
Report on Training-of-Trainers (ToT) Programme on Urban Planning and Development (Phase 1 & 2)

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Brief Report on Training-of-Trainers (ToT) Programme on Urban Planning and Development (Phase 1 & 2)

A Training-of-Trainers (ToT) Programme on "Technical Capacity Building and Organisational Strengthening for Urban Planning and Development with Focus on Small Towns in Uttar Pradesh" was organised by the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi, in collaboration with the Department of Urban Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The programme was conducted in two phases, with Phase I held from 11 January to 25 January 2026 and Phase II from 28 June to 12 July 2026.

The programme aimed to strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of professionals and academicians involved in urban planning and development, with particular emphasis on the challenges and requirements of small towns and Nagar Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh. It focused on developing a comprehensive understanding of planning processes by integrating technical, institutional and behavioural dimensions for effective and sustainable urban development.

The training covered a wide range of areas, including legal and statutory frameworks, institutional and procedural mechanisms, land-use planning, GIS-based base-map preparation, infrastructure planning, transportation systems, social and physical infrastructure, demographic and economic analysis, and preparation and evaluation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). The programme also addressed the formulation of long-term development visions and strategies for small towns. A significant component was the field visit to Maa Kamakhya Nagar Panchayat, Ayodhya, where participants undertook field surveys and gained practical exposure to existing planning conditions, challenges and opportunities.

The programme followed a participatory and experiential learning approach, combining expert lectures, group discussions, simulation exercises, fieldwork, presentations and reflective sessions. It highlighted the importance of understanding planning as a process that operates within real-world constraints, including limited data, institutional capacities and socio-economic and socio-political considerations. Participants were encouraged to develop the role of facilitators and capacity-building professionals who can effectively support Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in planning and development processes.

Tpr. Shagufta Irshad and Ar. Puja Verma actively participated in the sessions, field activities, group exercises and presentations throughout the programme. Their participation enhanced their understanding of practical urban planning processes and strengthened their capacity to contribute to teaching, research and professional practice. The training provided valuable exposure to contemporary planning approaches and helped bridge the gap between academic knowledge and field-based professional practice.

The programme also contributed to the University's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, through professional capacity building; SDG 9- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, through technical and institutional strengthening; SDG 11-Sustainable Cities and Communities, through improved approaches to planned and sustainable urban development; SDG 16-Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, through strengthening institutional capacities and governance processes; and SDG 17-Partnerships for the Goals, through collaboration among academic institutions, government agencies and urban local bodies.

Overall, the ToT programme was a valuable capacity-building initiative that strengthened professional knowledge, practical skills and institutional understanding related to urban planning and development. The learning and field experience gained through the programme will support the participants in contributing more effectively to academic teaching, research, professional practice and sustainable urban development, particularly in the context of small towns in Uttar Pradesh.

A photograph highlighting the participation of Tpr. Shagufta Irshad and Ar. Puja Verma during the Training-of-Trainers (ToT) Programme is presented below as a record of their active involvement in the training sessions and field activities.



Thanks and Warm Regards,

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