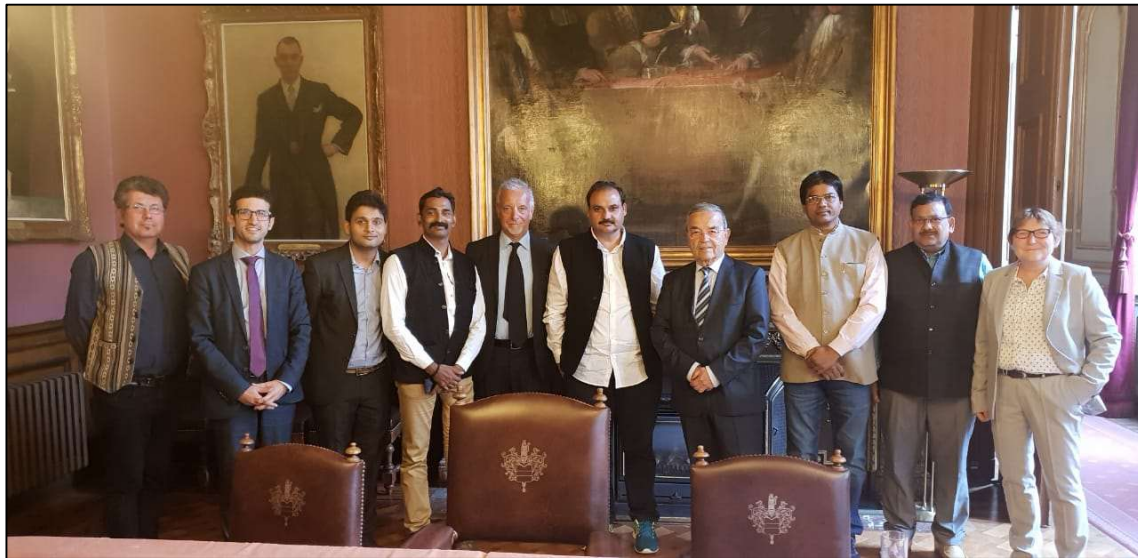




Strengthening Governance for the Restoration of Privately-Owned Heritage Buildings in Gwalior



Background

Leuven and Gwalior will cooperate to conceptualise and integrate a robust model to strengthen governance for the uptake of heritage buildings in Gwalior city. Leuven has a legacy as well as ongoing best practices to make use of heritage buildings so that their heritage structure and design could be protected. Gwalior city has a good number of heritage buildings which are vulnerable due to the pressures of modern infrastructure and absence of strong policy guidelines to protect privately-owned heritage buildings.

Executive Summary

Gwalior is a major city in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. Located 343 kilometers south of Delhi, Gwalior occupies a strategic location in the gird region of India. As per a 2019 estimate, the city has a population of 2,842,400 and is spread across 289 square km of area. The city of Leuven, located in the heart of Belgium next to Brussels, is the provincial capital of Flemish Brabant. Steeped in centuries of culture and history, Leuven quickly captures your heart. As per an estimate in 2016, the population of Leuven was 100,244 and is spread across 57 square km.

Both the cities have signed the respective partnership agreements with IUC and also conducted exchange visits. During the first exchange visit in August-2018, the cities decided on the topic of cooperation as “strengthening governance for the revival of privately-owned heritage buildings.” In November-2018, a 3-member technical team from Leuven has visited Gwalior to assess and understand the basic heritage infrastructure in the city. They have also met key policy makers, politicians and other relevant staff of Gwalior Municipal Corporation. In February-2019, a larger group



of experts lead by the honorable mayor of Leuven visited Gwalior and further explored and analyzed the relevant specific components for the area of cooperation. In addition, a Belgian expert regularly visits Gwalior under a broader partnership between India and Belgium on various areas of cooperation including heritage conservation.

Mr. Vivek Narayan Shejwalkar, the Mayor of Gwalior city up to June 5th 2019 has said, *“Gwalior city is open to build new partnerships on innovative areas of cooperation. We welcome the city of Leuven to our city and encourage them to work with us in areas of heritage management”*

Mohamed Ridouni, mayor of Leuven has many times praised the leadership of Gwalior city and also expressed to be fortunate to partner with Gwalior city. He further mentioned, *“The partnership between Gwalior and Leuven will go a long way in working together on various issues of urban development.”*

Challenges and Solutions

The initial interactions during the scheduled exchange visits contributed to a better understanding regarding background, population, economic activities, challenges and opportunities. The main challenges in Gwalior are the following:

- Lack of policies to protect/conservate heritage buildings
- Lack of experience within administration on the value of heritage protection and management
- Lack of resources within the designated departments for the protection of heritage buildings

The key objective of the cooperation is to strengthen the capacity of the city administration and institutions through delivering a specific workshop, and the creation of heritage awareness amongst the stakeholders. Preparation of a framework is also planned to implement the activities in a phased wise manner for the protection of privately-owned heritage buildings in private sector. The key activities will be the following:

- Identify various concerned stakeholders of the privately owned heritage buildings (e.g. owners, residents, shopkeepers, clients, visitors, tourists)
- Review the existing policies for the protection / conservation of heritage buildings
- Identify gaps in the existing policies
- Recommend policy level interventions either to be incorporated in the existing programs or new ones
- Organize a workshop for the concerned administration and relevant stakeholders
- Develop the basic principles of an awareness program for the stakeholders (and broader public)





The cooperation program will focus on the delivery of a workshop on maintenance of cultural heritage and the design of the framework (rules and incentives) for the restoration, upkeep and daily management of privately-owned heritage buildings.

In this process, all the stakeholders responsible for the preservation and restoration of heritage buildings will be identified and a workshop on cultural heritage preservation will be conducted. The professional input of the Leuven side (City and Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (RLICC) and the support of Gwalior Smart City Development Corporation Ltd (GSCDCL) and Gwalior Municipal Corporation (GMC) will ensure the necessary output as a basis for the further development.

Results and Impact

GMC/GDSCDCL will benefit from the whole process as such a policy of citizens participation has never been executed locally, and will lead to a stronger urban governance in which all stakeholders will be included. The Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (RLICC) will benefit through this experience, by refining its knowledge/methodology that has been already tested in other parts of the world.

The inhabitants will benefit through a better living environment, but also by achieving higher levels of public participation. The shopkeepers/owners will benefit from the incentives of the heritage-based development policy, and through a greater influx of shoppers. Their “hospitality” training towards tourists/visitors will also influence their business in a positive way. Finally, the tourists/visitors will benefit from a better environment.

In addition, the following outcomes and influences could be expected out of the partnership between Gwalior and Leuven cities:

- Training and workshop delivered on the conservation of privately-owned heritage buildings between both the cities
- Initiation of preparation of a robust framework within GMC / GSCDCL for the conservation of privately-owned heritage buildings



- The city will develop its own local policy framework for the protection of heritage buildings in private sector.
- Heritage to become an integral part in urban development (including better experience for locals and tourists)
- More relevant stakeholders could be identified at the local level with a clear mandate for them to work in specific areas
- Efficient utilization of national and local funds designated to be invested in privately-owned heritage buildings
- A policy model that can be applied to similar situations all over in India

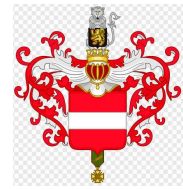
The area of cooperation is directly related to SDG 11 and indirectly linked to a number of other SDGs including 6, 7, 8, 12 and 17.



Lessons Learned

- Communication based engagement is the key to successful partnership. The cities should adopt a strong communication strategy for effective partnerships
- Strong leadership paves the way for fruitful results – Gwalior has been fortunate enough to have committed leadership since a long time. This has enabled the city to experiment and explore various new innovative tools and methods to integrate and build new partnerships with global cities
- Role of external stakeholders is important –The cities need to work in synergy with external and internal parties so that good results can be harnessed with mutual cooperation
- Identification of focal points is vital for the implementation of successful partnerships – There is a need to identify and nominate a nodal focal point in cities so that partnerships could be implemented in a hassle-free manner



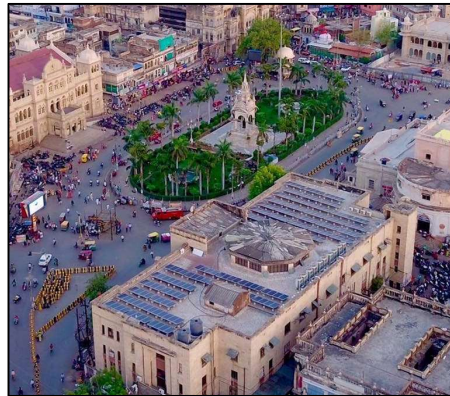


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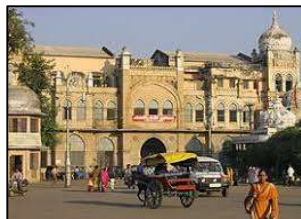
Mr. Shishir Srivastava
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About IUC

The International Urban Cooperation (IUC) programme enables cities in different global regions to link up and share solutions to common problems. It is part of a long-term strategy by the European Union to foster sustainable urban development in cooperation with the public and private sectors, as well as representatives of research and innovation, community groups and citizens. Through engaging in the IUC, cities will have the chance to share and exchange knowledge with their international counterparts, building a greener, more prosperous future. The IUC programme is an opportunity for local governments to learn from each other, set ambitious targets, forge lasting partnerships, test new solutions, and boost their city's international profile. Its activities will support the achievement of policy objectives as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change, such as the EU Urban Agenda, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement.



Maharaj Bada Circle in



Govt Press



Central Post



State Bank of India



Town Hall



Victoria Market



**Sarafa Bazar having many
privately owned heritage
buildings**

Main Heritage Buildings in and around Maharaj Bada area

