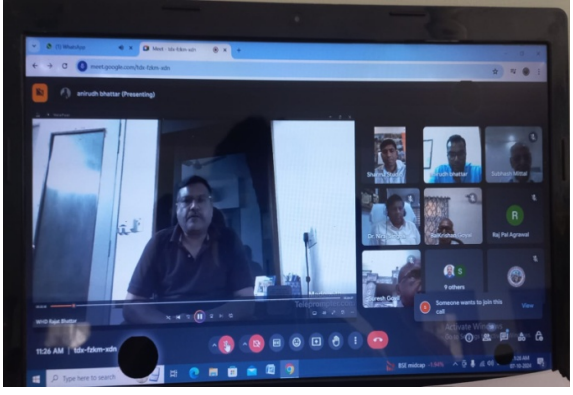



## TECHNICAL ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT BY CENTRES

Name of Centre		Meerut Local Centre	
Title of Activity:	World Habitat Day		
Activity under Divisional Board	Statutory Days		
Date:	07-10-2024	Venue:	Online on Google Meet

(Insert photo)	(Insert photo)
	
Title of photo : <b>Screenshot of the Webinar</b>	Title of photo: <b>Screenshot of the Webinar</b>

### **Brief Report :-**

On October 7, 2024, the Meerut Local Centre of the Institution of Engineers India (IEI) hosted a webinar to celebrate World Habitat Day, focusing on the theme “Engaging Youth to Create a Better Urban Future”. This event emphasized the pivotal role of youth in addressing urban challenges, such as inadequate housing, environmental degradation, and sustainable city planning, in the face of rapid urbanization.

The session was convened by Er. Prashant Sharma, who warmly greeted the participants and introduced the theme of the event. He reflected on the significance of World Habitat Day, which was initiated by the United Nations to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable urban development and ensuring adequate shelter for all. Er. Sharma outlined the importance of engaging youth in urban planning and architecture, as their creativity and energy are key to solving the challenges of urbanization. He then sought permission from Er. R.P. Agrawal, Chairman of the Meerut Local Centre, to begin the proceedings.

In his welcome address, Er. R.P. Agrawal acknowledged the presence of the Hony. Secretary Er. S.C. Mittal, the keynote speakers Ar. Anirudh Bhattar and Ar. Rajat Bhattar, and senior members of the IEI Meerut Local Centre. He expressed gratitude for their participation and emphasized the need for the younger generation to take an active role in addressing urban challenges. Er. Agrawal stressed the importance of sustainable practices in urban design and the responsibility of professionals to create a future where cities are livable, inclusive, and resilient. His address set the tone for the webinar by focusing on youth empowerment and innovation in urban development.

Ar. Anirudh Bhattar, the first keynote speaker, is an Associate Architect at Suresh & Rakesh, Meerut. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) from USAP, GGSIPU, Delhi, and a Master's in Construction Project Management from the University of Manchester, UK. With over four years of experience, Ar. Bhattar specializes in sustainable urban design and innovative architectural solutions. In his presentation, he focused on the challenges posed by rapid urbanization and the need for innovative solutions to address issues like inadequate housing and resource depletion.

Ar. Bhattar discussed how young professionals can contribute to urban development by adopting modern design principles, using sustainable materials, and applying community-centric approaches. He highlighted three main areas:

**Innovative Urban Design:** Ar. Bhattar emphasized that future cities require creative and scalable solutions, utilizing advanced technology to create sustainable environments that meet the needs of a growing population.

**Youth Engagement:** He spoke about the critical role young architects and planners play, stressing that their fresh perspectives and ideas are essential in creating resilient and inclusive urban spaces.

**Sustainable Practices:** Ar. Bhattar advocated for environmentally friendly construction techniques and energy-efficient designs to ensure that urban development is both scalable and sustainable.

He concluded his presentation by urging young professionals to take an active role in urban planning and development, emphasizing that their contributions could lead to groundbreaking changes in how cities evolve.

Prof. Dr. Neeraj Singhal, Director of SCRIET, CCS University, Meerut, also joined the webinar. His presence was acknowledged with warm appreciation by Er. S.C. Mittal, the Hony. Secretary of the Meerut Local Centre, and Er. Prashant Sharma, the convener. Dr. Singhal's attendance added great value to the event, and his participation was well-received by all attendees.

The second keynote speaker, Ar. Rajat Bhattar, is the Principal Architect at Suresh & Rakesh, Meerut, with over 35 years of experience in the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) industry. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) from MIT and is a respected member of both the Council of Architecture (CoA) and the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA). Although unable to attend in person due to his travel commitments, Ar. Rajat Bhattar shared his thoughts through a pre-recorded video message.

In his address, he emphasized the importance of creating sustainable urban spaces that are both functional and environmentally friendly. He encouraged young professionals to step into leadership roles and focus on innovative solutions to the issues of urban infrastructure and housing shortages. His insights on integrating sustainability into urban planning and the role of youth in driving this change were particularly well-received. The participants appreciated his valuable contribution to the session despite his absence.

After the keynote speeches, a Q&A session was hosted by Ar. Anirudh Bhattar. Participants raised questions about the challenges of rapid urbanization, such as slum proliferation and homelessness. Several ideas were discussed, including affordable housing models, sustainable building practices, and innovative design concepts. Ar. Bhattar responded with thoughtful insights, reiterating the need for collaboration between various stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and individuals, to create cities that are inclusive and resilient. His responses encouraged further discussion among participants about the role of young professionals in addressing these critical issues.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Er. S.C. Mittal, the Hony. Secretary of the Meerut Local Centre. He expressed his gratitude to the keynote speakers, Ar. Anirudh Bhattar and Ar. Rajat Bhattar, for their insightful presentations. Er. Mittal also thanked Prof. Dr. Neeraj Singhal for attending the webinar and contributing to its success. He extended his appreciation to Er. Prashant Sharma, the convener, for his efforts in organizing the event, and to all participants for their enthusiastic involvement.

The webinar was a resounding success, providing valuable insights into sustainable urban design, the role of youth engagement, and the importance of collaboration in shaping future cities. It served as a platform for exchanging ideas and exploring innovative solutions for the urban challenges ahead. The session inspired attendees, particularly the younger generation, to take an active role in creating a sustainable and inclusive urban future.