



Two-day International Conference

Urban Informality: Inclusive Policy, Planning & Design

8-9 March 2026 (Sunday and Monday),

Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee &

AMRUT Centre of Urban Planning for Capacity Building in collaboration with Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)

Conference Outline:

Rapid urbanization in the Global South has intensified the proliferation of informal settlements, making housing informality one of the most critical challenges confronting contemporary cities. Cities continue to be shaped by diverse forms of urban informality arising from historical, legal, socio-economic, and political processes. While national and sub-national housing policies increasingly seek to promote inclusive and affordable urban development, their implementation reveals varied outcomes across contexts.

In India, post-liberalization revealed the need for inclusion of economic and cultural aspects along with scheme convergence and holistic approach. Contemporary discourse on inclusion of such aspects for overall development of informal housing helps in mainstreaming informality in the overall development of city. Therefore, such discourse requires continuous deliberation and brainstorming.

This conference provides an interdisciplinary platform to critically examine informal settlements, housing policies, and adaptive strategies adopted by communities and institutions. Bringing together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from India and abroad, the conference aims to achieve cross-learning, and context-specific cases towards achieving a slum free city.

Theme 1: Urban Informality and Inclusive Growth

- Scale and typologies of informal settlements in Indian metropolitan regions
- Tenure security, land ownership, and regulatory challenges
- Informal settlement and inclusive growth

Theme 2: Governance, Planning, and Institutional Capacity

- State and local bodies in managing informal settlements
- Urban governance structures and multi-level policy implementation
- Convergence and effective implementation of schemes and programs

Theme 3: Sustainability, and Resilient Futures

- Redevelopment, retrofitting, and in-situ upgrading of informal settlements





- Ecological sustainability, and urban resilience
- Social, economic and cultural sustainability

Theme 4: Community, Livelihoods, and Social Inclusion

- Informal economies, and social networks in informal settlements
- Age, gender, and vulnerability in urban informal housing
- Community participation in local planning

Theme 5: Design for informal communities

- Design of buildings and facilities
- Open spaces and public areas and participatory design
- Graffiti, murals, art works and installations in public spaces

Participation

The conference organizing committee is inviting quality research or case related extended abstract and posters on any of the five themes. Both are subject to a round of review and acceptance before the acceptance of registration and presentation.

Extended Abstract and Posters:

- The word limit of extended abstract is 2000-2500 words including research purpose, methodology, results, practical implications and conclusion. The size of the poster is limited to A0.
- Authors are encouraged to explore case studies, documentation, conceptual, theoretical and empirical works.
- The abstract/poster can be submitted by a single author or a group of authors.
- The extended abstract and poster should abide by the templates uploaded here.
- Only unpublished works will be considered for submission.
- A book of extended abstracts and posters will be published under SPARC, after the conference.

Extended Abstract and poster submission details:

- Kindly mention the theme of the extended abstract and poster in the subject of the email and mail it to the following email addresses-
- aratrika_s@ar.iitr.ac.in, office.acup@ar.iitr.ac.in

Important dates

Extended abstract and poster submission deadline: **14th February 2026**

Notification for acceptance: **21st February 2026**

Registration till date: **1st March 2026**



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Registration fees

Registration for students of participating institutes of SPARC project (Jadavpur University/ IIT Roorkee/ Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture/ Delft University of Technology) are free. For external Indian scholars and students, there will be a fee of Rs. 2000. For foreign scholars and students affiliated with institutions other than TU Delft, there will be a fee of USD 100.

Registration link has been provided here.

Accommodation details

Accommodation will be provided to the SPARC project members. Other conference participants have to arrange accommodation by themselves.

Payment Details

- If you are an Indian or Non-Indian passport holder affiliated with an Indian institute, register as an Indian Delegate.
- If you are an Indian or Non-Indian passport holder affiliated with an institute outside India, register as an International Delegate.
- For International Delegate, only Visa and Mastercard credit cards are accepted.
- If you require an Indian visa to attend the conference at IIT Roorkee, complete your registration at the earliest. After registration, email office.acup@ar.iitr.ac.in with a copy of your registration receipt to request an invitation letter for visa processing.
- If multiple authors want to attend the conference for the same paper, each author wanting to attend must register separately.
- The fee covers the registration kit, meals, and conference dinner.
- Keep a copy of your payment receipt for future reference.
- The registration fee is non-refundable.

For queries:

aratrika_s@ar.iitr.ac.in, office.acup@ar.iitr.ac.in, +91-01332-284994, +91-1332-284766

Attendance and presentation Mode

Hybrid mode

Key speakers

- **Prof. Dirk Van Gameren** – Professor of Housing Design, Dean of Faculty of Architecture and Built Environment, TU Delft, Delft, The Netherlands (SPARC project- Co- Principle Investigator)
- **Prof. Mahua Mukherjee**- Professor and Head, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee, Roorkee, India



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- **Prof. Madhumita Roy**- Professor, Department of Architecture, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India (SPARC project- Principle Investigator)
- **Prof. Aneerudha Paul**- Professor, Department of Architecture, Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture, Mumbai, India (SPARC project- Co- Principle Investigator)
- **Prof. Arindam Biswas**- Professor, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee, Roorkee, India

Organizing Committee

National Committee:

1. Prof. Madhumita Roy, Department of Architecture, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India and SPARC-PI
2. Prof. Aneerudha Paul, Department of Architecture, Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture, Mumbai, India
3. Prof. Uttam Kumar Roy, Department of Architecture and Planning, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, India
4. Ar. Ketaki Bhadgaonkar, Department of Architecture, Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture, Mumbai, India

Local Committee:

1. Prof. Uttam Kumar Roy, Department of Architecture and Planning, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, India
2. Aratrika Sarkar, Research Scholar, Department of Architecture and Planning, Indian IIT Roorkee, Roorkee, India
3. Sk Sahin Uddin, Research Scholar, Centre for Transportation Systems (CTRANS), IIT Roorkee, Roorkee, India
4. Rodrigue Samb, Research Scholar, Department of Architecture and Planning, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, India
5. Sthitapragna Kollepara, Project Associate, AMRUT Centre of Urban Planning for Capacity Building (ACUPCB), Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee, Roorkee, India
6. Devesh Dholke, Project Associate, AMRUT Centre of Urban Planning for Capacity Building (ACUPCB), Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee, Roorkee, India
7. Ashish Pathak, Office and Secretarial Assistant, AMRUT Centre of Urban Planning for Capacity Building (ACUPCB), Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee, Roorkee, India
8. Priyanka Rani, Project Assistant, Spatial Planning Lab, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee, Roorkee, India



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