# alumni Seema and Arnab devise community – based Design for Sustainability Conclave 03.06.2017

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Due to urbanization and lack of employment opportunities, urban centres in India are facing severe urban ecological and socio-ecological challenges. To tackle these issues simultaneously and to better the living conditions in Delhi NCR, an initiative of creating **Resilience** Centres (an interface between Academia-Industry-Policy-Community) following the **Resilience Framework**[1] at neighbourhood level was started in January 2015 by Dr Seema Sharma and Mr Arnab Bose under *Project Resilience* in Vivekananda College.

After successful completion of the pilot study in Vivek Vihar East Delhi the authors are now geared to replicate the model throughout Delhi NCR in collaboration with Department of Environment Studies, University of Delhi and O P Jindal Global University.

The *first* Conclave for **Design for Sustainability** was held 3 June 2017 at the Department of Environment Studies, University of Delhi.

The Conclave utilized the pathways created by several institutions (including the Supreme Court of India, University Grants Commissions and National Council of Educational Research and Training) to further nudge us to make all types of human settlements in Delhi NCR more healthy and habitable, exploring possible pathways utilizing plausible frameworks and tools towards healthier living in Delhi NCR region.



*Background: The Hon'ble Supreme Court order 6 of December 1999 directed the UGC (University Grants Commission) to implement a mandatory environmental studies curriculum across the spectrum of higher education system in India. The UGC responded in 2003 with a directive to all universities across the country with a 6 month proposed curriculum design. It is our understanding that there are many gaps in the implementation of this directive. In particular, the credits and hours allocated in the original UGC directive to the 'field work' component needs to be seriously addressed in order to make the curriculum meaningful to students and faculty.* **Faculty at University of Delhi and JGU** *are therefore collaborating on a unique public-private university partnership to address this gap by organizing the* first ever *Conclave for environmental educators to define an experiential platform for educators and students to address the field work via both urban and rural projects and interventions aimed at tackling challenges of environmental sustainability.*

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source:[1] **Resilience Framework :** an indigenous framework developed and implemented by University of Delhi alumni Dr Seema Sharma and Mr Arnab Bose using its Colleges as an academic platform.

The Conclave agreed upon a pathway by which multiple stakeholders namely Academia, Policy, Industry and community will come together in a systemic fashion following a roadmap given below at the level of a neighbourhood.

According to the roadmap the prototype *Resilience Centre* (a local network of various actors who build capacity for social and ecological resilience at the level of a neighbourhood; the prototype has been created in East Delhi[2]) will be replicated at 7 different areas in Delhi NCR, one each in North, East, West, South and Central Delhi, and one in Delhi NCR region in Haryana and one in Uttar Pradesh.

Each Resilience Centre will conduct four types of activities.

*First* will be to create a baseline, or a summary document or video logs of how a particular neighbourhood is like. This can be done via Resilience Atlases, or creating a YouTube Channel or conducting a rudimentary green audit of the locality.

*Second* is conducting awareness campaigns and this can be done utilizing the human resources of the Resilience Center itself. These can be community walks, Police Public Partnerships and so on[3].

*Third* is expert interventions, that is interventions at the level of a locality but uses help from experts like a thorough green audit, information technology interventions, physical infrastructure scoping studies and so on.

*Finally,* there can be policy interventions following pathways of multilevel governance.

Each Resilience Center will always involve various actors, and it follows **the 3i[4]** (Inform, Inspire, Implement) **framework** for building capacity for resilience at the level of a neighbourhood.

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sources: [2] For more details: TEDx talk link - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhBlK4twDIk - or contact conveynors
[3] The Resilience Relations YouTube Channel has more information on this:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcztAD8Z9Ejna4BIrDNpTfw

[4] Sharma. S and Bose. A (2017),  "Academic Institutions as an Interface between Academia-Industry-Policy-Community to meet the aim of Liberal Education, Socialization and Social Change:  A case study under Project Resilience", published in - "Higher Education in India: Challenges and opportunities" edited by Department of Education, University of Delhi.