact of collective action and NFSSM Alliance influence on sectoral actions, and how partnerships through NFSSM Alliance can address critical challenges faced.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS: NFSSM ALLIANCE ANNUAL RETREAT 2024

At the NFSSM Alliance Annual Retreat 2024, over 20 member organisations united with a shared commitment to advancing safe and inclusive sanitation for all. Focused on our 2030 vision - an India where all 7900 cities and towns safely manage their human waste, the retreat fostered meaningful discussions that led to the formation of key task forces, including enabling institutionalisation of inclusive sanitation, climate and sanitation linkages for urban resilience, creating an enabling environment for innovation & technology

NIUA played a pivotal role as one of the core members in drafting the strategy plan for the 2030 vision of the NFSSM alliance and showcasing it during the retreat. The gathering was a step forward in the collective journey, strengthening collaboration, refining strategies, and defining work plans to accelerate sanitation outcomes nationwide, ensuring sustainable and effective solutions for all.





PARVAT MANTHAN PODCAST EP03- 'UNSEEN WARRIORS: OUR SANITATION WORKERS' WITH SNEHIT AND JEEVAN (BORDA-SA)

The episode explores sanitation workers' vital roles, challenges, and initiatives to improve their dignity and working conditions. Snehit and Jeevan speak from their experiences and relay how sanitation workers are crucial yet overlooked in society and lack basic amenities such as clean water and a safe resting area while on the job.



PARVAT MANTHAN PODCAST EP04- 'STORIES FROM THE EVEREST BASE CAMP' WITH NIDHI JAMWAL

Environmental journalist Nidhi Jamwal shares the challenges of tourism in Himalayan hill cities and how the increasing tourist influx threatens fragile ecosystems in hill cities, particularly the impact on Everest Base Camp's ecology. Consequently, waste management issues arise with rising temperatures and overcrowding.



PARVAT MANTHAN PODCAST EP05- 'PAHADI PARAMPARA- YOUTH FOR WATER AND SANITATION'

In conversation with youth leaders Kalpana ben and Ganesh bhai working at the grass-root level with SEWA Bharat discusses role of youth in water and sanitation.

PARVAT MANTHAN EP06- 'URBANISATION IN THE HILLS- WHAT'S NEXT?' WITH DR. NISAR KHAN AND SHIEKH INTEKHAB ALAM

This episode of the podcast delves into the process of urbanisation that has taken place in the hills, citing examples and experiences of our speakers Dr. Nisar and Intekhab Alam from Darjeeling and Leh.



SCBP ATTENDS 'TRAINING AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ON CITYWIDE INCLUSIVE SANITATION' ORGANISED BY ITN-BUET, BANGLADESH

The objective of this training was to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively apply

CWIS principles in programme design. Through this training, participants had the opportunity to learn from both national and international experts, gaining valuable insights into the practical application of CWIS through exposure visits.

The methodology for integrating the CWIS framework was utilised in the development of the city sanitation plan for Darjeeling, specifically for the water supply component.

SCBP ATTENDS THE TRAINING ON 'CREATING EFFECTIVE WASH TRAINING' ORGANISED BY WASH INSTITUTE AND CAWST, GOA

This training was designed to empower educators, trainers, and development professionals with the tools they need to create impactful and participatory WASH training programs. The training utilized the ADDIE model in training design, which aimed at developing clear training goals, using backward design to identify desired learning outcomes and behaviours, designing lesson plans incorporating diverse activities, and constructing comprehensive training agendas

SOUTH ASIAN CONCLAVE ON WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH) – "EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND YOUTH"

FANSA India and Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, with support from the FANSA Regional Secretariat, jointly organised a South Asian Conclave on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) – "Empowering Communities and Youth." The objective of the conclave was to foster experience-sharing, explore strategies for strengthening youth and community leadership, and unite youth and community leaders from South Asia to show solidarity for WASH while recognising Youth and Community WASH Champions across the region.

NIUA was invited on Day 2 to set the context on 'Urban Sanitation and the Significance of Community Involvement.' The session was chaired by Dr. Seetharam, NSC Member of FANSA India and Executive Director of the VILD Foundation, and featured key resource persons, including Dr. Mahreen Matto, Team Lead at the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), who discussed the impact of climate change on urban sanitation, the importance of inclusive sanitation, the role of data in planning, and the potential of public-private partnerships.



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

The study on solid waste quantification, composition, and mass flow analysis seeks to support the cities of Mumbai in Maharashtra and Ahmedabad in Gujarat in accelerating the delivery of the Pathway Towards Zero Waste strategy. This study is being conducted by NIUA and Kushaagra Innovation Foundation, as part of C40's "Pathway Towards Zero Waste," a city-level strategy that supports Global South cities in improving waste management practices.

The study is being conducted in two phases: (i) pre-monsoon season and (ii) during monsoon season in Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Sample surveys were completed in Mumbai for both seasons and in Ahmedabad for the pre-monsoon season. A review meeting with BMC and AMC officials was held in July 2024, during which preliminary findings of the pre-monsoon season were discussed and finalised based on the officials' suggestions. The preliminary reports of the pre-monsoon season were modified and finalised based on the officials' recommendations.

After completing the remaining surveys, the final reports will be prepared to identify solid waste quantification, composition, and mass flow in both cities.





NIUA AND CITIESRISE SIGN MOU

On 06 September 2024, the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and citiesRISE signed an MoU to reinforce youth mental health and well-being in urban areas across India.

This partnership, rooted in NIUA's Urban Youth Unit (uYu), seeks to strengthen equitable urban environments through Centered Cities strategy, action-based research and youth mobilisation. Focused on education and nature-environment sectors, the initiative will unite young leaders, researchers, and practitioners to build resilient, inclusive cities where youth thrive. This collaboration embodies a shared vision of youth empowerment as a foundation for collective urban well-being.

URBAN YOUTH UNIT AND UNICEF YUWAAH LAUNCH 'YOUNG मंच'

NIUA in collaboration with UNICEF YuWAAH, launched the 'Young मंच' platform under its Urban Youth Unit (uYu) on 02 September 2024. This initiative engages youth in urban policy, innovation, and leadership by gathering insights on reimagining sustainable cities, redefining technologies, and rethinking social environment. The platform's mission is to empower young voices in urban development, with articles from innovators, students, and young professionals. These insights will be developed into a knowledge product to provide policymakers for understanding of youth perspectives.





CONFERENCE ON URBAN CHALLENGES: FOCUS ON INDIA AND PATNA

Sarika Chakravarty, Team Lead - UrbanShift Country Project, NIUA was invited to speak at a conference organised by Asian Development Research Institute on Urban Challenges: Focus on India and Patna on 22 - 23 August 2024 in Patna.

Sarika Chakravarty participated in the session titled 'Revamping urban transport to check congestion and pollution and increase economic efficiency', where she provided inputs toward making transportation sustainable and equitable, emphasised the need for institutional, spatial and operational integration for an efficient transport system that serves all, and highlighted the necessity for all PT and shared modes to operate in a complementary not competitive manner, etc. As part of her presentation, she also spoke about using parking supply to enable a modal shift in favour of public transport and shared modes.



CONSULTATION ON SMART CITIES AS SAFE CITIES THROUGH A SAFE TOURISM LENS IN GOA

Shinjini Saha, Project Officer - UrbanShift was invited as a panellist for a Consultation on SMART cities as Safe Cities through a Safe Tourism lens in Goa.

The event was jointly organised by CEHAT and UN Women on 31 July 2024 at Panjim, Goa. In the session titled "Evidence and Learnings from Best Practices in Interventions into Safety in the Public Space", Shinjini delivered a compelling presentation on gender-responsive practices anchored by the UrbanShift Country Project for spatial and institutional integration.

CONSULTATION ON ENHANCING THE INTEGRATED COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRE AT PUNE

A consultation meeting was held between NIUA (UrbanShift PMU & PIU, and NUDM team), Pune Smart City Development Corporation Limited (PSCDCL) and Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) to discuss the modalities of enhancing the Integrated Command and Control Centre at Pune and developing digital infrastructure to facilitate the implementation of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).

LIVING LAB METHODOLOGY

Sarika Chakravarty, Team Lead - UrbanShift Country Project, NIUA was invited to participate in a two-day capacity development program on Living Lab Methodology in the context of urban mobility on 11- 12 July 2024 in New Delhi.

The training program informed the participants about the principles of the Living Lab approach and the benefits of the framework towards fostering the implementation of scalable innovations in urban mobility.



Article 

NIUA EXPERTS CONTRIBUTE TO THE REPORT ON SUBNATIONAL CLIMATE FINANCE FRAMEWORKS, LAUNCHED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ESCAP, NEW DELHI

The NIUA team comprising Dr Victor Shinde and Ms Vaishnavi T. G. Shankar provided technical expertise to the newly released report, "Assessing India's Enabling Framework Conditions for Subnational Climate Finance," developed

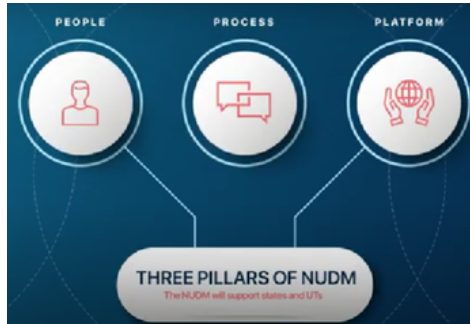
by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA). This report is part of the Integrated Urban Climate Action for Low-Carbon and Resilient Cities (UrbanAct) project. The report was officially launched on 06 September 2024, with opening remarks from Dr Debolina Kundu, Director (AC) at NIUA, highlighting the critical need for innovative financing mechanisms and enhanced policy frameworks to mobilise climate finance at the subnational level



Framework 

'YOUTH ACT FRAMEWORK' : ENABLING YOUTH FOR ACTIVE CLIMATE TRANSFORMATION (ACT) IN CITIES, LAUNCHED BY NIUA AND YOUTH KI AWAAZ

NIUA and Youth Ki Awaaz jointly developed the Youth Act Framework, a comprehensive strategy designed to empower young people to actively participate in climate action within cities. The framework aims to bring together cross-generational expertise, focusing on young people and their experiences, to co-create an actionable approach to climate action. Developed with contributions from Kochi and Visakhapatnam, and insights from experts and youth, it aims to foster sustained engagement between youth and Urban Local Governments (ULGs).



Platform

India has several small cities lacking resources which has prevented them from offering digital services. To reduce the digital divide amongst the towns and cities and to ensure availability of digital services across the urban landscape of the country, NUDM attempts to offer a free, ready-made, and open source software platform to cities and/or collectives (states). This platform is a choice-based model that benefits cities of varied maturity levels and preserves their existing investments.

NATIONAL URBAN DIGITAL MISSION (NUDM)

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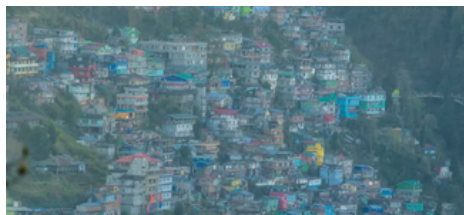


Course

This BIM E-Learning course is designed for Indian government stakeholders to strengthen their expertise in managing BIM projects and advancing digital transformation in the infrastructure sector. The course encompasses BIM fundamentals, practical applications, standards such as ISO 19650, project management, and case studies of successful BIM implementations. Upon completing the course, participants will acquire critical thinking abilities, practical knowledge, and the capacity to lead BIM projects effectively, supporting the modernisation of India's infrastructure. This course has been developed in collaboration with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

BIM FUNDAMENTALS

This BIM E-Learning course is designed for Indian government stakeholders to strengthen their expertise in managing BIM projects and advancing digital transformation in the infrastructure sector. The course encompasses BIM fundamentals, practical applications,



Editorial [✉](#)

The piece highlights Darjeeling's mounting challenges with water scarcity and waste management due to its growing population, particularly the influx of tourist. To sustain life in such difficult terrain, communities must adopt nature-based systems, which are scientifically tested, scalable, replicable and cost-effective in the long run.

UNFOLDING CRISIS: DARJEELING'S GROWING FLOATING POPULATION POSES WATER, WASTE CHALLENGES

The piece highlights Darjeeling's mounting challenges with water scarcity and waste management due to its growing population, particularly the influx of tourist. To sustain life in such difficult terrain, communities must adopt nature-based systems, which are scientifically tested, scalable, replicable and cost-effective in the long run.



Editorial [✉](#)

This piece offers a personal perspective on Darjeeling's waste management challenges. The town's waste system, notably the "chute," struggles to handle the influx of unsegregated waste from residents and tourists exacerbating environmental degradation. Sustainable solutions, such as community engagement, better infrastructure, and capacity building, are urgently needed to address the crisis and protect Darjeeling's ecosystem.

THE DARJEELING DILEMMA: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT IN A HIMALAYAN CITY

This piece offers a personal perspective on Darjeeling's waste management challenges. The town's waste system, notably the "chute," struggles to handle the influx of unsegregated waste from residents and tourists exacerbating environmental degradation.



Editorial [✉](#)

'LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND: STRENGTHENING INCLUSIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN URBAN INDIA'

Co-authored by Kanika B. and Garima Agarwal, highlights the critical need to include persons with disabilities in disaster response.

HEALTHCARE MEETS HILLS OF MEGHALAYA

In March 2024, Nandinee Sikdar, a young public health enthusiast, embarked on a journey into the distinctive matrilineal society of Meghalaya, India, as part of the ADB-NIUA North East Region Young Professionals Programme. Initially envisioned as a six-month journey to explore diverse developmental realities to support the government, it soon evolved into a profound engagement to understand the complexities of healthcare in Meghalaya.

Complex regionalism, sensitive geopolitical relationships, geographical constraints, and varied demographic issues present significant hurdles for Meghalaya.

For Nandinee, the ultimate goal is a world where every mother's healthcare needs are met, every adolescent's well-being is prioritised, and every citizen experiences the benefits of an inclusive and equitable state. At the heart of this lies the dedication of the Development Commissioner and Principal Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, and his visionary team, who boldly aspired to create a more equitable world within the challenging terrain of Meghalaya by enabling access, information, and care.

What began as a vision transformed into concrete action, reducing the state's high maternal mortality rate (MMR) by over 50%, positioning Meghalaya as a role model for other Indian states. From addressing entrenched taboos to reaching the remotest villages and creating region-specific programmes, the determination of the State Capability Enhancement Project (SCEP) and various government departments to realise Meghalaya's developmental potential has been unwavering.

Being part of the NER YP Programme and witnessing healthcare transformation has not only served as an invaluable learning experience for Nandinee but also enriched the young minds under the mentorship of visionary leaders for growth.

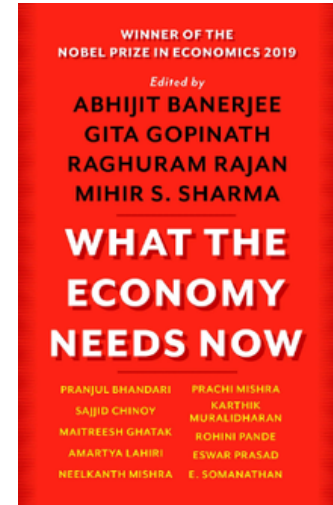
POST - COVID 19 ECONOMIC REFORMS: "WHAT ECONOMY NEEDS NOW"

**Abhijit Banerjee, Gita Gopinath, Raghuram Rajan,
and Mihir S. Sharma**

A collaborative effort of four distinguished economists, the book addresses India's most pressing economic challenges, especially post-COVID-19, and compares them with the global context. It offers insightful analysis by outlining reform strategies for India's economic framework and delineating specific actions across critical domains such as healthcare, labour markets, financial inclusion, environmental sustainability, and education.

The book's strength lies in its ability to elucidate authors' comprehensive viewpoints on diverse economic topics and present practical and actionable recommendations. One such is "The Environment and Climate Change" by E. Somanathan, which broadly discusses three facets of environment and biodiversity – pollution regulation, climate change, and ecosystem protection. The author emphasises that difficulties of pollution regulation are tied to the current legislative and regulatory body possessing minimal administrative and budgetary authority. He advocates for greater autonomy for regulators to impose pollution fees on emitters to reduce consumption habits and for a portion of fees to be invested in pollution control equipment to facilitate a smoother transition to cleaner fuels.

Furthermore, the author calls for sustainable policies and initiatives, such as promoting shared modes of public transportation in urban areas, electrifying the transport sector, and enhancing research and development to mitigate the impacts of climate change.



He also recommends that local communities be involved in the upkeep and safeguarding of natural ecosystems, which are currently affected by poor management by state forest departments.

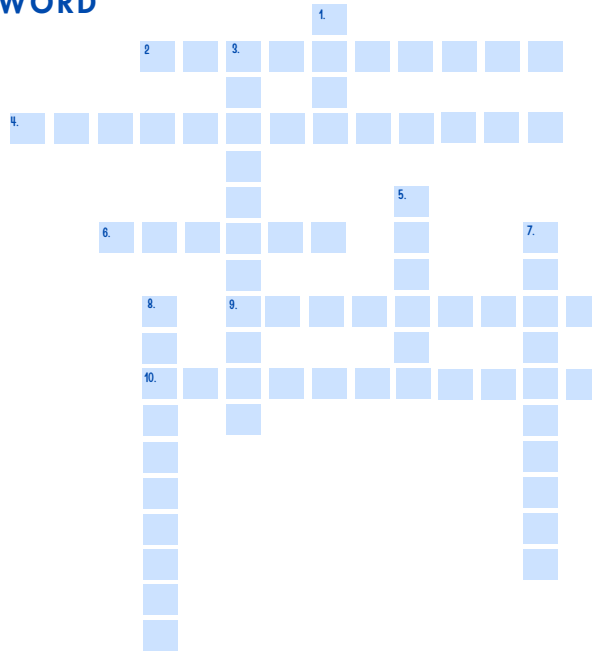
To conclude, 'What the Economy Needs Now' is recommended to those who seek to understand the economic hurdles and potential avenues for expansion. Although the authors advocate for inclusive development, limited attention is given to the grassroots challenges marginalised communities face. Nonetheless, the solutions proposed by the authors yield valuable perspectives for policymakers.

Diptesh Utekar

Research Associate

16th Finance Commission Team

POLICY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. A resource or service that is available for all to use and consumption by one person does not reduce availability for others.
4. Costs or benefits of a market activity borne by a third party; often discussed in environmental or economic regulations.
6. A course or principle of action adopted or proposed by a government, party, or individual to guide decision-making.
9. The processes, policies, and laws through which institutions are directed and controlled, crucial for accountability and transparency.
10. A situation where one party is more likely to take risks because they do not bear the full consequences of their actions.

DOWN

1. A proposal for new legislation or an amendment to existing legislation that's Introduced in a legislative body
3. Individuals, groups, or entities that are positively impacted by a policy
5. An organization or entity that is part of the government, responsible for specific functions like enforcement, regulation, or service delivery
7. The processes, policies, and laws through which institutions are directed and controlled, crucial for accountability and transparency.
8. A written message, especially in business or diplomacy, often outlining terms or conditions of an agreement.

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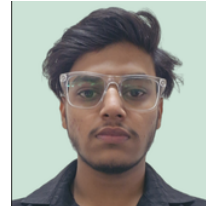
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