

Kirtee Shah, President-Founder,
Habitat Forum (INHAF)

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Kirtee Shah is the founder and President of India Habitat Forum (INHAF). He has been on several committees established by the Planning Commission of India; served on the Board of Directors of HUDCO; and has consulted with several UN agencies, the World Bank, CDIA, and other organizations. He was an advisor to the GOI's 50,000 houses project for the war victims in Sri Lanka and Chaired a Committee set up by HUDCO for the Rejuvenation and Strengthening of the Building Centres Network in India. He is Chairman and Chief Architect of KSA Design Planning Services Pvt Ltd., an Ahmedabad-based firm of practicing architects.

Dr. Sunita Narain, Director General,
Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)

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Sunita Narain has been with the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) since 1982 and currently serves as its Director General, Treasurer of the Society for Environmental Communications, and Editor of Down To Earth. A leading voice for environmental justice, she has over four decades of work combining rigorous research, advocacy, and pro-poor perspectives to shape public policy in India and globally.

She has played a pivotal role in campaigns on air pollution control, community water management, urban sewage reform, pesticide regulation, and climate change negotiations, always emphasising equity, democracy, and sustainable development for the Global South. Her leadership influenced transformative policies such as Delhi's shift to cleaner fuels, promotion of rainwater harvesting, and advocacy for affordable sanitation systems.

Narain's contributions have been recognised with numerous awards, including the Padma Shri, Stockholm Water Prize, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Award, and Edinburgh Medal. She has been named among Time magazine's 100 most influential people and Foreign Policy/Prospect's top public intellectuals. She has served on the Prime Minister's Council for Climate Change, chaired the Tiger Task Force, and been a member of the National Ganga River Basin Authority.

Her work has advanced the "environmentalism of the poor," argued for leapfrogging to pollution-free growth, and connected issues of biodiversity, nutrition, and livelihood. Through CSE, she continues to strengthen independent environmental research and advocacy, believing that sound science and participatory governance are the keys to a sustainable and equitable future.

Dr. Vijay Jagannathan, Secretary General,
CityNet Secretariat

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Dr. Vijay Jagannathan comes from the World Bank, where he was Sector Manager for infrastructure in the East Asia and Pacific region. He was responsible for an annual lending program of about \$5 billion in the urban, water, transport, and energy sectors. Dr. Jagannathan has also been associated with the APEC-led green growth and green finance initiatives. He has worked in the infrastructure, environment, and urban development sectors in his twenty-four years at the Bank. Before that, he spent 10 years in the Indian Administrative Service.

He is an economist by training, with a PhD from Boston University. His dissertation on the informal markets for the poor was published by Oxford University Press in 1987 and recognized as one of the “Outstanding Academic Books of the Year” by the American Library Association. He has published extensively on water, urban development, agricultural development, and environmental issues.

He is a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group for Urban Issues and is working closely with the New Climate Economy initiative. He is advising the China Council for International Cooperation on Climate and Development (CCICED) in its Special Policy Study on “Good City Models under the Concept of Ecological Civilization.” In 2023, Dr. Jagannathan was appointed to the Advisory Board on Zero Waste by the Secretary General of the UN. He was elected as Secretary General of CityNet at the 2013 CityNet Seoul Congress.

Amitabh Sinha, Deputy Editor,
Indian Express

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Amitabh Sinha is Deputy Editor at The Indian Express. He has been a journalist for 23 years and has previously worked with Press Trust of India, Reuters, and BBC. At The Indian Express, where he has spent more than 15 years, Amitabh writes mainly on climate change and science, two very vast fields that cover a range of topics. Amitabh is a Chemistry graduate and has a Master's in Public Policy, besides a post-graduate diploma in journalism.

Nakul Sharma, Program Coordinator,
Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA)

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Nakul is a clean energy enthusiast, working with CANSA on various programs related to capacity building, policy analysis, and advocacy. He provides evidence-based analyses to promote fair, inclusive, and just energy transition in South Asia. His areas of expertise, combined with keen interest, are the promotion of renewable energy and clean energy policy, access to transition and infrastructure finance, and ensuring energy justice in the Global South.

Dr. Oswar Mungkasa, Principal Planner/ Former Deputy Governor,
Jakarta

Dr. Mungkasa, Principal Planner and former Deputy Governor of Jakarta for Spatial Planning and Environment (November 2015 – October 2019), is an esteemed urban planner and resilience strategist. He holds a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. in Public Economics from the University of Indonesia.

With a career initiated in central government roles—with leadership positions such as Director of Planning & Budgeting at the Ministry of Housing (2010–2013) and Director of Spatial Planning & Land at Bappenas (2013–2015)—he brought significant expertise to Jakarta's urban policy domain. Appointed as Jakarta's Chief Resilience Officer, he steered the formulation of the city's resilience strategy and spearheaded collaborations across stakeholders to address critical issues such as land subsidence, floods, waste, and infrastructure vulnerabilities.

Notably, Mungkasa implemented sustainable initiatives, including river naturalisation and vertical drainage systems to recharge groundwater and counteract Jakarta's sinking—programs expected to deliver long-term impact over a decade. He also chaired monitoring teams like the Budget Absorption Monitoring Team to improve fiscal efficiency and accountability in urban governance. His leadership exemplifies a data-driven, cross-sectoral approach to building a livable, resilient megacity.