

## Climate Resilient Urban Sustainable Habitats (CRUSH) workshop



Mr Mohak Gupta, presenting on the workshop organised by University of Toronto India Foundation,

On July 5, 2024, Mohak Gupta, Assistant Program Director for Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy, presented DA's work on the built environment in coastal regions at the 'Climate Resilient Urban Sustainable Habitats (CRUSH)' workshop. The event, organised by the University of Toronto India Foundation in partnership with TATA Trust and IIT Delhi, focused on climate resilient sustainable habitats in urban areas.

DA highlighted the urgent need for climate resilience in coastal urban areas, highlighting learnings from past and ongoing work and strategies going forward:

1. **Growing Climate Risks and Community Vulnerability:** He emphasised the increasing threats posed by climate change to coastal regions, including rising sea levels, growing heat stress, and extreme weather events. Discussed the socio-economic vulnerabilities of coastal communities and the need for proactive measures to protect them.
2. **Sustainable Reconstruction of Tsunami-Affected Villages in Karaikal:** Shared insights from the reconstruction efforts carried out by Development Alternatives in Karaikal, a region severely affected by the 2004 tsunami. Highlighted sustainable building practices and community models deployed in the reconstruction to enhance resilience against future disasters.
3. **Roadmap for Transforming the Built Environment in Odisha:** Presented a comprehensive plan for resilient urban development in Odisha. Included strategies for incorporating sustainable building materials, improving living comfort, and fostering community engagement.
4. **Sustainability Assessment of Building Materials:** Presented DA's work in the Himalayan region on evaluating walling options like rubble masonry, red bricks, CSEB bricks and concrete blocks in terms of thermal comfort, affordability, job creation, local economy component, critical resource usage, embodied energy and resistance to natural hazard.
5. **Policy and Regulatory Response:** Discussed the importance of robust policies and regulations to support sustainable urban habitats. Called for collaborative efforts between governments, the private sector, and civil society to create an enabling environment for sustainable practices.

The presentation concluded with a Q&A session, where participants discussed practical applications of the strategies presented. The workshop facilitated a productive exchange of ideas, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing climate challenges. DA's presentation provided actionable insights into creating climate-resilient urban habitats in coastal regions. The workshop underscored the critical need for sustainable practices and strong partnerships to tackle the impacts of climate change effectively.