



**CHITKARA**  
UNIVERSITY  
College of Education



in Collaboration

# COMMEMORATING WORLD HABITAT DAY 2021

Virtual Conference on

# ACCELERATING URBAN ACTION FOR A CARBON-FREE WORLD

Aligned with the theme of the United Nations on World Habitat Day 2021



**CHIEF GUEST**

**Geethanjali M. Jeyakumar**  
*Indian Forest Service (IFS),  
Punjab Cadre Senior Officer*

## GUEST SPEAKER



**DR. POOJA CHOPRA**  
*Founder Director,  
Orlina Ventures Pvt. Ltd.  
Chandigarh*



**HITESH KUMAR GULATI**  
*Hon. Director General,  
APSWDP*



**DR. VANI PARWEZ**  
*Co-Convenor & Moderator,  
Assistant Professor,  
Chitkara College of Education*

## ORGANISING TEAM



**REKHA TRIVEDI**  
*Principal Convenor  
APSWDP*



**ADV. GAUTAM BHARDWAJ**  
*Co-Convenor  
Hon. Director- Legal Affairs  
APSWDP*



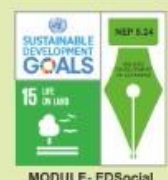
**BHAVESH SWAMI**  
*Co-Convenor  
National Manager - Clean Energy,  
The Climate Reality Project India*



Date: 4th October, 2021

Time: 03:00PM - 04:30PM IST

Platform: zoom



## BACKGROUND

Every October, UN-Habitat and partners organize a month of activities, events and discussions on urban sustainability. This year, Urban October opens with **World Habitat Day** on **4 October**. The purpose of World Habitat Day is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns. World Habitat Day was established in 1985 by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 40/202, and was first celebrated in 1986. It takes place on the first Monday of October.

The theme for this year's **World Habitat Day** is **Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world**. The theme recognizes that cities are responsible for some 70 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions with transport, buildings, energy, and waste management accounting for the bulk of urban greenhouse gas emissions. Events and activities during World Habitat Day will explore how national, regional and local governments and organizations, communities, academic institutions, the private sector and all relevant stakeholders can work together to create sustainable, carbon-neutral, inclusive cities and towns.

World Habitat Day will amplify the global Race to Zero Campaign and encourage local governments to develop actionable zero-carbon plans in the run up to the international climate change summit COP26 in November 2021.

World Habitat Day 2020 took place on 5 October 2020 with the theme Housing for All: A Better Urban Future. There were 69 events celebrated globally in 42 countries and 58 cities and the Global Observance was hosted by the city of Surabaya, Indonesia. World Habitat Day was first celebrated in 1986 with the theme "Shelter is My Right". Nairobi was the host city for the observance that year. Other previous themes have included: "Shelter for the Homeless" (1987, New York); "Shelter and Urbanization" (1990, London); "Future Cities" (1997, Bonn); "Safer Cities" (1998, Dubai); "Women in Urban Governance" (2000, Jamaica); "Cities without Slums" (2001, Fukuoka), "Water and Sanitation for Cities" (2003, Rio de Janeiro), "Planning our Urban Future" (2009, Washington, D.C.), "Better City, Better Life" (2010, Shanghai, China) and Cities and Climate Change (2011, Aguascalientes, Mexico).

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/habitat-day>  
<https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/whd>

## VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON ACCELERATING URBAN ACTION FOR A CARBON-FREE WORLD

Aligned to the initiatives of urban sustainability, the **Virtual Center of Excellence for Social Welfare Administration (VCoE-SWA)**, under the aegis of Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) has conceived a **Virtual Conference on "Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world"**, in line with the theme of the United Nations on **World Habitat Day 2021**; in partnership with Chitkara College of Education, Chitkara University and The Climate Reality Project India (TCPI) on **04th October, 2021 (Monday)** from **03:00 pm to 04:30 pm (IST)**, with an aim to work together with local governments and organizations, communities, academic institutions, the private sector and all relevant stakeholders, for creating sustainable, carbon-neutral, inclusive cities and towns.

## ABOUT COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

### ***Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP)***

Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners (APSWDP) is a registered not for profit professional membership-based organization of professional social workers and development practitioners working in various social welfare domain across the country. APSWDP has been conferred Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and affiliation with the Department of Global Communication (DGC) of United Nations since 2019. Social issues like poverty, livelihood, health, environment, education, water & sanitation, unemployment, disease control program, urbanization, youth issues of de-addiction, and others have covered the whole gamut of government, development agencies, and academic institutions.

The association focuses on creating a countrywide and global network of dedicated social work professionals and development practitioners from remote geographical rural areas, to discuss, debate, and develop a key framework on evidence & practice-based interventions, methods.

### ***Chitkara College of Education, Chitkara University***

Chitkara College of Education, is one of the most sought after B.Ed colleges in Chandigarh that trains aspiring teachers in the skills and knowledge required to take on the most challenging task of molding future generations. Since 2003, Chitkara College of Education has been paving the learning-rich path that future-teachers can tread on in preparation for pursuing successful and satisfying careers in the best educational institutes of the country.

Chitkara College of Education has been accredited by the National Council for Teacher Education as well as the State Government of Punjab. A variety of techniques are used as part of the curriculum to polish and groom teachers of the future. Aside from classroom sessions that build theoretical expertise, students are also exposed to the latest tech tools like Google Classrooms. Workshops on a variety of subjects are periodically conducted to ascertain that the most recent developments in the field of education reach their students. The program curators at Chitkara give special attention to the fact that hands-on training, especially in the teaching vocation, is a must.

Source: [www.chitkara.edu.in/education](http://www.chitkara.edu.in/education)

### ***The Climate Reality Project India (TCPI)***

Al Gore and TERI established The Climate Reality Project India (TCPI) in 2008. TCPI focuses on climate education and empowering communities to take climate actions and prioritize implementation of local climate solutions. The India branch supports more than 550-trained Climate Reality Leaders who are taking climate actions on the ground. TCPI has been consistently putting in efforts to strengthen India's NDCs to work elaborately in the domains of clean energy, water conservation (including rainwater harvesting) and supporting electric mobility. Climate Reality India works with the like-minded organizations, focusing on the thrust areas: Climate Education and building climate friendly schools/colleges campuses; tree & mangrove plantations to enhance livelihoods; rainwater harvesting to tackle water crises; and supporting clean energy and electric mobility.

Source: [www.climatereality.org.in](http://www.climatereality.org.in)

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The **key objectives** of the virtual conference are:

- Affirming our commitment and lifestyle co-design towards urban sustainability.
- Showcasing and Learning from case studies and best practices of Habitat Conservation & Protection.
- Encourage local government bodies and communities to develop actionable carbon-neutral plans.
- Establish network amongst the participants who are devoted to the method of Community Driven Development (CDD) with an objective of building effective advocacy network and partnerships, to promote sustainable solutions for shaping the future of our communities, towns and cities.
- Promote information sharing and exchange at the local and global level to work in cohesion effectively with climate protection led network.

## MODE OF COMMUNICATION

The mode of communication for the virtual conference is English. However, the participants from regional background are also encouraged to join the conversation in their respective vernacular. APSWDP does not discriminate on the grounds of language. We believe in participation from across the lines. Our volunteers will felicitate the participants in case if they are not comfortable with the language.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

- Health Program Manager
- Social Activist
- Development Practitioner
- Business Consultant
- Legal Practitioner
- Researcher
- Academician
- Corporate Sector Professional
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Entrepreneur
- Government
- Student
- Others

## REGISTER FOR PARTICIPATION

For participation, please register in advance on the web link: <https://bit.ly/2WxABoG>

## FOR ANY QUERY, PLEASE CONTACT

Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), India

Post Box. 363, Post Office, Sec-11.D, Chandigarh-160011

Website: [www.apswdp.org](http://www.apswdp.org) | E-mail: [apswdp@gmail.com](mailto:apswdp@gmail.com) | Phone: +91 7087060356

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