

Academics

Urban Planning Conference

The CEPT Urban Planning Conference, held on 9th May 2024, was held in two sessions at Balwantrai N. Brahmbhatt Lecture Hall. The theme for the conference revolved around 'Making Planning Work for Indian Cities'. The first session focused on 'Urban Development in India: Spatial Planning'. This session included 4 speakers, which included Sanjay Kumar, Senior Town Planner in Haryana, Ganesh Ahire, Senior Associate at HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt. Ltd, Avinash Patil, Director at Town Planning and Valuation in Maharashtra, and Dinker Gurung, Chief Town Planner at Sikkim. They presented diverse planning practices in Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Sikkim through topics such as 'Urban Planning and Land Development Process in Haryana,' 'Revised master plan and Development Plan for GIFT City,' 'Revamping Urban Development: Innovations in Planning Initiatives and Reform Processes in Maharashtra State,' and 'Mainstreaming Planning in Urban Development: Experiences from Sikkim'.

The second session focused on 'Urban Development in India: Policies as Enablers'. This session included 5 speakers, Wg Cdr P Madhusoodhanan (Retd), Vice President (Aerospace and Defence) of Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor, Tilottama Dhar, Senior Associate Director at CBRE Industrial Advisory Practice, Anil Desai, a Redevelopment Consultant in Ahmedabad, Shishir Dash, Lead Technical Support Team of Jaga Mission Settlements, and Sandeep Bapat, General Manager of Property Development in Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited.

They presented - 'Harmonizing Industrial Policy with Urban Development: The Tamil Nadu Effort Paving the Way for Sustainable Growth,' 'Equity in Industrial Cities: Impact of policies in shaping future-ready industrial towns,' 'Urban transformation through redevelopment: experiences from Ahmedabad,' 'Eviction to Empowerment: Case of Jaga Mission-in-situ redevelopment of informal settlements,' and 'Implementation of TOD policy at Nagpur'. After the sessions concluded, the delegates visited the Summer Exhibition 2024.



Figure 1- Keynote speakers with CEPT faculty, volunteers and conference attendees. Source- CEPT website



Figure 2- Session by Wg Cdr P Madhusoodhanan (Retd.) Source: CEPT website

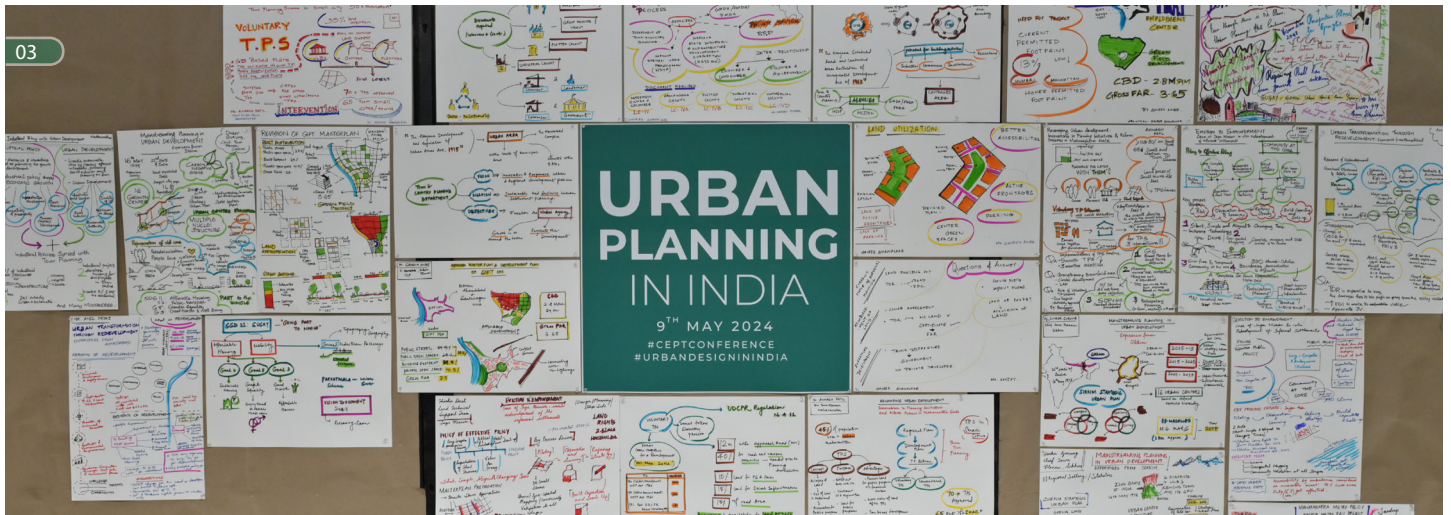


Figure 3- Live doodles of the sessions by CEPT Students. Source: FP Newsletter team.

The Conclave on WASH and climate change, organized by CWAS in collaboration with CEPT University and supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, convened over 350 participants from 30 countries, and additional 700 participants joining virtually. This event served as a pivotal platform for interdisciplinary dialogue among stakeholders, academia, and researchers. Key discussions highlighted the urgent need to enhance climate resilience in WASH services globally, particularly in urban areas which are growing into climate hotspots. The participants acknowledged the vulnerabilities of the urban poor to climate impacts and emphasized the necessity for robust adaptation strategies.

The Conclave identified critical gaps in understanding the climate-WASH nexus and stressed the importance of advancing research to inform global policies and practices. The event featured keynote addresses, high-level panels, technical sessions and a poster exhibition showcasing diverse perspectives and solutions. Moving forward, there was a consensus on fostering collaborative efforts across regions to foster mutual learning and joint programs aimed at building climate-resilient WASH systems worldwide.



Figure 4 –Dinesh Mehta hosting the Conclave on WASH and climate change
Source: CEPT website



Figure 5 – Panel member and volunteers for the conclave
Source: CEPT website

Centre of Excellence

CEPT University has been recognized by the Government of India as one of four Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the field of urban planning and design. This prestigious recognition comes with an endowment of Rs 250 crore, allocated for the development and dissemination of India-specific knowledge in urban planning and design over the next 25 years. This honour is a testament to the tireless efforts and dedication of all members of the university and a moment of immense pride for everyone associated with CEPT.

Since its establishment in 1972, the university has made substantial contributions to teaching, practice, and research in these critical areas. It has played a pivotal role in training many government officials and in-service professionals, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to address the unique challenges of urban development in India.

The recognition as a CoE not only reflects CEPT's leadership in the field but also reinforces its commitment to advancing urban planning and design education. Through this initiative, CEPT University aims to enhance its research capabilities, develop innovative training programs, and create a robust platform for knowledge dissemination, ultimately contributing to the sustainable and inclusive growth of urban areas in India.

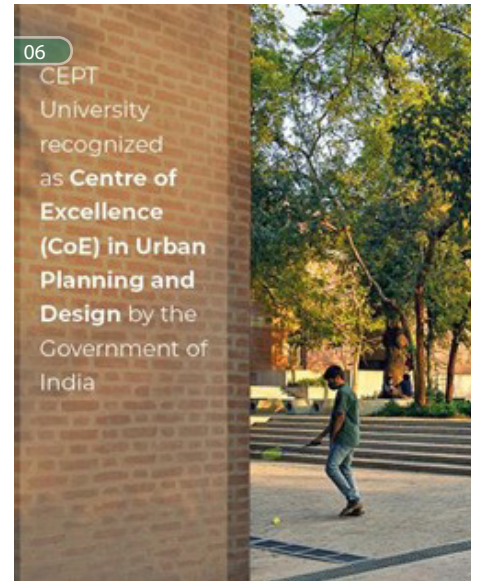


Figure 6 – CEPT University Campus
Source: CEPT website

Amity Cup

Amity Cup is a pan-CEPT cricket tournament with teams of students as well as alumni from various departments. It took place from 16th January to 27th February. The FP Team, led by Ishank Mishra, secured the 2nd Runner-up position. Ishank was also among the top 5 MVP's of the tournament along with Bhargav Makadia and Prince Patel. Prince Patel scored highest runs in the tournament securing a 'Best Batsmen' Trophy. Raj Valand and Rajgaurav Ayare were also among the top run scorers from FP. Vikash Mishra, Rachit Devashryee, Bhargav Makadia and Ishank Mishra also showed their sleek bowling skills with Manav Patel as a terrific wicket keeper. It was a spectacular team that also included Mayank Nigam, Preet Nakrani, Aniket Singh, Bhawesh Pandey, Nil Donga, Anuj Vishwakarma and Rishi Kumar that displayed a striking team effort



Figure 7 –FP Boys Team for Amity Cup. (clockwise from left: Rajgaurav, Vikas, Rachit, Preet, Prince, Aniket, Bhawesh, Nil, Ishank, Manav, Bhargav, Raj and Rishi).
Source: Newsletter Team



Figure 8 - Prince Patel with 'Best Batsmen' Trophy.
Source: Newsletter Team

Sports and Cultural Secretary

The buzz and excitement around the recent Sports and Cultural Secretary elections for the 2023-2025 batch reached new heights, with a fantastic 79% voter turnout showcasing the incredible spirit of our student body! For the Sports Secretary position, it was a landslide victory for Ishank Mishra, who captured a whopping 160 out of 207 votes. The Cultural Secretary race was equally electrifying, with Priyanshu Kumari emerging as the winner with 73 votes. The energy on campus was palpable as students rallied behind their favorite candidates, making this election a true celebration of student democracy. A big shoutout to Ishank and Priyanshu, our newly elected leaders, who are set to bring fresh ideas, passion, and dynamism to our sports and cultural scenes! Congratulations to all!



Fig.9 – Ishank Mishra - Sports Secretary
Source: Outreach team



Fig.10 –Priyanshu Kumari - Cultural Secretary
Source: Outreach team

Academic Secretary, President and Treasurer Elections

The elections for the Academic Secretary, President, and Treasurer for the 2023-2025 batch were a thrilling showcase of student spirit, with a fantastic 76% voter turnout! In the Academic Secretary race, Pukhraj Dongre emerged victorious with 69 votes. The President race was electrifying, with Aniket Singh leading with 84 votes. The Treasurer election was a nail-biter - Tanay Chaudhari won with 66 votes. Congratulations to all the winners. Their diverse ideas and dedication promise an exciting term ahead. Kudos to everyone for an unforgettable election season!



Fig.11 – Pukhraj Dongre - Academic Secretary
Source- Outreach team



Fig.12 – Aniket Singh - President
Source- Outreach team



Fig.13 – Tanay Chaudhari - Treasurer
Source- Outreach team

Swapnil Anil

Swapnil Anil is Managing Director of Advisory Services for Colliers International India and CEPT Alumni Batch 2005-06. He is P&L leader of advisory services in India. He has over 19 years of experience pertaining to Advisory and Valuation - more specifically in Business strategies, real estate development, location consulting, Transaction advisory, Business plans, Government advisory, Asset monetization studies, Valuations and other Urban development related Studies.

Sakshi Kotalwar: How are you currently associated with the profession? How is your academic background working hand in hand with your profession?

Swapnil Anil: I graduated in 2007 in Housing Planning, with a focus on real estate due to my prior experience in housing finance. After graduation, I joined a real estate firm through campus placement and have been in the sector since. The knowledge I gained at the Faculty of Planning has been crucial, especially in the early stages of my career when I applied housing strategies and technical insights. My thesis on retail real estate helped a lot to gain initial know-hows of the sector.

Sakshi Kotalwar: Could you briefly describe your work profile?

Swapnil Anil: I lead the advisory practice for Colliers India, where we help real estate developers, governments, banks, and funds to formulate and validate their real estate strategies. We act as consultants, assist our clients in all real estate matters.

Sakshi Kotalwar: Can you share your experience with some major projects you've been involved in?

Swapnil Anil: In past 19 years, I've worked on various large-scale infrastructure projects in across India & few countries in Asia - including smart Cities, metro projects, mixed use real estate, data centres, logistics and large townships. My experience covers a wide range of real estate & infrastructure projects.

Sakshi Kotalwar: How was the transition from your college life to your professional life in the initial stages?

Swapnil Anil: After post-graduation, I joined an international property consultant firm as an analyst through campus placements. My journey has involved working in different cities and roles, including positions at various consulting firms including IPCs & Big4. Moving from an analyst to the head of a department has been a continuous learning experience.

Sakshi Kotalwar: Do you have any messages for current or prospective students of MUH?

Swapnil Anil: CEPT offers an amazing experience beyond academics. I encourage students to enjoy their time there and focus on developing soft skills, technical skills, and develop business acumen. Learning about finance, taxation, and other aspects not typically taught is crucial for professional life. Additionally, students should relate their academics to market realities and learn how to win / secure projects.namaste



Figure 14 – Swapnil Anil- CEPT Alumni



Figure 15- Tranquility Meets Architecture: A Glimpse of CEPT Campus . Source- Surabhi Verma , MUP student

Excerpt

Via del Corso: A Planner's Perspective on a Historical Thoroughfare in Rome, Italy- by Nidhi Yadav

Via del Corso, in the heart of Rome, is a testament to the city's historical, cultural, and architectural heritage. Dating back to ancient Rome as Via Lata, this wide street has evolved into a bustling artery, reflecting diverse urban development patterns. Its straight path contrasts with surrounding narrow alleys, highlighting different planning approaches.

Planners must balance preservation and modernization, ensuring new developments harmonize with the historical context. The street, home to landmarks like Palazzo Doria Pamphilj and Church of San Marcello al Corso, serves as a commercial and social hub with wide sidewalks and pedestrian zones.

Enhancing pedestrian zones, improving public transportation, and managing traffic flow can maintain its vitality while protecting its heritage. Sustainable development, community engagement, and strict heritage conservation are essential. Jan Gehl's seminal work, 'Life Between Buildings,' emphasizes the crucial role of prioritizing people's fundamental needs when designing urban public spaces. Via del Corso must continue to thrive as a dynamic and vibrant part of Rome through thoughtful, inclusive, and sustainable urban planning.



Fig 16 Graphics Explaining Via del Corso
source: Nidhi Yadav. MUD student

Newsletter

The CEPT University FP Newsletter is a dynamic student led initiative dedicated to capturing the vibrant spectrum of events at the Faculty of Planning, CEPT University. From academic endeavors to extracurricular activities, the newsletter serves as a comprehensive chronicle of the university's bustling landscape. With a keen eye for detail, the team curates content that not only highlights noteworthy events but also showcases the diverse and innovative work of the students. Through engaging narratives and insightful features, the newsletter celebrates the achievements of the Faculty of Planning.



Priyal Shethia
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