



American Planning Association
International Division

Making Great Communities Happen

INTERPLAN

A Publication of the International Division
of the American Planning Association

2024 Summer Issue

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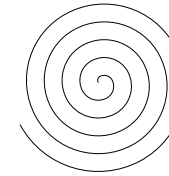
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CHAIR'S COLUMN

Volunteering is a Privilege and a Choice

Volunteering is a unique privilege. It's not everyone who chooses to dedicate their time and energy to work they find meaningful without expecting compensation. The time spent volunteering could easily be used for relaxation, exercise, personal enrichment, or simply enjoying more moments with loved ones. Yet, we are fortunate to have volunteers in our Division. The Division is defined by these individuals.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our active Division members and the non-members who collaborate with us. Your contributions are invaluable.

An ancient East Asian tale tells of a man journeying with a group of helpful animals. When hunger strikes, the stronger animals hunt for food to sustain him. The small rabbit, though physically weak, feels a deep obligation to contribute. Unable to find food, it leaps into a crackling fire, offering itself as a selfless sacrifice. This tale often comes to mind when I think about volunteering within our Division. Everyone can contribute in their own way, no matter their resources or abilities, and I often think I am the rabbit.

My vision for our Division is to create a space that fosters knowledge sharing, collaboration, and the development of solutions to urban challenges at international scope. Ultimately, I hope to inspire you to engage in work that is meaningful to you, the Division, and communities around the world. Together, we can achieve impactful, positive change.

Jing Zhang

Chair, International Division

Interplan is the flagship publication of the *APA International Division*. The newsletter provides a space to share stories and information about international planning professionals, efforts, and events. It is published three times per year - once before the National Planning Conference (NPC), once after NPC, and once at the end of the calendar year.

To submit articles, news, and photos, please review the editorial guidelies at <https://goo.gl/wzqEGu>. To view past issues since 2002, please log in to your account and go to <https://www.planning.org/divisions/international/newsletter/>



Upcoming Events



understand good practice, measure progress since the 2021 Innovate4Cities Conference, and better inform broader processes including the upcoming IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.



be discussed and revisited in the context of our triple planetary crisis and in fast digital transformation.

In New Clark City, about 100km northwest of Manila’s megalopolis in the Philippine Tarlac region, ISOCARP and the Local Organizing Committee welcome the entire international planning community to explore the challenges and opportunities of planning for sustainable new cities that are healthy, inclusive, compact, regenerative and embed circular economy, carbon-neutral energy supplies, and nature-based solutions, while fostering sustainable connectivity and complementarity with existing cities in the region, and with Manila Metro in particular.



banking, showcasing a legacy of urban innovation that reflects ISOCARP’s mission to bridge past and future, providing a fitting venue for discussions on urban resilience and innovation.

Under the banner of “Reinventing the (In)Visible Cities: From Heritage to Innovation, Forging Pathways to Resilience,” the congress held within Siena’s historic walls seeks to chart a course towards sustainable urban development. Inspired by Calvino’s visionary work in “Invisible Cities,” delegates are encouraged to imagine the unseen and strive for urban utopia. By reimagining city planning and design to accommodate innovation in all fields, we honour Siena’s unique historical significance and focus on topics such as urban regeneration, leveraging cultural heritage for sustainable development, and combating climate change.

Innovate4Cities Conference (10-12 September, Montreal, Canada)

The 2024 Innovate4Cities Conference is convening in September in Montreal!

I4C24 aims to share, update, and synthesize insights from novel research, knowledge, and innovative approaches at the intersection of cities and climate science – to

1st International Conference for New Cities: Planning for Regenerative Cities (10-13 September, New Clark City, Tarlac Province, The Philippines)

For urban and regional planners, this is an opportunity and professional responsibility to take a more robust approach to cities through new settlements or redevelopment strategies. Regenerative cities are ripe to

60th ISOCARP World Planning Congress (9-12 October, Siena, Italy)

Siena offers an unparalleled setting for exploring the intersection of tradition and progress. Its UNESCO-listed center, anchored by the iconic Piazza del Campo, provides a scenic canvas for envisioning the cities of tomorrow, while the treasures housed within the Duomo showcase the city’s enduring excellence. Siena’s pioneering spirit is evident in its historic contributions to walkability and



Announcements

APA’s International Division members win two awards

The International Division is proud to share that two awards were granted to International Division members. Both awards went to research and projects published in the Fall/Winter edition of InterPlan.

BEST ORIGINAL NEWSLETTER ARTICLE:

[Brasilia and the Legacy of Planning Planned Cities](#)

by Andrew Gast-Bray, and Matheus Mendes

EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AWARD:

[Public Participation Handbook of Urban Planning for Ukraine](#)

Written by Ro3kvit and the URAG of the American Planning Association International Division aimed at rebuilding a post-war Ukraine

Scholarship Opportunity: Affordable Housing Institute

Two scholarships from the Affordable Housing Institute for the upcoming in-person Harvard GSD Affordable Housing course exploring solutions for affordable housing and their applicability to the United States and other countries. Scholarships are for worthy applicants who otherwise would be unable to attend. Applications due September 4. See: <https://exced.gsd.harvard.edu/programs/affordable-housing-campus/>

Research Grant: Global Social Housing Survey

The International Division has received a \$3,000 grant from the American Planning Association Divisions Council to produce a comparative analysis of social housing models in five countries: Mexico, Argentina, Indonesia, Uganda, and Morocco. By examining the structure, implementation, and outcomes of these programs, the study seeks to provide insights into effective social housing practices and inform future policy development.

Researchers are expected to submit a first draft survey report by October 30, 2024 and final survey report by January 30, 2025. Compensation for Each Survey: \$600. For more information, contact Andrew Gast-Bray: Agastbray@monongaliacounty.gov

APA Sustainable Communities and International Divisions is hosting the Online Regenerative Cities Symposium:

Sep 20, 2024 10:00 AM MST.

A regenerative city is a net positive city whose built environment is planned and renovated to mimic nature’s economy and includes a larger circular renewable-energy economy to lay the foundation for sustainability and climate success and inclusive prosperity.

Register here: https://uso6web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_L_BO95bTvKm1TKODk2JDg#/registration

InterPlan 2024 Summer

American Planning Association International Division

Throwing Shade on Extreme Heat

When I feel the heat, I see the light.
—Everett Dirksen

Dr. Vivek Shandas, professor of climate adaptation at Portland State University (PSU) and founder of Climate Adaptation Planning + Strategies (CAPA), is one the leaders of this group. He studies the disturbing cost of our unequal access to natural cooling resources.

To better understand the impacts of the 2021 “heat dome,” Vivek agreed to take me to ground zero.

When he finds me outside his office, he gives me a bear hug. Though we don’t know each other well, we have bonded at nature conferences over our love for the urban forest, and I always get the sense that he is the kind of person who makes everyone feel comfortable. In many ways, Vivek embodies Portland: a politically engaged hobbyist hiker with a laid-back smile and a deep commitment to nature conservation.

Today, he’s wearing a green-gray checkered jacket with slim jeans and worn sneakers caked with mud, his face tan from this summer’s measurement campaigns. If it weren’t for the faint salt and pepper on the sides of his faded undercut, you’d never know he’d just turned fifty.

We’re in Portland’s Central Eastside Industrial District, where not a tree can be seen.

The industry in the neighborhood’s name left decades ago, making way for start-ups, stores, and lofts that have filled the warehouses.

“How is Amsterdam faring,” he asks, knowing it has already been a tough summer.

“We’re managing,” I say out of pride, realizing it’s a lie. “You?”

“Us, too,” he says. “I guess.” I can see the pain behind his eyes. “It’s been a lot.”

Being outside, no matter how bad the weather, is how Vivek deals with adversity. As his Portland neighbors retreated to air-conditioning to wait out the heat dome—at least those lucky enough to have AC—he hit the streets, taking the temperature of dozens of blocks. Nature has been his refuge for as long as he can remember. Just ten years old when his family moved from Bengaluru, India, to Santa Rosa, a small city in Northern California, he found that he was one of the only Indian kids at his elementary school. He felt isolated, thousands of miles from the boys he grew up playing cards with. But climbing up muddy trails at the foot of the Sonoma Mountains, Vivek discovered that in nature he felt at home.

Unsurprisingly, despite coming from a family of engineers, Vivek decided to pursue environmental sciences. Fresh out of school, he worked on the Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve on California’s scenic Big Sur Coast, building out the university’s herbarium. His \$100 monthly stipend covered rice, beans, and all the other essentials he needed while living out of his tent. It was one of the happiest times of his life.

Vivek’s experience at the reserve inspired him to share the power of nature with others. Soon, he found himself teaching “outdoors school” in Oregon. The state mandates that middle schoolers spend a week camping and learning in the world’s greatest classroom: nature. Vivek understood why experiencing what he had would be valuable for kids. But he wasn’t prepared for how the city kids he taught would change his perspective.

For several years he tried to bring the immersive education of nature to children in the city. He developed, among many other things, a curriculum for teaching how to test local water quality, which the San José Children’s Discovery Museum translated into Spanish and still uses today. Later, Vivek became a professor at PSU and shifted his focus to studying heat across urban neighborhoods and the people it harms the most.

As we drive down one of Portland’s wide streets, Vivek lowers the windows to welcome in the breeze of a green neighborhood we entered a few minutes ago. “We’re about to be in East Portland,” he says, reminding me to pay attention to the streetscape. It rapidly changes from lush, tree-lined streets to what Vivek calls “anywhere, America,” a mosaic of strip malls, parking lots, and asphalt roads stretching for miles. We pass a cemetery on my right-hand side, strangely a welcome patch of life in a pallet of gray.

“What’s weird,” Vivek begins, “is that we used to understand urban greenery as a gradual buffer to heat.” But with more extreme heat waves, he tells me that’s changed. He gestures toward the cemetery. “On an eighty-five-degree day, you’ll feel the cooling incrementally as you walk closer and closer to that grass. But on a hundred-degree day, there’s no buffer—you’ll immediately feel the heat stepping off the green lot.” That may not seem particularly significant, but Vivek claims that the hotter the day, the harder nature has to work to combat the temperatures. The principle that this demonstrates will have unprecedented impacts on the neighborhoods we build. Without a green intervention, they’ll continue to react to temperatures we’ve never seen in a vicious cycle. To properly mitigate against temperatures as high as they were in Portland, we need more green everywhere.

As Vivek and I drive deeper into Southeast Portland, a historically disinvested area, the strip malls increase. We stop at a traffic light where Vivek points out a “massive missed

opportunity,” a newly constructed apartment building. The top-story windows don’t open, and the bottom ones only crack open a few centimeters. The units don’t have AC, and there’s no greenery in sight. “It’s a greenhouse in there. That building will kill people, and they don’t even know it.”

The observation hangs heavy in the air.

A few blocks later, I break the silence. “That building—what’s the best way to—”

“Cross ventilation instead of boxed-in walls, green walls, green roof,” Vivek rattles off. “There needs to be a median strip to allow canopy growth.”

The problems with that building are the same ones he sees everywhere: we’re still designing for yesterday’s conditions, putting up structures that we expect to house people in fifty, seventy-five, a hundred years—except by then, they’ll be completely uninhabitable.

We drive five more minutes past Arby’s, Staples, Lowes, and more edge-to-edge housing developments. Then we roll to a stop.

“Is this it?” I ask.

Vivek nods and reaches for the car door. “Heat dome ground zero.” Last summer, this zip code experienced the highest death toll. Vivek notices me looking across the eight lanes of the Interstate 205 overpass some 100 feet ahead of us, where there’s a small tent city even on this unseasonably hot October afternoon. The overpass is the only infrastructure providing any shade in the vicinity. “You see those boulders?” he asks.

I notice them spaced several feet apart, lining both sides of the underpass. He explained they were the city’s response to the local homeless population, deterring people from camping. That move turned out to be deadly. “Some people took their tents out from under the highway,” he said, “on a day I measured the temperature here at 167.” He takes a few steps

toward the underpass, then stops, resting a hand on the concrete wall that lines the sidewalk, like he is catching his breath.

“Right here,” he says. “This is where one of the people forced from the underpass died.”

Despite the seeming inhumanity of it all, Vivek doesn’t blame the city. “The city wasn’t thinking about the heat when they put those boulders down.” He sighs. “But that’s exactly the problem—they’re never thinking about heat.”

Vivek’s personal and professional lives collided when the heat dome descended on his city in 2021 during what many Americans across the West called an “apocalyptic” heat wave. Ten days before the heat dome, he had seen its first signs, as his weather model projected it to climb to 114°F. Perhaps out of wishful thinking, he convinced himself it couldn’t be. The daily highs exceeded even July averages for some of the hottest cities in America, like Phoenix, Arizona, and Las Vegas, Nevada. Even the evangelist of remedying the city’s massive heat problem thought it impossible, chalking it up to a modeling error. So he checked the National Weather Service’s forecast. Then he looked at his own the next day, the next day, and the day after. Five days out from the predicted heat wave, when the accuracy of Vivek’s model began to improve exponentially, the temperatures had only increased.

Vivek brings me to a bench, telling me what he did that week—from the first blistering hour to the thick clouds that finally swept the heat away. “My first reaction was—” He gulps. “That people are going to die. Second was that we only had five days to get help.”

Decades of heat research flashed before his eyes as he considered what could be done on such short notice. He had interviewed people living in tents, trailer-park homes, and cramped apartments with multigenerational families. “It felt like everything I had written about, everything I had predicted, the social vulnerabilities, the historical land use, the blasé attitude toward heat in the Pacific Northwest. It

was all swarming before me, and I was completely helpless.”

Ultimately, the help that Vivek hoped for never came. Only a few experts seemed to express alarm three days before the heat dome. There had been no warning from the National Weather Service and no texts or phone calls from the city. He started asking those he knew in the local government about their plans.

“Finally,” Vivek says, “an advisory went out the day before it started.” As the sun rose the next day, the National Weather Service issued another, telling residents to try and stay cool. On the news, they said it would be 112°F, but Vivek knew better than that: his research had shown him that heat is unequally distributed across the city. He couldn’t answer the question of how variable it would be at temperatures the region had never seen. Armed with a thermometer and an infrared camera attached to his smartphone, Vivek and his then eleven-year-old son, Suhail, were determined to find out.

It was important for Vivek to take his son out with him, not only because Saturday was the day of the week that Vivek always set aside to spend time with him, but because this was an opportunity to share an important life lesson. “The local meteorologists were calling this a one-hundred-year event,” Vivek says, “and I told Suhail not to think about this day as the hottest it’s been in the last hundred years but as one of the cooler July days that he and his children would experience in the next hundred years.” He smiled, remembering how Suhail’s eyes had glazed over. “Suuure, Dad,” Suhail had said.

Whether or not the message had hit home, the newly minted family team started their measurements on the corner where Vivek and I now stood. It was a typical North American development, where building walls met sidewalk and sidewalk met asphalt road, a collision of concrete reflected down the four streets that sprawled in each direction. On this warm afternoon, the sheer face of the building wall offered little shade. There wasn’t a tree, patch of grass, or vine of ivy in sight. I had a hard

time not picturing the man who’d died on this very sidewalk, slumped against the radiating wall, seeking refuge where none existed.

“It reached 124 degrees,” Vivek says, breaking my lurid daydream. “And it didn’t drop below that.” Vivek told me how he’d coaxed Suhail to walk another couple of blocks—quick to confirm Suhail was well hydrated and “lunched up”—to see if the temperature would fall. It was three p.m., and the sun was starting its slow descent. But on that day, it only grew hotter.

After taking measurements for another thirty minutes, the father-son duo had proceeded back home. Vivek and I got back in the car and set off in the same direction he’d traveled with his son, keeping our windows down. A few minutes later, I noticed a change in our surroundings. “Where are we?” I asked.

It was Northwest Portland, Vivek told me, a neighborhood that looks—and feels—completely different. Lush pin oaks line the narrow streets; the homes set back several feet from the sidewalk. In each traffic median, a flourishing ecosystem of shrubbery blossoms. Vivek pulls his Prius to the side of the road, across from a man raking leaves on one of the medians.

On this block, Suhail had measured the temperature at 99°F, 25 degrees lower than the reading he’d taken just a few miles within the same hour. Astonished by the difference, he and Vivek canvassed the neighborhood to confirm the measurement wasn’t anomalous. “Not once did the thermometer break one hundred,” Vivek tells me.

Always the scientist, he’s quick to point out slight topography differences between this hilly neighborhood and the urban desert we’d just left. But he insists they are insufficient to account for the temperature difference.

So, what is it?

“Obviously, there’s the shading aspect,” he begins, “but the real magic is something else.” When leaves are exposed to the sun’s rays, he

says, water evaporates off them, cooling the surrounding air. And it doesn’t have to be trees. Smaller plants also evapotranspire, releasing water vapor into the atmosphere, which carries away heat and reduces the overall temperature. While trees are often considered the primary solution for cooling urban areas, scientists find that smaller plants like shrubs and grasses can also contribute, working together to cool our cities.

This effect explains how on the second day of the heat dome, Vivek recorded the surface temperature of an ivy-covered green wall beside his industrial office building at 119°F, while right next to it, a wall that lacked ivy registered at 157°F, an astonishing 40-degree difference. Both walls were directly in the sun.

Inside homes, the contrast is even more stunning. A study from the University of Reading in the U.K. found ivy to be the most effective plant cover for cooling buildings and reducing humidity. Not only does it provide the best summer cooling for buildings, but it also keeps them warmer in the winter. Another study found that houses insulated with a vertical wall with plants had 30 percent less heat loss when compared to a room without such a wall, slashing a home’s energy bills.

When Vivek returned home that evening, drenched with the sweat of the day’s measurements, he input all the data into a spreadsheet. Seeing it side by side blew him away. Neighborhoods lacking plant coverings—typically the poorer ones—reached temperatures as high as 124°F, hotter than the highest recorded temperatures in Las Vegas, a thousand miles to the south. In stark contrast, greener and wealthier Portland neighborhoods averaged about 98°F.

The extreme contrast in the temperature data that he proceeded to publish, coupled with the high mortality rate the city announced, finally had people paying attention. Within a month, the New York Times, Washington Post, and The New Yorker lit up his phone. It was bittersweet for Vivek, who’d been laughed out of the room

for suggesting Portland could get so hot just seven years prior.

“I was in front of all the right people then,” Vivek recalls, “Oregon Health Authority, the city of Portland, Metro Regional Government, local health agencies . . .” he trails off. I swear I see his face wince in pain.

“We could’ve saved many lives,” he begins in a higher pitch, “but it wasn’t a priority for them.”

A few weeks before the heat came, Vivek had been presenting the results of a National Science Foundation-backed heat study, the first to project that these kinds of scorchers would come within the decade. The study laid bare the vulnerabilities of Portland and other neighboring cities, whose built environment and lack of air-conditioning put residents at grave risk. Having grown up in the searing climate of Bengaluru, he understood the impact heat waves had on the most vulnerable. But as he waited at the end of his presentation for questions that never came, he wondered if others could imagine the destruction he feared. “There was a belief,” he tells me, “one that was pervasive and deeply held—especially for those who’d lived here for decades—that, no matter what any model said, Portland just couldn’t get that hot.”

The humiliation of so many similarly tepid receptions to his work might have been enough to send most scientists into hiding. Vivek, on the other hand, simply wanted to learn how to move forward, blaming himself for failing to inspire the fear that would be rational. He concluded he wasn’t doing a good enough job of communicating the looming, sinister threat. If people were going to take this seriously, he decided, they needed to be able to see on a hyper-local level what heat could do to people. At the time, heat maps were primarily based on land-surface temperature measured by satellites. Like thermometers in the sky, satellites measure part of the atmosphere up to 10-km above our heads, known as the troposphere, inferring ground temperatures from that data. While the method has important

benefits—namely, the fact that it’s replicable and scalable worldwide—its measurements are coarse. They perceive almost nothing about conditions varying neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block, home by home, the measurements that Vivek was convinced were necessary to save lives.

As the heat in the Pacific Northwest receded, its grim fatality was undeniable. Across major cities such as Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver, hundreds died, and thousands more were hospitalized with heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and dehydration. By the end of summer 2021, Americans had confronted a reality that many Europeans were still struggling to grasp: during a heat wave, every degree increase in Fahrenheit temperature can raise the risk of dying by 2.5 percent.

Research has shown that if the urban forests in the U.S. disappeared tomorrow, there would be twice as many deaths due to heat. And by contrast, merely covering 30 percent of cities with trees would cut heat-related deaths by a third. Yet despite the increasing human toll of our bare surroundings, most municipalities have invested far too little to understand how streets can offer enough natural shade to combat heat deaths and which improvements urban planners must prioritize.

In my early research, I found the lack of investment in heat-fighting green infrastructure hard to make sense of. Compared to large-scale infrastructure projects, it was obvious that urban greening was readily achievable, and the economics, medical literature, and climate research all pointed to its life-saving potential. But when I launched my first discussions with my local policymakers in Amsterdam in 2015, I had my first taste of the challenge Vivek encountered daily. The city planners didn’t know where to start.

“We don’t have the resources to send people walking around our streets, recording the sun” was a sentiment I heard more than once.

But what if we did? Imagine a city that could access a true map of its neighborhoods—not just its streets but the buildings, structures, and greenery surrounding them. What if city officials could identify which roads provided adequate shade and which needed more plants to cool them? The result would be a cheap, verdant, and highly utilitarian streetscape.

More than a year later, I met someone who showed me this was more than a dream ♦

Excerpt From Chapter 3: *The Nature of Our Cities: Harnessing the Power of the Natural World to Survive a Changing Planet* by Nadina Galle. Copyright © 2024. Reprinted by permission of Mariner Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

About the author

Nadina Galle, Ph.D. is a Dutch-Canadian ecological engineer, technologist, and podcaster. Her work has been featured in documentaries produced by BBC Earth and in multiple print publications, including Newsweek, ELLE, and National Geographic. The recipient of several academic and entrepreneurial awards, including a Fulbright scholarship for a fellowship at MIT’s Senseable City Lab, she was selected by Forbes’ 30 under 30 list, and recently named a National Geographic Explorer for her work on how growing cities across Latin America are plugging into the Internet of Nature. She divides her time between Amsterdam and Toronto.

Interview with a Planner:

Connery Cepeda, AICP



Mr. Connery Cepeda is a Senior Transportation Planner and Project Manager for OC Global, a Japanese civil engineering firm based in Tokyo. He has 18+ years of project experience, including coordinating capacity-building on urban transport policy and institutional development for a newly formed sustainable urban transport authority in Vientiane, Laos. He previously worked for Alta Planning + Design, as well as for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in San Diego and Oakland. He has a BA in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania, USA (2003) and a Masters in City Planning from the University of California, Berkeley, USA (2012), and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Jing Zhang: What is your current role and how did you begin your career in planning?

Connery Cepeda: I am currently a Senior Transportation Planner and Project Manager for OC Global, a Japanese civil engineering firm based in Tokyo, Japan. My journey in planning began with a small firm in Philadelphia, where I worked on environmental justice projects shortly after

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION SCHOLAR PROGRAM



This scholar program has been established to assist students from underrepresented groups who are pursuing a degree in planning with an interest in sustainability. The program’s mission is to provide these students with the opportunity to attain their professional goals while supporting and advancing the sustainability planning industry.

This scholar program includes an award of **\$2,000*** to offset the student’s tuition at their current academic institution. 1 scholarship will be awarded this year.

APPLICATIONS DUE
SEPTEMBER 25, 2024
Questions? Email edi@apascd.com



graduating with a BA in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania. This initial position was a one-year contract, after which I moved to a larger architecture and master planning firm, still in Philadelphia.

A vacation to San Diego marked a turning point in my career. Having spent my later childhood in the Northeast US, I found San Diego appealing and decided to relocate. My family's frequent moves during my upbringing made the decision to relocate less daunting. With my family's support, I secured a job with a civil engineering firm in San Diego, where I worked for a year and a half. This period marked my transition from land use master planning to transportation planning, facilitated by a chance encounter at a friend's birthday party that led to an entry-level position with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

I spent eight years at Caltrans, six of which were in San Diego and two in Oakland, while I attended UC Berkeley's Masters in City Planning program. This opportunity allowed me to gain practical experience while pursuing graduate studies. After completing my degree, I returned to the private sector, focusing on active mobility projects—walking and bicycling—across California and Nevada. Despite these roles, I always aspired to work abroad in international development.

Zhang: What motivated your international aspirations and how did you end up working in Japan?

Cepeda: My family's heritage from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, combined with my travels in Germany, South America, and Europe, fueled my desire to work internationally. Japan, in particular, fascinated me. In 2017, I took extended time off to explore work opportunities in Japan, leading to my current position at OC Global through another chance encounter.

Zhang: How did your early interests and influences shape your career path?

Cepeda: The video game SimCity played a significant role in sparking my interest in urban

planning. Although I initially pursued architecture, believing it was the closest profession to my interests, I discovered planning through graduate courses at Penn and an architectural internship that involved complying with historic preservation regulations. This experience piqued my curiosity about zoning regulations and enforcement, ultimately leading to my career in planning.

Zhang: What skills do you believe are crucial for a career in transportation planning?

Cepeda: In transportation planning, I value both hard and soft skills. Proficiency in GIS and statistics is crucial, along with advanced use of Microsoft Office, particularly Excel and PowerPoint for data analysis and presentations. Soft skills, such as public speaking, negotiation, and collaboration, are equally important. I practiced public speaking through Toastmasters, which I recommend as a way to gain feedback and improve.

Networking is essential in planning. Attend conferences, seminars, and webinars to meet peers and expand your professional connections. Networking should be approached with an open mind and without expecting immediate results. Many of my job opportunities arose through connections in the planning community.

Zhang: What is your vision for the future of urban planning?

Cepeda: I hope to plan to become more collaborative and participatory. Despite progress, there is sometimes a lack of civility and trust among stakeholders. As planning practitioners, empathy is crucial. People want to be acknowledged and heard. I believe planning can address and mitigate many of today's injustices, such as the global housing crisis and access to clean water. By working collaboratively and inclusively, we can create more livable cities for everyone ♦

India as New Bharat: A Decade of Development and Transformation (2014-2024)

Amit Kumar, Assistant Professor, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

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Introduction

India, a country with a rich history and diverse culture has been constantly evolving since ancient times. The post-independence era (1947–2017) has been well documented in the book “City Planning in India, 1947-2017”). With some overlap, this article identifies government’s vision and implementation plan, as enunciated by Prime Minister Modi in the Viksit Bharat@2047, India's roadmap for becoming a developed nation by 2047 with near, medium, and long-term goals focusing on electric mobility, digitization of payments infrastructure, and high-speed expressways. Changes and developments in the initial years between 2014 and 2024 are moving the nation toward accomplishing the vision by the centennial celebration of India's independence.

This article will explore India's progress during this time and look at its potential for future growth. It will examine how government programs and policies have impacted important areas like education, economy, and healthcare, and how they aim to address long-standing problems. By looking at both the achievements and challenges, the article will provide a balanced view of India's transformation and its journey toward a brighter future.

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth Per Capita

Before talking about qualitative development, the quantitative development of the country will be assessed through its GDP growth per capita. From 2014 to 2023, GDP per capita generally trended upward, rising from \$1,559.86 to \$2,410.89, despite notable fluctuations in annual growth rates. Significant growth occurred in 2017 (14.12%) and 2021 (16.98%), reflecting strong economic performance in these years. However, there were also periods of stagnation, such as in 2018 (0.84%) and a significant decline in 2020 (-6.68%) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The rapid recovery in 2021 shows the economy's resilience and its ability to bounce back from severe disruptions.

Overall, the data indicate a trajectory of economic improvement, with GDP per capita nearly doubling over the decade. While there were periods of slower growth and even decline, the long-term trend points to a healthier and more robust economy. This underscores the importance of adaptive economic policies and strategic planning to sustain growth, address periods of stagnation, and enhance the economy's resilience to future shocks.

Development in India

Measuring development can be complex, as it considers a country's existing socio-economic

situation and effort required to improve the quality of life for all citizens and residents of India. Development is a multifaceted and highly dynamic concept requiring a holistic approach across sectors. To achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, the effort is broken into Mission, Policies, Sectors, Schemes and Campaigns. Missions are assigned to appropriate Central Cabinet Ministers who develop Policies and organize across Sectors to implement Schemes and Campaigns.

The consensus Sectors include Social, Economic, Infrastructure, Environmental, and

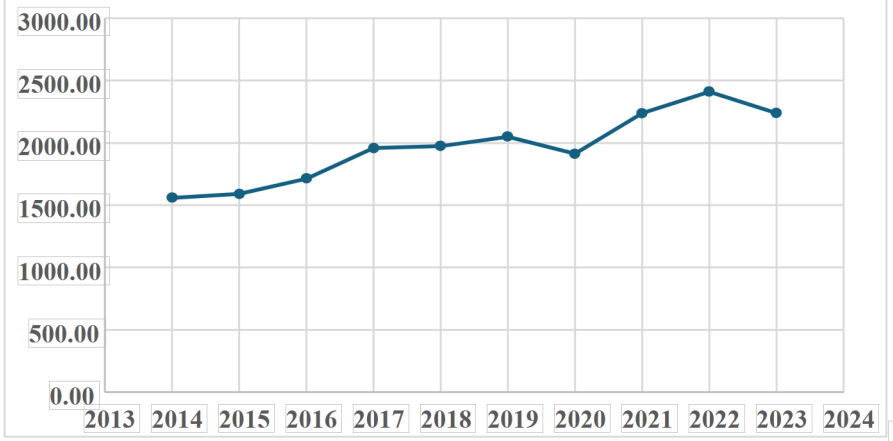
Technology, and consider factors such as access to healthcare, education, economic development, political stability, environmental quality, technological advances and mitigating inequality through inclusion. Achievement of development will be measured based on budgetary allocations under different sectors and resulting qualitative and quantitative achievements compared to developmental goals. Although the above mentioned are seemingly independent Sectors, they interact with one another in real time situations forming a basis of different schemes and policies.

Table 1: GDP Per Capita and GDP Growth

Year	GDP Per Capita (US \$)	GDP per Capita Growth (Annual %)
2014	1559.86	8.47
2015	1590.17	1.94
2016	1714.28	7.80
2017	1957.97	14.12
2018	1974.38	0.84
2019	2050.16	3.84
2020	1913.22	-6.68
2021	2238.13	16.98
2022	2410.89	7.72
2023	2239.25	6.72

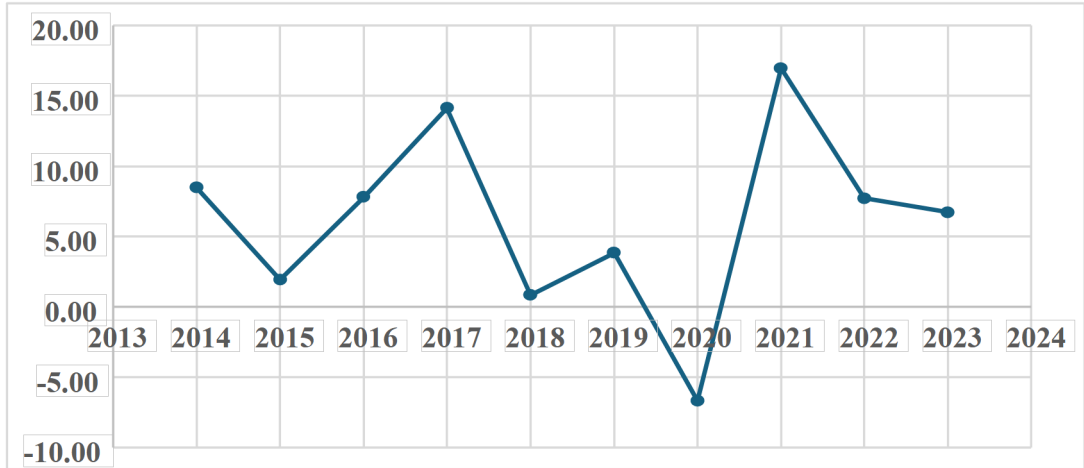
Source: <https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/IND/india/gdp-per-capita>

Figure 1: GDP Per Capita (US\$)



Source: <https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/IND/india/gdp-per-capita>

Figure 2: GDP Per Capita Growth (Annual %)



Source: <https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/IND/india/gdp-per-capita>

Table 3 below outlines sector-wise schemes, listing social, economic, infrastructure, environmental, and technology initiatives.

Table 3: Schemes Matrix and their Sectors

Sector	Social	Economic	Infrastructure	Environmental	Technology
Social	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Ujjwala Yojana Stand-Up India	Skill India Mission National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)	Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)	Digital India
Economic	Skill India Mission NSDC NAPS-2016	Startup India Make in India	Bharatmala Pariyojana National Highways Development Programme (NHDP)	Namami Gange (National Mission for Clean Ganga)	Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
Infrastructure		Bharatmala Pariyojana NHDP Metro-Rail Projects AMRUT	Smart Cities Mission AMRUT	Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)	Digital India
Environmental	Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)	Namami Gange	Namami Gange	Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Namami Gange	Digital India
Technology	Digital India	Startup India Make in India	Smart Cities Mission	Digital India	Digital India UPI

The organization and descriptions of Sectoral schemes and initiatives listed in Table 2 launched by the government in the period between 2014-2024 are outlined in further detail in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Sector wise Schemes in India

S. No.	Scheme Name	Year of Launch	Ministry/ Organization/ Department	Funding	Objectives	Results
INFRASTRUCTURE						
1.	Smart Cities Mission (SCM)	2015	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	A total investment of Rs. 2,01,981 crores (US\$24.4B) has been proposed by the 99 cities under their smart city plans.	-Aims to create 100 technology driven Urban Centres with improved infrastructure, services and citizen participation.	-While challenges remain in implementation, the Smart Cities Mission has spurred investments in areas like waste management, renewable energy, and smart mobility
2.	National Highway Development program (NHDP)	Pre-existing, saw significant progress during 2014-2024	Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways	Main source of finance is the fuel cess, a part of which is allocated to NHAI to fund implementation.	Aims to develop and upgrade over 50,000 km of highways, enhancing connectivity across the country	- Reduced maintenance costs and fuel consumption significantly -Implemented in several phases (I-VII)
3.	Bharatmala Pariyojana	2015	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	Rs. 6,92,324 crore (US\$ 83.4B) including other ongoing schemes - Funded from Cess, toll, budgetary support, monetization, IEBR, and private investment	Aims to Develop about 26,000 km length of Economic Corridors -Develop Ring Roads / bypasses and elevated corridors to decongest traffic in cities and enhance logistic efficiency	-28 cities identified for Ring Roads and 125 choke points and 66 congestion points identified for improvements
4.	Metro Rail Projects	Ongoing	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	-Most of the metro rail projects have been financed by the central government in partnership with the state governments, while some have been funded by the state governments either on their own or with private partnership.	Aims to bring about vast changes in 20+ Indian cities by constructing new metro rail (subway) systems	-Major cities have witnessed a rise in metro ridership, offering a faster and more efficient mode of transportation
5.	Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)	2015	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	-Rs. 50,000 crores (US\$6.0B) for five years from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20	-Ensure that every household has access to a tap with assured supply of water and a sewerage connection -Increase the amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well maintained open spaces	- Covers 500 cities with population over one lakh - Improved access to water and sewerage, increased green spaces, and reduced pollution in cities
6.	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) (Prime Minister's Housing Scheme)	2015	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	-In budget estimates for Budget 2023-24, the government had allocated Rs 79,590 crore (US\$9.6B) for PMAY. However, the allocation was revised to Rs 54,103 crore (US\$6.5B) in the revised estimates.	-Achieve "Housing for All" by 2022 -Address urban housing shortage among the EWS/LIG and MIG categories including the slum dwellers	-Over 80 million houses sanctioned, though meeting the ambitious target remains a challenge
ECONOMY						
S.	Scheme Name	Year of	Ministry/	Funding	Objectives	Results

No.		Launch	Organization/ Department			
7.	Make in India Mission	2015	Ministry of Commerce and Industry	- An outlay of INR 1.97 lakh crore (US\$23.7B) has been announced in Union Budget 2021-22 for PLI schemes for 14 key sectors of manufacturing, starting from fiscal year (FY) 2021-22.	-The campaign aims to facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development, protect intellectual property & build best in class manufacturing infrastructure.	-The campaign aims to facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development, protect intellectual property & build best in class manufacturing infrastructure.
8.	Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan (Self-reliant India campaign)	2020	The Ministry of Tribal Affairs	-Keeping in view India's vision of becoming 'Atmanirbhar' and to enhance India's Manufacturing capabilities and Exports, Rs. 35 Trillion (US\$421.7B) has been projected	-The aim is to make the country and its citizens independent and self-reliant in all senses, through five pillars of Atma Nirbhar (Economy, Infrastructure, Vibrant Demography, Demand and Technology- driven System)	- The government took reforms such as Supply Chain Reforms for Agriculture, Rational Tax Systems, Simple & Clear Laws, Capable Human Resource and Strong Financial System.
9.	Goods and Services Tax (GST)	2017	Ministry of Finance	-The Cabinet also decided to provide for adequate funds for meeting the recurring and non-recurring expenses of the GST Council Secretariat, which shall be borne by the Central Government. The GST Council Secretariat shall be manned by officers taken on deputation from both the Central and State Governments.	-It aims to provide a Uniform Taxation system throughout the country. The mechanism of GST Council would ensure harmonisation on different aspects of GST between the Centre and the States as well as amongst the States	-The GST tax base increased two-fold. In the post-GST period (2017-18 to 2022-23), State SGST revenue buoyancy rose to 1.22 from 0.72 in the pre-GST period (2012-13 to 2015-16). 94% of industry leaders positively affirm the transition to GST. GST has facilitated supply chain optimization.
10.	Start-Up India	2016	Ministry of Commerce and Industry	-Total commitments under FFS by SIDBI are at INR 605.7 crore (US\$73.0M) to 17 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), iii. AIFs have drawn INR 90.62 crore from the FFS and have invested a total of INR 337.02 crore (US\$40.6M) in 75 Startups.	-This initiative aims to foster a supportive ecosystem for startups. While the exact number of startups created while the exact number of startups created is debated, data suggests a significant increase in venture capital funding and startup registrations, indicating a more vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.	-Since the launch of Startup India initiative in 2016, DPIIT has recognised 92,683 entities as startups as on 28th February 2023.
11.	Stand Up India	2016	Ministry of Finance	-Rs. 40,710 crore (US\$4.9B) has been sanctioned under Stand Up India Scheme to 180,636 accounts up to 21.03. 2023 since inception of the Scheme.	-Facilitate bank loans between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 Crore to at least one SC/ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise	-Provides margin money which can be converged with eligible Central/State schemes
12.	Skill India Mission (SIM)	2015	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	-Funds allocated by MSDE for Skill India Mission during the last five (5) years stands at Rs. 15192.79 crore(US\$1.8B) -More than Rs 12,850 crore (US\$1.6B) allocated by 11 major Ministries/Departments during last 5 years	-Focus on vocational training and skill development for employability	-Over 100 million people trained under various Skill India programs
13.	National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)	2008 but made significant progress	Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Ministry of	-Till 31 st March 2021, NSDF has released Rs. 5029.63 crore (US\$606.1M) to NSDC towards skill	-Bridge the gap between skills demanded by industry and the skills possessed by the	-Over 2.14 crore candidates trained under NSDC initiatives - Facilitated the opening

		in the period between 2014-2024	Finance	development programmes including National Skill Certification and Monetary Reward Scheme (STAR) and UDAAN Scheme (J&K oriented).	workforce -Enhance, support, and coordinate private sector initiatives in vocational training	of over 32,700 skill development centres
14.	National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)	2016	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	-Partial stipend support by Government of India, limited to 25% of stipend paid, up to a maximum of Rs.1,500 (US\$18.00), per month, per apprentice	-Promote and facilitate apprenticeships -Provide on-the-job experiential training and encourage establishments to enroll apprentices	-Over 2.14 crore candidates trained under NSDC initiatives -Facilitated the opening of over 32,700 skill development centres
SOCIAL						
S. No.	Scheme Name	Year of Launch	Ministry/ Organization/ Department	Funding	Objectives	Results
15.	New Education Policy (NEP)	2020	Minister for Human Resource Development and Ministry of Education	-Increase in budget allocation from Rs. 99,311.52 crore (US\$12.0B) (2020-21) to Rs. 1,12,899.47 crore (US\$13.6B) (2023-24), around 13.68% increase	-Introduce comprehensive, sustainable and reformative changes in the Indian education system -Make India a global knowledge superpower	-Total expenditure on education as percentage of GDP has shown increasing trend and for the year 2020-21 it is 4.64%
16.	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)	2015	Ministries of women and child development	-Initial funding of Rs. 100 crore (US\$ 13.5 million)	-Address gender inequality and improve the sex ratio at birth -Ensure gender equality and women empowerment -Prevent gender-biased, sex-selective elimination	-Has had significant success but still hasn't been implemented countrywide.
17.	Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (Prime Minister's Lightening Scheme)	2016	Ministries of Women and Child Development	-Rs. 8000 Cr. (US\$964.0MM) allocated	-Safeguard the health of women & children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel – LPG -Ensure women's empowerment, especially in rural India, by issuing connections in the name of women.	- Likely to result in an additional employment of around 1 Lakh and provide business opportunity of at least Rs. 10,000 Cr. Over 3 Years
18.	Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (Prime Minister's Generic Medicine Availability Programme)	2008, but made significant progress in the period between 2014-2024	Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals)	-The Scheme is operated by government agencies as well as by private entrepreneurs. The incentive provided to the Kendra owners has been enhanced from existing Rs. 2.50 lakh (US\$3,010) to up to Rs. 5.00 lakh (US\$6025) to be given @ 15% of monthly purchases made.	-Provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all	-Over 9,000 Janaushadhi Kendras established, providing affordable medicines to the masses.
19.	National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)	2020	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	-Rs.200 crore (US\$24.1M) allocated in 2022-2023 budget.	-Create a national digital health ecosystem that supports universal health coverage in an efficient, accessible, inclusive, affordable, timely and safe manner.	-Pilot projects launched in 6 Union Territories, laying the foundation for a comprehensive digital health ecosystem

20.	Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) Prime Minister's People's Health Scheme	2018	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	-Rs. 6,412 crores (US\$772.6MM) allocated in 2023-24 Budget	-Provide health insurance coverage of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization	-Over 33 crore beneficiary cards issued, with over 3 crore hospital admissions facilitated
TECHNOLOGY						
S. No.	Scheme Name	Year of Launch	Ministry/ Organization/ Department	Funding	Objectives	Results
21.	Unified Payments Interface (UPI)	2016	National Payments Corporation of India	-In FY22, UPI accounted for 52 percent of the total 8,840 crore (US\$1.1B) financial digital transactions with a total value of Rs 126 lakh crore (US\$151.8T), the government noted in its pre-Budget Economic Survey.	-Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.	-NPCI conducted a pilot launch for UPI with 21 member banks. This digital payments platform has revolutionized the financial landscape in India. With billions of transactions per month, UPI has transformed how people access financial services.
22.	Digital India	2015	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	-The Digital India initiative has been extended with a total budget of INR 14,903 Crore (US\$1.8B) from 2021-22 to 2025-26.	-This program pushes for digital literacy and infrastructure development.	-While challenges remain in rural areas, internet penetration has grown considerably, reaching over 70% as of June 2024. This increased connectivity has the potential to revolutionize service delivery, education, and business opportunities in urban areas.
ENVIRONMENT						
S. No.	Scheme Name	Year of Launch	Ministry/ Organization/ Department	Funding	Objectives	Results
23.	Swaccha Bharat Abhiyaan (Clean India Mission)	2014	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Ministry of Jal Shakti	-Rs 5000 crore (US\$602.5M) (Revised Estimates) for 2022-23 -Rs. 7192 crore (US\$866.6M) Budget Estimate for 2023-24	-Achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation	-Over 100 million household toilets constructed, benefitting 500 million people across 630,000 villages by 2019
24.	Namami Gange Abhiyaan (National Mission for Clean Ganga)	2014	Ministry of Jal Shakti	-Rs.22,500 crore (US\$2.7B) from 2023-26	Effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga	-Successful Implementation that is divided into Entry-Level, Medium-Term and Long-Term Activities

To fulfill the vision, planned development effort was organized into Missions, Schemes and Policies within the five major sectors.

Key Findings

Although the Initiatives have played a major transformative role in the country's developmental context, they do not exist without

challenges. Some of the most significant challenges that have arisen with individual schemes and contexts are mentioned below:

- Ensuring equitable distribution of infrastructure projects across regions, particularly rural areas.
- Corruption and leakages in welfare schemes leading to beneficiary targeting issues.
- Skilling the workforce to meet the demands of the evolving job market.
- Bridging the digital divide – unequal access to internet connectivity and digital literacy across socioeconomic groups.
- Shortage of qualified medical professionals and limited healthcare infrastructure in rural areas.
- Ensuring quality and affordability of healthcare services, particularly for low-income populations.
- Behavioral change to ensure sustained success of initiatives like Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Balancing industrial development with environmental protection.
- Ensuring quality education across all schools, particularly in government institutions.
- High youth unemployment rate, with graduates lacking the specific skills needed by the industry.

The way ahead will have to be treaded carefully. The following are some of the proposed solutions

for the above-mentioned challenges.

- Increase public-private partnerships (PPPs) and focus on attracting private investment in rural infrastructure. Develop financing models tailored for rural development projects.
- Implement stricter monitoring and evaluation mechanisms with the help of technology. Leverage Aadhaar for better beneficiary identification and direct benefit transfers.
- Strengthen industry-academia partnerships to ensure curriculum aligns with industry needs. Provide more skilling opportunities at the community level and for informal sector workers.
- Invest in expanding broadband infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. Offer subsidized internet access and digital literacy programs for underprivileged communities.
- Increase investment in medical colleges and incentivize doctors to practice in rural areas. Explore telemedicine solutions to bridge the gap in healthcare access.
- Expand the network of government hospitals and strengthen public health programs. Explore innovative financing mechanisms like health insurance for the informal sector.
- Public awareness campaigns and community mobilization efforts to promote sanitation practices. Incentivize waste management solutions and promote community ownership of cleanliness initiatives.
- Strengthen environmental regulations and their enforcement. Promote sustainable development practices and invest in clean energy technologies.
- Improve teacher training and provide better resources for government schools. Encourage

innovation in teaching methodologies and promote student-centric learning.

- Focus on outcome-based skill development programs aligned with industry needs. Encourage soft skills development alongside technical training.

Conclusion

The development journey in India between 2014

and 2024 has been marked by significant government initiatives across various sectors. This analysis demonstrates the multi-faceted approach encompassing economic growth, infrastructure development, human resource development, and sustainability. Additionally, considering public perception and potential long-term consequences will provide a holistic understanding of the further impact of all the policies and schemes discussed. Ultimately, pinpointing success hinges on whether the implemented schemes have demonstrably improved the lives of Indian citizens. This evaluation will provide valuable insights for future policy decisions, ensuring India's development remains inclusive, sustainable and facilitates fulfillment of the visionary and far-reaching goal of Viksit Bharat@2047 ♦



UPDATE FROM THE UKRAINE REBUILDIG ACTION GROUP

By Tetyana Samiliv, MCP and Tim Van Epp, FAICP, PP

The Ukraine Rebuilding Action Group (URAG) is on its third year of existence and its members have made lots of progress in advancing efforts in rebuilding Ukraine. Members of the group have been working with local and international organizations, universities, and individuals and have many updates for the planning community. In April 2024, at the NPC24 conference in Minneapolis, Tim Van Epp passed his leadership role to Tetyana Samiliv, and is continuing to lead the sustainability guidelines work.

Sustainability Guidelines for Building Back Better in Ukraine

In April 2024, URAG members Tim Van Epp, Vatsal J. Bhatt, Jing Zhang, and Ipshita Karmakar presented sustainability guidelines tailored to the reconstruction efforts in Ukraine at the National Planning Conference in Minneapolis that can be found at sustainability.urag.org/. While Scott Edmondson was not able to participate in person, he did a recorded presentation on the Regenerative City module he authored. The guidelines are based on UN Habitat recommendations and were designed to address the unique challenges of rebuilding in a post-war environment. They are aimed to ensure that the rebuilding process is not only effective but also sustainable, promoting long-term resilience and environmental stewardship. Several other sections of the guidelines are underway and the translation will be forthcoming.

URAG has been proactive in disseminating the sustainability guidelines to a wide range of stakeholders. These guidelines have been shared with donors, government agencies, planners, policymakers, and legislators across Ukraine, fostering a unified approach to sustainable rebuilding. The dissemination efforts have been crucial in ensuring that the principles of sustainability are integrated into the legislative and planning frameworks guiding the reconstruction. Oleksandra Pantiukhina, Planning and architecture consultant, has initiated discussion with Ro3kvit about the inclusion of the sustainability guidelines in their planning of a capacity building program. Work has been ongoing to translate the sustainability guidelines into Ukrainian and improve their accessibility and user friendliness. This effort ensures that the guidelines are readily available to local planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders involved in the rebuilding process, allowing for broader implementation and impact.

URAG has also extended its sustainability guidelines and expertise to Vid Sertsya Budova, an organization working on several projects to provide new town development with a theme of housing for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). By providing guidance on housing, sustainability, and regenerative practices, the organization is working with Vid Sertsya Budova and other partners to develop projects that are both effective in addressing immediate needs and sustainable in the long term. Scott Edmondson, principal/founder, Regenerative Sustainability 2030 Institute based in San Francisco, has been central to providing his expertise in regenerative city systems and support the organization with

information and practical means of achieving those goals.

We have initiated similar collaboration with the German Marshall Fund. In addition, Tim Van Epp, managing director/founder at Eurasia Environmental Associates, LLC, has worked with Ro3kvit and GreenPeace to incorporate URAG's sustainability guidelines into their Dnipro River Vision project, providing guidance on conducting river basin planning as well as advising the project team on applying for development grants and loans from international donors.

Planning Education and Capacity Building in Ukraine

URAG participated in a joint effort with the Association of European Schools of Planning to reach out to Ukrainian universities with degree programs or curricula related to planning to learn what their needs are and how western planning schools may be able to help. Dr. Nataliia Yehorchenova, researcher at Spectra Centre of Excellence of the EU at Department of Spatial Planning, Institute of Management, STU Bratislava, conducted a survey with Ukrainian universities and URAG is in contact with several schools that are exploring or actively developing planning programs, including Kyiv School of Economics, Kharkiv School of Architecture, and more. In a related effort, Gala Korniyenko, Lecturer at Ohio State University, and Oleksandra Panchenko have recently initiated a comparative analysis of urban planning syllabi from Ukrainian and American universities. This research aims to identify gaps and opportunities in Ukrainian urban planning education by comparing their curricula to those in the US universities. The research will use the study to inform the development of curricula that better prepare future planners to address the complex challenges of rebuilding in Ukraine.

URAG has served as a collaborative network wherein multiple URAG members are teaching or planning courses relative to planning for rebuilding Ukraine, in and outside of Ukraine. Nathan Hutson has taught a course on rebuilding Ukraine at the LBJ School of Public Affairs of the University of Texas, as well as a land use and transportation policy class at the Graduate Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, Urban Studies and Postwar Reconstruction at the Kyiv School of Economics. His recent invitation to serve as a visiting Professor of Urban Studies and Post-war Reconstruction at the Kyiv School of Economics further underscores his impact and the importance of academic collaboration in the

rebuilding process. URAG members Tetyana Samiliv, Lyndsey Deaton, Gala Korniyenko and Tim Van Epp have also led or contributed as visiting lecturers to Ukraine rebuilding courses and workshops at other US and Ukrainian universities, including the Kharkiv School of Architecture, Clemson, Kansas State, and Penn.

Gala Korniyenko secured a Muskie grant which has been instrumental in advancing several key projects. Through this grant, Gala has been able to contribute to URAG's work on capacity-building initiatives, enhancing the skills and knowledge of those involved in urban planning and reconstruction in Ukraine. The grant has also facilitated projects that directly contribute to the sustainable rebuilding of war-affected areas. She was also selected as one of the nine jury members for the 2024 New European Bauhaus Prizes from among 200 applicants. Gala and Oleksandra are also investigating the possibility of forming a collaboration between the planning programs of Ohio State University and a Ukrainian university to be decided.

Going Forward

URAG members are eager to engage new planners to participate in our discussions, projects, and research for rebuilding Ukraine. We are also looking for feedback on the URAG sustainability planning guidelines and public participation handbook ♦

If you are interested in joining our meetings or learning more about our work, please reach out to Tetyana Samiliv at tsamiliv@utexas.edu.

