CITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD:
QUESTIONS OF CULTURE, CLIMATE AND DESIGN

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Walkability in Nagpur: a critical appraisal of city development proposals for pedestrians

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• Abstract (300 words):
Nagpur, winter capital of the state of Maharashtra and a major economic centre in central India, is country’s second greenest city. It boasts of several natural features and water resources which account for qualitative public open spaces. However, when globally efforts are being taken to make cities livable and walkable, Nagpur is lagging behind in the latter. As per the surveys conducted by the concerned local urban level development authorities, there is a large pedestrian user section traversing through the city, which has to face several difficulties essentially due to minus sidewalks or pedestrian oriented measures. Moreover, when the authorities are undertaking actions to improve the urban environment quality, reduce carbon footprint and urban heat island; impetus needs to be given to effectively implement pedestrian oriented designs and policies. To comprehend the said subject, the research critically evaluates measures incorporated under city development plans (CDP) and smart city proposals (SCP). The study will also
focus on aspects like historic nature of selected intra-city networks with respect to pedestrians, project details, physical attributes, design features promoting/ inhibiting pedestrianisation, user types, their needs and safety, stakeholder participation at different project phases, as well as with regards to increasing or improving the existing pedestrian nodes in the city will also be considered. Furthermore, literature review of key international (UN, World bank etc,) and national policy guidelines like UTTIPEC, ITDP, IRC design, Enhancing Walkability in Delhi Policy, and other provisions etc, besides the ones incorporated in cities such as Bengaluru, Delhi, etc. will be looked into.

The study concludes with policy and design interventions to be formulated for improvisation to develop, promote and enhance walkability in Nagpur city.

**Keywords:** Walkability, Nagpur, Users, Physical attributes, planning policy and guidelines

**Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

**Parul** is an architect with an experience of over ten years. Currently she is pursuing, masters in Urban Planning from School of planning & Architecture, Poomima University. Her key strengths lie in interdisciplinary research oriented approach towards design solutions which question the norm. She is also dedicated to learning and working towards bringing together sustainable, energy conscious construction techniques and design to her teaching as well as practice.

Her interests concentrate on people, communities, architectural history, vernacular & neo-vernacular and resilience with an emphasis on Indian Subcontinent. She applies ecological, economical and sociological concerns to studying urban centers evolution, architectural history, and culture. She has published and presented research papers within the country and abroad on various subjects.

**Nishtha Gulati** is an architect and has been working with a leading architectural practice in the city of Jaipur. Through her designs she endeavors to attain a deeper understanding of time and space. She has had an outstanding academic record and even won the gold medal for undergraduate thesis project at her alma mater.

She has keen interest in architectural theory, urban design and, heritage and culture. She is an avid photographer and tries to capture the essence of time and intangible factors shaping our surroundings. She has participated in many design competitions and has managed to add a few feathers to her cap. She has published as well as presented papers at both national and international forums.

**Avinash Shrivastava** is an architect and urban planner with specialization in transportation planning from Texas A&M U. He has been practicing for almost two decades and has been applying his knowledge and skill sets onto several planning and architecture projects across India. Through his projects, he is committed towards exploring and bringing design and construction together, with an eye for details. He seeks
to disseminate knowledge, bring people together and hence develop a centre which will work towards developing sustainable solutions which consider vernacular as well as new age technology, across different fields. His research interests focus on observing, understanding and analyzing public realm complexities, user behavior in public spaces, mass transit and mobility, master planning and slum redevelopment.

Avinash is immensely interested in learning about cosmos, astrophysics, quantum mechanics and astronomy to name a few and avidly muses over different theories. He is also a musician and has a knack to grasp many musical instruments. He enjoys drawing caricatures which try to capture the vivacious spirits in the banality of everyday life. An empathic and idealist soul, he likes to dream of a utopian world from time to time.