

Report of Three-Day International Writeshop on URGENT Research Framework

31st March – 2nd April 2022

Hosted by



**Pondicherry University
Puducherry, India**

Partner Institutions



Report of Writeshop on URGENT Research Framework

Day -1: 31 March 2022

Day 1: Inauguration

The Pondicherry University (PU), organized a three-day writeshop from 31 March to 2 April 2022 at the convention centre. The main aim of this writeshop is to understand the research gap in India and Mogolia and to develop a common research framework for URGENT research and research training. The day started with an inaugural program and Prof. Jayakumar, the coordinator of Pondicherry University, welcomed the guests from various partner institutions from India, Mongolia and Europe.



The Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University, Prof. Gurmeet Singh, honoured the guests with bouquets and mementoes.



Prof. Gurmeet Singh honoured Prof. Kalev Sepp



Prof. Gurmeet Singh honoured Dr. Anton Shkaruba



Prof. Gurmeet Singh honoured Dr. Daniele Rosa



Prof. Gurmeet Singh honoured Prof. KV Deviprasad



Prof. Gurmeet Singh honoured Prof. PK Joshi



Prof. Gurmeet Singh honoured Dr. Riccardo Privitera

Guests lighted the lamp





Prof Jayakumar welcomed the guests.



Prof. Joshi gave a brief account on the URGENT project



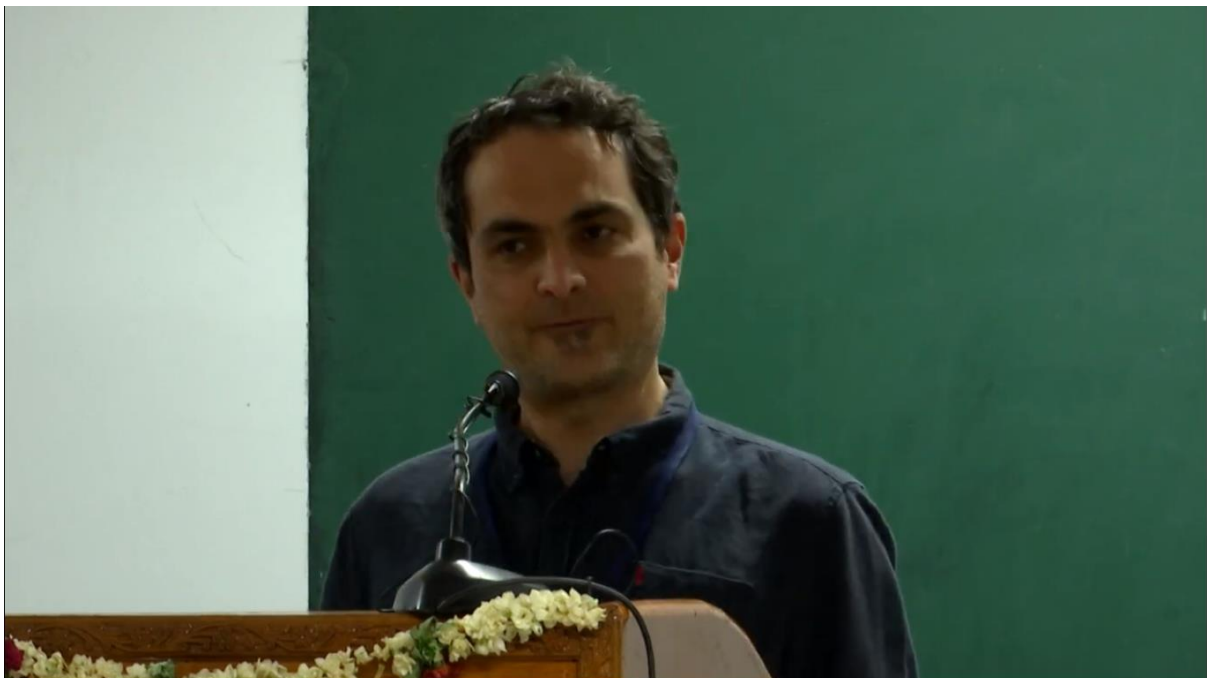
Dr. Anton Shkaruba introduced the scope of the writeshop



Prof. Kalev Sepp gave a felicitation address.



Dr. Daniele La Rosa gave a felicitation address



Dr. Riccardo Privitera gave a felicitation address



Followed by the felicitation address, each of the guests from partner institutions was invited to the dais for a short introduction and share their thoughts on the initiatives under this program.

Dr. Debjani Gosh from NIUA



Dr. Akhlaq Wani, Associate Professor, Division of Forest Resource Management Faculty of Forestry, SKUAST Kashmir



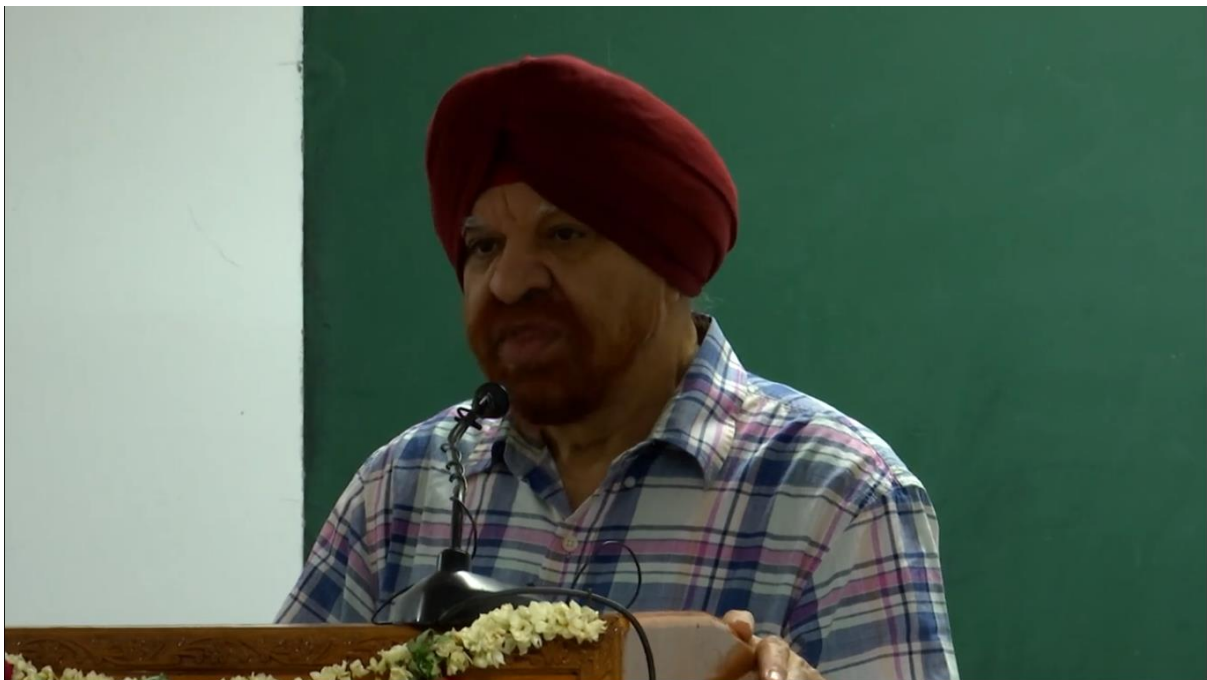
Dr Aasif Ali Gattoo, Dr Shah Murtaza Mushtaq, Assistant Professor, Division of Forest Resource Management Faculty of Forestry, SKUAST Kashmir



Dr. Pandey from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi



Prof. Gurmeet Singh gave an inaugural address



The Vice-Chancellor, in his speech, expressed his heartfelt joy in organizing the Writeshop at Pondicherry University and extended his good wishes for the event.

Members from different parts of the world joined this URGENT meeting in hybrid mode to discuss the plans and curriculum. The guests included Dr Anton Shkaruba, Dr Kalev Sepp from Estonian University of Life Sciences Estonia, Dr Santi Daniele La Rosa and Dr Riccardo Privitera from Università di Catania, Italy, Dr Debjani Ghosh, Associate Professor, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), New Delhi, Mr Sarath Babu M G, Lead - Data & Technology National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), New Delhi, Dr Akhlaq Amin Wani, Associate Professor, Division of Forest Resource Management Faculty of Forestry, SKUAST Kashmir. Dr Aasif Ali Gattoo, Dr Shah Murtaza Mushtaq, Assistant Professor, Division of Forest Resource Management Faculty of Forestry, SKUAST Kashmir, Prof. PK Joshi, School of Environmental Sciences Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Dr Deep Narayan Pandey, Assistant Professor Special Centre for Disaster Research Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Sh. Loveleen Garg, Chief Planner Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Co. Limited, Gandhinagar (Non-academic Partner, P-16; URGENT Project), Dr Swati Kothary, Project Coordinator URGENT Project, Institute of Architecture and Planning Nirma University, Dr Neeru Bansal, External Expert URGENT Project Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University, Prof KV Devi prashad, Dr. Subhankar Chatterjee, Dr. Mathimaran Natarajan, Dr. Gurjeet Kaur, Prof. S Jayakumar, and Research scholars from the environmental informatics and spatial modelling lab. Dept. of Ecology & Environmental Sciences, Pondicherry University, Puducherry. Abiding to post COVID-19 terms and conditions in the participating countries, all the other participants from different countries attended the event offline.

Campus visit: 11:30-12:30

After the inaugural function the guests were taken for a campus visit inside the Pondicherry University. All the participants explored the campus, infrastructure and facilities.



They also explored the library of Pondicherry University, where they discussed the RFID systems and the various collections of books. With this, they discussed online access to the library.



Understanding the foundation of the library



Dr Anton Shkaruba and Dr. Daniele La Rosa in the Library



The participants with the librarian

Day – 1: SESSION 1

After returning from the campus visit, the participants had lunch, after which, according to the schedule, the meeting started. All the members got to know each other and shared their ideas and agendas during this session. The participants from the European partner institutions were keen to learn about the problems faced by states in India from where the participants belonged and the steps taken by the government, the gap between policy-making and implementation, and their role in solving the problem.



Discussion among the participants during lunch break



The team

Day – 1: Session 2

The participants discussed the curriculum and exchange programs with each other, and they found that one of the major problems faced by Jammu and Kashmir was the degradation of the wetlands. The reason is urbanization which destroys the wetland biodiversity and the habitats of birds nesting in the wetlands.



Dr. Akhlaq Wani from SKUST

As for Gujarat and Pondicherry with increased urbanization, green spaces and open lands have reduced in number and it is difficult to implement the idea of urban forestry and introduce green spaces in an existing urban locality. However, the government is taking initiatives in the new developments and constructions green technology is being implemented.

Discussions were made as to how collaborations in the field of research can help share knowledge and approaches towards implementing green technology and environmentally friendly steps in Urbanization. The discussion was followed by a tea break after which the discussion continued for some time and then after a brief look at the next day's agenda the meeting was concluded.



Day 2: 01 April 2022**Session 1:**

The goal of this session was to identify the main gaps and to give them priorities. The topic of discussion was the problems faced by India due to increasing Urbanization and steps taken towards mitigating the harmful effects of Urbanization and climate change.

The Project Lead of a government scheme, Mrs. Aruna, AMRUT (Atal Mission for rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) of Govt. of Puducherry joined us on 1 April (Day 2). She discussed the government's initiative towards developing infrastructure centred on urban revival. The scheme is based on the public-private partnership model. This approach was not only made easy but also spread awareness among citizens and emphasizes the importance of sustainable development. She also talked about a few other government schemes promoting development and providing a healthy life to its inhabitants.



Mrs. Aruna, Project Lead from Govt. of Puducherry



The questioning was done, and the members agreed on the other participants' suggestions.





A lunch break followed the discussion.

Day – 2: Session 2

A visit to Auroville



After the lunch break, the participants visited Auroville, an experimental township. The community is based on sustainable development. It believes in the mental, spiritual and physical well-being of an individual.



Mr. Lalith, An aurovillian: gave a brief account on the vision and mission of the Auroville





The township promotes renewable energy and electric vehicles to mitigate air pollution and maintain a clean environment and green architecture. The visit to Auroville gave the participants from other countries and us an idea how sustainable development is practised.

After the visit, the next day's schedule and the plan were revised and concluded for further discussions. This short visit was good in terms of green infrastructure.

Day 3: 02 April 2022

Session 1

The team from Europe interacted with the faculty members of Pondicherry University online and clarified the queries connected to the exchange of students and scholars, and funding opportunities.



Discussion with Mr. Ashok Kumar, Secretary of Revenue, Govt. of Puducherry

A team of members representing partner institutions from Europe and India visited Mr. Ashok Kumar, IAS., Secretary of Revenue, Govt. of Puducherry in the morning and discussed about the plan of the government to mitigate climate change, livelihood and improving the greenery in Puducherry.



Mr. Ashok Kumar explained the plan of government to introduce e-vehicle for public transport to reduce the traffic and to mitigate greenhouse gas emission. He also explained the ecotourism potential of Puducherry Union Territory.

Session – 2:

The last day of this three day Writeshop was as fruitful and successful as it should be. With all the discussions and suggestions, the conclusion was made by the members of URGENT Team.

This session was finally, to sum up, all the participants' discussions during these three days.



