Constructing an Urban Future: The sustainability and resilience of cities – infrastructures, communities, buildings and housing.

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Transport and climate change: Assessment of carbon reduction in Indian railways

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• Abstract:
It is generally accepted that anthropogenic activities contribute to climate change, and adversely affect our economic, social and environmental well-being. But tackling climate change is by no means an easy task. At the global level, governments are joining forces and agreeing on ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, most recently at the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference. Like other countries, India has also made commitments, at the international level, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and, at the domestic level, to mitigate the devastating effects of climate change by enacting legislation, implementing policies and launching action plans.
across various sectors including rail transport. This paper is an attempt to determine whether or not the status quo towards CO2 Eq emissions reduction from rail transport sector is adequate in light of the current understanding of climate change mitigation, and whether it has the potential to assist the Indian government in achieving its targets and commitments towards mitigating climate change. To this effect, this paper will review, elucidate and appraise the current regulatory and policy framework set up by the Indian government towards climate change mitigation in rail transport, and assess if it has the potential to assist in minimizing the impending environmental impacts and reduce CO2 Eq emissions from the rail sector. This paper will conclude that though there exist guidelines and strategies aimed at abating environmental impacts from rail transport, much more needs to be done by the government in the form of setting up CO2 Eq emission standards for locomotives to building climate resilient infrastructure with reduced energy consumption. This paper will also highlight the international best practices being adopted towards reducing rail emissions, and puts forward recommendations on how the existing policy and legal framework could be enhanced to further stimulate CO2 Eq emissions reduction from rail transport in India.

• Author Biography:

Priyanka Pali is currently a PhD student at the School of Law, University of Manchester, UK. Her research focuses on the potential for climate change mitigation through low-carbon investment in Indian road and rail transport and assessment of opportunities and obstacles faced by the Asian Development Bank while investing in the same. Her general research interests include low-carbon transportation, climate change mitigation, and interaction between international environmental law and investment law. Before starting with her postgraduate research in 2014, Priyanka worked as a teaching assistant at the Kuwait International Law School (Kuwait). Priyanka has also completed her Masters in Law (LLM) degree from the University of Durham, UK in 2011. She is an active member of the United Kingdom Environmental Law Association, and plans to pursue a career in academics after completing her studies in March 2018.