

**NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION OF HISTORIC CITIES: A FRAMEWORK FOR
BUILDING RESILIENCE**

Organized by
Centre for Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management
National Institute of Disaster Management
&
Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Heritage Dept.
25-26 September, 2018

NIDM and Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation organized a 2 day National Workshop on **Disaster Risk Reduction of Historic Cities: A Framework for Building Resilience** on 25-26 September, 2018 at Ahmedabad, which is the first UNESCO World Heritage City in India. The workshop aimed towards bringing together practitioners from the fields of heritage conservation, urban planning and disaster risk reduction to discuss the emerging risks, governance instruments and planning process in historic cities. 65 experts and officials participated in the workshop.

The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA. Smt Bijalben Patel, Mayor Ahmedabad, was the Guest of Honour. Deputy Mayor Shri Dineshbhai Makwana, Standing Committee Chairman, Shri Amulbhai Bhatt and Municipal Commissioner, Shri Vijay Nehra, IAS were Special Invitees. From NIDM, Prof Santosh Kumar represented Executive Director, NIDM and Dr Chandrani Bandyopadhyay coordinated the workshop. The speakers welcomed the initiative especially in the context of Ahmedabad World Heritage City and conservation of its authenticity and suggested that this initiative needed to be taken forward to other cities.

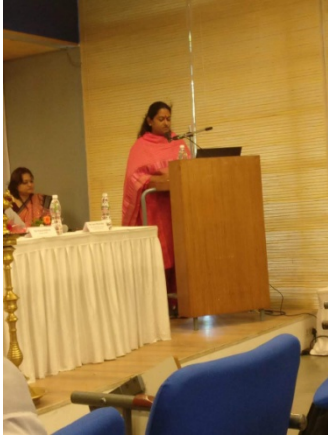
The workshop was divided into three technical sessions viz. Historic Cities: Significance and Issues for Disaster Risk Management, Challenges & Opportunities in Development of Historic Urban Landscapes and Disaster Risk Management Framework for Historic Cities in India.



On the second day, an early morning heritage walk and demonstration of fire fighting measures in the Walled City was organized followed by presentations and discussion on framework for Disaster Risk Management Planning for Historic Cities. In view of the complex nature of historic towns, planning for disaster risk management assumes critical importance. An open discussion followed, where wide-ranging recommendations from the workshop were discussed and

validated by the participants. The need for taking this initiative forward to other historic cities by NIDM was reiterated by all dignitaries and participants.

Photo Gallery



Mayor of Ahmedabad delivering Keynote Address



Dignitaries on the dais in the Inaugural Session

Heritage Walk and Fire Drill



Case Study of Varanasi – Technical Session II

'Set heritage management example for other cities'

Two-Day Workshop Begins

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Ahmedabad: The title of India's first Unesco World Heritage City has come to Ahmedabad with a responsibility — a number of other cities, hoping for the same recognition, are already studying the 'Ahmedabad Model' for by-laws, regulations, incentives, conservation plans, and the interplay of agencies. Thus, when it comes to disaster preparedness, the city has to provide a mo-

del, said Chandrani Bandopadhyay, assistant professor at the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).

Bandopadhyay, along with Debashish Nayak, the member-secretary of the Heritage Conservation Committee of Ahmedabad, had for the first time taken stock of threats to the Walled City's built heritage in 2011, identifying problems ranging from commercialization of spaces to the lack of space to manoeuvre during disasters.

"There is no doubt about the growing risk due to human activities to historic cities such as Ahmedabad," said Bandopadhyay. "But the question is can only the legal framework, or only in-

HERITAGE TALK

Points to ponder for India's first World Heritage City

► Rampant commercialization in some parts of the city is endangering fabric of the locality as many pols have less number of original occupants

► Whose heritage is it anyways?: Experts said that only regulatory framework might not work as the actual stakeholders are those who are living on the ground and they should be made aware of the importance of heritage status

► Providing incentives including Floor Space Index (FSI) or tax benefits so that the owners can be motivated to take up the restoration and renovation project



► Providing more teeth to the regulatory authorities to take action against rampant encroachment and illegal construction practices to save the original structures of protected area

terventions, or only awareness solve the problems? We have to find the optimum mix. The buzzword now is resilient cities — resilient against natural and man-made disasters." Bandopadhyay said that such resilience will be acquired only through risk analysis and mitigation at city, block, area, and building levels.

Saswat Bandopadhyay, professor of CEPT University, in his talk pointed to the 'conservation iceberg' — built environment is just a tiny part of the overall layered narrative presented by the cities such as Ahmedabad. "Culture has to be the focal point of any discussion around the concept of conservation. We have to create awareness and sense of belonging for the stakeholders," he said.

In the inaugural session, city

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municipal commissioner Vijay Nehra said that capacity-building within the city was a major task for the AMC. "We need to have multiplicity of regulatory approaches along with provision for incentives, documentation and proper listing of heritage so that disasters don't adversely affect the city's heritage," he said.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

medicine at civil hospitals. "This is the season when most general practitioners overlook the initial symptoms of swine flu and prescribe medication for common cold. In cases of swine flu, the antiviral will work only if it is prescribed at the onset of the disease."

patients, including the elderly, women, pregnant women, people suffering from chronic respiratory conditions and children between 5 and 15 years, must be extra cautious.

A recent study by the Govern-

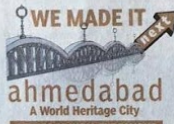
The study found that the most common H1N1 symptoms were cough (83.74%), followed by fever (92.20%), breathing trouble (90.78%), sore throat (71.63%) and nasal catarrh (44.68%).

Playing with fire in World Heritage City

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: While we showcase the 5.5 sq km Walled City area as a World Heritage City to the outside world, it is also the part of Ahmedabad that is most vulnerable to fire. In 2017-18, the Ahmedabad fire department received 2,303 fire calls from across Ahmedabad, of which 663 fire rescue calls were made from the Walled City alone.

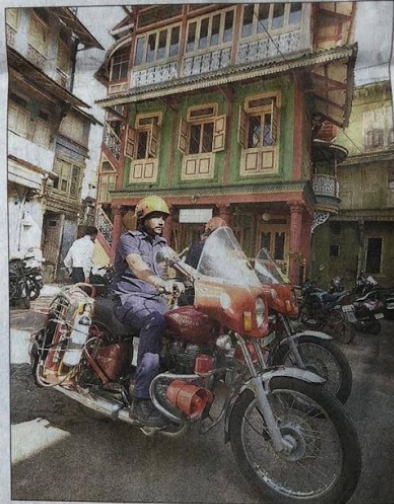
This shows how precious little is done to make the World Heritage core zone fire safe. In the absence of disaster management and heritage conservation and management plan, the walled city is turning into a fire unsafe zone.



"The Walled City had its own fire hydrant system with high-pressure pipes running reaching right to the pol lanes. Over time, with encroachment, these pipes became redundant and most were punctured by locals to draw water," says a senior AMC official.

In 2009, an attempt was made to re-install the hydrant system, but most of the pipes had been stolen. "Our fire vehicles can't enter the bylanes as they too narrow.

Fighting fire becomes extremely difficult," says a senior AMC official.



AMC and National Institute of Disaster Management conduct fire rescue drills in Sankli Sheri on Wednesday

In the recently concluded AMC-National Institute of Disaster Management workshop on 'Disaster Risk Reduction of Historic Cities: A Fram-

ework for Building Resilience' experts suggested underground high density plastic pipes be used for fire hydrant systems.

H COURT SEEKS DETAILS OF GOVERNMENT'S PLAN

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