

U20 Bulletin

News from Ahmedabad on the 2023 G20 India

June 2023

Message



*Ranjit S Chavan
President, AIILSG | Co-President, UCLG ASPAC*

It is my utmost pleasure and privilege to write in this edition of the U20 Newsletter, which focuses on “Reinventing Urban Governance Framework.” It is one of the six priority areas of U20 discussions this year. AIILSG is the local representative of United Cities and Local Governments that is one of the conveners of Urban 20. It is a matter of pride that AIILSG, which has a legacy of almost 100 years in empowering urban local bodies, is keenly participating in U20 discussions and organising a series of events as one of the Technical and Knowledge Partners. The recently concluded 6th Asian Cities Summit, one of our institute’s flagship events, focused on some of the priority areas. AIILSG also organised a special event in Indore in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Urban Administration and Development Department of Madhya Pradesh and Indore Municipal Corporation to deliberate on new models of urban governance. In addition to showcasing the impressive works the Indore Municipality is doing in managing its waste and keeping the city clean, the event provided details on integrating digital technology, new models of urban governance and local identity into policymaking and plans. You will read the detailed report from our colleagues on the inside pages of this newsletter.

In an ever-evolving global landscape, our cities face complex challenges that demand innovative approaches to governance. It is imperative for us, as thought-leaders in urban governance, to adapt and reimagine our existing governance frameworks to ensure sustainable and inclusive development. The liveability within cities is also threatened by issues such as degraded built environments, disaster risks, and lack of proper housing and services. To tackle these problems, feasible models for implementing and financing renewal of different areas in the city must be developed, including principles of placemaking, sustainable mobility, circular economy, green buildings, and disaster preparedness.

Fortunately, the U20 provides an excellent platform for collaborative transboundary learning on different approaches to adapt governance and planning frameworks to emerging

challenges. By sharing experiences and knowledge, cities can work together to offer innovative solutions to the complex problems that come with rapid urbanisation.

The world is changing at an unprecedented pace, with technological advancements, rapid urbanisation, and emerging global issues reshaping how we perceive and manage our cities. As urban leaders, we must be at the forefront of this transformation, forging new paths and embracing novel ideas. This newsletter will serve as a platform for knowledge sharing, best practices, and inspiring success stories from the cities worldwide, igniting a spirit of collaboration and collective action.

Furthermore, I want to emphasise the significance of India’s G20 Presidency for our cities. As the torchbearers of urban governance, our role in addressing global issues collectively and collaboratively cannot be understated. India’s presidency provides a unique platform for Indian cities to showcase their prowess in tackling challenges such as climate change, sustainable development, and inclusive growth.

With the G20 Presidency, Indian cities have a golden opportunity to contribute towards shaping global policies and initiatives that directly impact the lives of billions. It is a testament to our nation’s commitment to collaborative decision-making, fostering international partnerships, and driving transformative change on a global scale. Hundreds of events are taking place all across the country under G20. Cities must participate in those events and learn how they can improve their citizens’ lives. I encourage each Indian city to engage actively in the activities and discussions organised under the G20 Presidency, leveraging this platform to share your city’s unique experiences, strategies, and innovations. Together, we can make a tangible difference and create a brighter, more sustainable future for our cities and their inhabitants.

In the spirit of reinvention and collaboration, let us embark on this exciting journey of reimagining the urban governance framework, learning from each other, and creating impactful solutions that will shape the cities of tomorrow. ■

MoHUA launches Mega Campaign 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar'

NEW DELHI: Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, launched a mega campaign titled 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' to bring collective action towards protecting and preserving the environment and bring about a pro-planet behavioural change.

This campaign is all about championing the RRRs of waste management - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle - which is to adopt the principles of making 'wealth' from waste with citizens actively refurbishing old items for reuse.

This nationwide campaign aims to highlight cities to setup 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) Centres - one-stop collection centres - for citizens to contribute clothes, shoes, old books, toys, and used plastic to be reused or recycled.

The RRR centres were launched nationwide on May 20, 2023, which serve as a one-stop solution for citizens, institutions, commercial enterprises, etc to deposit unused or used plastic items and will be given to different stakeholders to be refurbished for reuse or would be made into new products, thus truly

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ The programme supports the Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (RRR) principles and focuses on waste management
- ◇ Its goal is to raise people's awareness of the need for environmental conservation and to persuade them to adopt sustainable daily routines.
- ◇ Under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, the programme enhances individuals' commitment to reducing, reusing, and recycling.
- ◇ It supports Mission LiFE's goal of forming sustainable daily routines to protect the environment.

taking forward the government's vision of circular economy.

Anup Gupta, Mayor of Chandigarh, inaugurated a permanent RRR centre and 35 temporary RRR centres throughout the city in each ward. He said that the restored items will be sold at nominal rates to the needy with the aim to ensure household items in good condition do not go to waste and are reused instead. "MC cleaned, refurbished and upcycled these articles, which will be further made available for sale at the 'Rupee stores' on June 9 and 10. Restored items will be sold at nominal rates to the needy with the aim to ensure

household items in good condition do not go waste and are reused instead," he said.

The Kohima Municipal Council (KMC) too has launched RRR centres in various parts of Nagaland in collaboration with Kohima Smart City Development Limited. During the launch of the centres, Shanavas C, Deputy Commissioner, highlighted the pressing issue of increasing waste production surpassing the city's population. He emphasized the need for sustainable development and urged all stakeholders to create awareness in their localities, promoting a sense of civic responsibility and environmental consciousness. Commemorating World Environment Day, the Government of Telangana inaugurated the Rethink RRR Centre at the ASCI campus in Hyderabad. KT Rama Rao, Minister of IT and Industries, Government of Telangana, stressed the importance of individual social responsibility towards the environment in addition to corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Various other cities including Mangaluru have responded well to the RRR centres that were opened by Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC), collecting 2,91,662 kg of various products till May. Due to its exceptional response and turnout, the MCC plans to establish permanent RRR centres across the city soon.



Case Studies



Sabarmati Riverfront adorns heritage city Ahmedabad

THE SCOPE OF governance these days has been widened to meet the aspiration of the expanding cities. These best practices or models are essential for the inclusive development of the urban infrastructure and policy through citizen participation and, most importantly, by understanding the strength and weaknesses of the city.

Ahmedabad has emerged as a pioneer in modern governance and sustainable urban planning. The Sabarmati Riverfront project epitomises a good governance model and inclusive planning. The transformation has revitalised the city's infrastructure and soul by improving its aesthetics. It offers vibrant public places with a modern look.

SOCIAL INCLUSIVITY: Offering a breathable and appealing space with the

best services is the primary purpose of good governance, and this project fulfils this demand at its best. The project has provided the citizens with space for walking and recreation with splendid parks and a soothing view of the Sabarmati River.

PRESERVING THE HERITAGE: The project's vision is not only to flow into the future but also to embrace its rich heritage. The project has revived many heritage sites along its banks and gives the beautiful distinction of old and new cities on both ends.

ECONOMIC GROWTH: Every urban project is inclined to improve the liveability index. Financial sustainability and revenue generation is also an essential factor in keeping things running in the longer run. The project has stimulated economic activities, created new jobs

and presented the cities of merchants as a prime tourist destination.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: Sabarmati riverfront project helps maintain ecological balance, improves the green cover of the city, ensures good water management and looks after the biodiversity conversation.

The governance model of Ahmedabad City is an amalgamation of past learning, future aspiration and present needs. The model is developed with a holistic approach for inclusive development and is achieved by:

- ◇ Empowering the local government to ensure the efficient utilisation of resources through training and capacity-building programs;
- ◇ Involving the key stakeholders and citizens in the decision-making process through digital platforms. ■

Public participation key in making Indore cleanest city in India



LOCATED IN THE state of Madhya Pradesh, the city of Indore is rapidly urbanising. It is famous for being the cleanest city in India. But the situation was not always the same. The city started its journey of door-to-door collection of waste just from two wards in 2016. The year-long efforts of the administration resulted in 100 per cent door-to-door collection and complete segregation of at source. This small step led to a mass public movement, and the city has never looked back. Indore City has bagged the award of the cleanest city six times.

From a bird's eye view, the city presents a clean look and reflects the clear vision of its urban governance model. This model emphasises the following key aspects

- ◇ Decentralised decision-making – more power to local authorities;
- ◇ Citizens participation – through public consultations,

- participatory budgeting and robust feedback mechanism;
- ◇ Public-Private Partnerships – to introduce external expertise, resources and innovative ideas for the public good;
- ◇ Smart City Initiatives – this enables improved service delivery at door step and adds to the quality of life of the citizens through smart mobility, monitoring, digital governance and automation.

The model is visionary and result-oriented. The beauty of the whole concept is the participation of the people. When the residents are aware, it makes the authorities' work easier. The Indore municipal corporation has invested extensively in sensitising the locals. Today, Indore generates over 1,115 MT of garbage daily, and all of it is collected from the source, whether a household or commercial establishment. The pilot project for two wards is now successfully implemented in all 84 wards. ■

Events

Srinagar welcomes international delegates for Tourism Working Group meeting under G20

SRINAGAR, Jammu and Kashmir: With heavy security and no shutdown or blanket security curbs, Srinagar welcomed international and national delegates for the Third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting hosted under India's G20 Presidency. Despite a boycott from China and Pakistan, G20 delegations arrived at Sheikh-ul Alam International Airport, Srinagar for the mega event. Addressing the inaugural session, Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Government of India, said that in terms of its obligations to the economy, environment, and society, India is prepared to share global responsibilities.

61 delegates from 29 nations are participating in the three-day G20 Tourism Meeting starting from May 22 to 24, 2023, which is the first major international event to be held in the Union Territory since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. ■

Green Tourism on the agenda of TWG



DARJEELING, West Bengal: The meeting of the second G20 Tourism Working Group (TWG) held under India's G20 presidency took place in West Bengal's Siliguri and Darjeeling from April 1 till April 3, 2023. The event was attended

by more than 130 participants including the G20 members, invitee countries, international organisations, and state tourism officials. The discussion ranged from green tourism to creating livelihood opportunities for local communities. The meeting also highlighted the best practices, success stories, and issues related to tourism. Gangapuram Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Culture Tourism and Development, Government of India, mentioned that this event is to focus on projecting domestic tourism in mission mode and helping India to maximize its potential in this sector. He added, "The Union Ministry of Tourism also has formulated a comprehensive tourism policy with holistic flavour for a sustainable and responsible growth of the tourism sector in the country."

The working group meeting was preceded by another event on the theme 'Adventure Tourism as a Vehicle for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals,' where Reddy announced two new adventure trails in the country. ■

Energy Transitions discussed in Mumbai

MUMBAI, Maharashtra: The third meeting of the G20 Energy Transitions Working Group (ETWG) held under India's G20 Presidency, took place in Mumbai, Maharashtra, from May 15 to May 17, 2023. Raosaheb Patil Danve, Minister of State for Railways, Government of India, addressed the importance of adopting sustainable energy sources and the

urgent need to reduce carbon footprint. He said, "G20 nations hold a unique responsibility to lead the way towards a sustainable future."

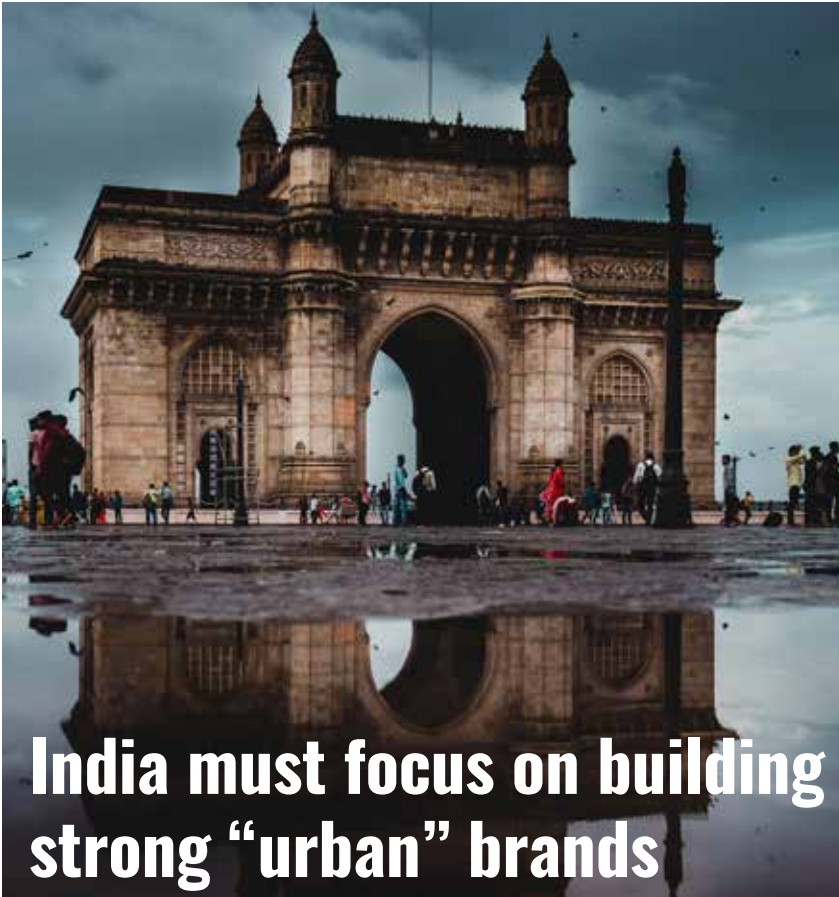
He further added, "To fight against climate change and ensure energy security, India must shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy."

The 3rd ETWG meeting was chaired by

Alok Kumar, Secretary of the Ministry of Power, Government of India. Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, and Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary of the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, were also part of the meeting and deliberations. The three-day meeting witnessed the participation of over 100 delegates from G20 member countries, special invitee countries, and International organisations including the World Bank, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM), International Energy Agency (IEA), Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations International Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and many more. ■



Short Article



Abhishek Pandey
Editor, Urban Update

WHEN IT COMES to thinking about prosperous, vibrant, livable, and lovable urban spaces, many cities immediately come to mind. Cities like London, New York, Singapore, Dubai, Paris, Mumbai, and Delhi, among many others, have painstakingly built their urban brands over the course of centuries. However, some cities have managed to fast-forward their journeys and establish their unique identities in just a few decades, as seen in the cases of Singapore and Dubai. Most of these have emerged as solid urban brands in their countries. These cities have capitalized on their unique characteristics, resulting in increased tourism,

investments, and global recognition.

India is on the cusp of a massive urban transformation. As the country strives for economic growth and global recognition, it becomes imperative for Indian cities to develop their unique, strong, durable, and international urban brands that capture the essence of their economic potential, heritage and culture, and people's aspirations. We have cities like Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai, but we need more. Another fact is that many of our cities are still struggling to become the frontrunners in their category, owing to multiple reasons, including governance and infrastructural challenges.

Creating a distinctive urban brand goes beyond aesthetics; it encompasses a city's overall livability and quality of life. For example, London, New York, Zurich, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Dubai are major global financial hubs. They are obviously some of the fine-looking cities, but their urban aesthetics are not just their unique identity. They have much more to offer to their citizens and visitors. The

finance capital of India—Mumbai—needs to make space for itself in the league. It is agreed that population density in Indian cities is a major challenge, but it is also an urban advantage. Population density becomes a challenge only when the services and infrastructure requirements of the population are not adequately met. Potholes on roads may not be a priority for many global cities, but they are a matter of concern for Mumbai. The situation is gradually improving. The Mumbai Corporation has taken up the task of concretizing every street and lane in the next three years. This one task may or may not take Mumbai city into the top league of cities, but it will indeed make daily commuting safe and convenient. Such attention to detail helps build a brand out of a city. Building a city as a brand has other benefits too; they become more memorable and desirable for businesses and tourism. Investors seek cities with a conducive environment, infrastructure, and a strong talent pool. Highly skilled people would demand good living conditions in addition to having opportunities for economic prosperity.

India's cultural diversity is a unique asset that sets it apart globally. Each city in India boasts distinct traditions, art forms, architecture, and culinary delights. By embracing and celebrating these cultural nuances, Indian cities can create a distinctive urban brand that reflects the vibrant tapestry of Indian heritage. By showcasing their unique strengths, such as technology hubs, industrial clusters, or cultural centers, Indian cities can attract domestic and foreign investments, driving economic growth and employment opportunities. Bengaluru and Hyderabad are the torchbearers of this trend and have emerged as technology service providers to the world. Such unique characteristics also help build a unique identity. When cities develop a robust and recognizable identity and prioritize livability and quality of life, they become magnets for talent, fostering a thriving economy and nurturing a sense of pride among their residents. Indian cities can unlock their full potential, driving economic prosperity and establishing themselves as icons of the nation's progress. ■

Quote-Unquote



Kiritkumar J Parmar
Mayor, Ahmedabad

““

Ahmedabad has always been working towards good governance. This time in Ahmedabad city budget, we have also included the feedback of the citizens. City belongs to all its citizens therefore we will make new budgets based on the suggestion from the people.



Pushyamitra Bhargav
Mayor, Indore

““

Championing local strength is something that strengthens remaining 5 priority areas and Indore is a great example of that. Earlier it was said that for urbanisation we need to focus on new universities, colleges and schools and basic infrastructure. But Indore has attracted investment and universities just by keeping our city clean.



Kunal Kumar (IAS)
Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA

““

If we want to become a developed nation by 2047, we need an aggressive economic growth in the next 25 years [...] In that regard development of the cities is essential as 70% of our GDP comes from cities. Therefore, we need to enhance the capability of cities to meet this developmental challenge. We need an aggressively fast economic growth in cities in the next few years [...] we need to invest eight times more in cities than we do today.



Neeraj Mandloi (IAS)
Principal Secretary, UDHD, MP

““

Prime Minister of India has transformed the G20 platform which was considered the domain of the intellectuals to a Jan Andolan. And I would like to congratulate Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India for its efforts aimed at the development of cities with the help of Urban 20 platform and engaging organisations like All India Institute of Local Self-Government.



Harshika Singh (IAS)
Commissioner, Indore Municipal Corporation

““

IMC (Indore Municipal Corporation) is taking several steps to move ahead on the path of green and sustainable living city and organising U20 Indore event as zero waste event is one of our efforts in this regard.

Past Events

U20 Conference - Indore

Pioneering Urban Governance for Sustainable Indian Cities

INDORE: All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIIILSG) organised the U20 Conference in association with the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) at the Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore on May 18, 2023. The conference, themed “Reinventing Urban Governance for Indian Cities,” aimed to address the pressing challenges faced by cities in India and explore innovative solutions for sustainable urban development.

The event commenced with a captivating Heritage City walk in the morning, during which delegates had the opportunity to explore various iconic locations, including the majestic Rajwada Palace. The inaugural session witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Shankar Lalwani, Member of Parliament, Indore; Kiritkumar J Parmar, Mayor of Amdavad; Pushyamitra Bhargav, Mayor of Indore Municipal Corporation; Kunal Kumar, IAS, Joint Secretary & Mission Director, Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA; Neeraj Mandloi, IAS, Principal Secretary, UDHD, MP; Harshika Singh, Commissioner of Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC); Dr Jairaj Phatak, Director General, AIIILSG and Ravi Ranjan Guru, Deputy Director General of AIIILSG.

Kunal Kumar, IAS, Joint Secretary & Mission Director, Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA, emphasized the significance of addressing urban issues, as more than 50 per cent of the population is projected to reside in cities by 2050. Neeraj Mandloi, IAS, Principal Secretary, UDHD, MP, emphasized the importance of conferences like the U20 Conference for fostering knowledge sharing. He noted the shift in India’s demographic landscape, where the nation has transformed from being predominantly rural (“gaon ka desh”) to increasingly urban (“shehron ka desh”).



Ravi Ranjan Guru, DDG, AIIILSG, speaking during the U20 Conference at Indore. Pushyamitra Bhargav, Mayor of Indore; Kiritkumar Parmar, Mayor of Amdavad; Shankar Lalwani, Member of Parliament (Indore); Dr Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.), DG, AIIILSG; Kunal Kumar (IAS), Director, Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA; Neeraj Mandloi (IAS), Principal Secretary, UDHD, MP; Harshika Singh (IAS), Municipal Commissioner, IMC; and other dignitaries were present

Addressing the gathering, Kiritkumar J Parmar, Mayor of Ahmedabad, shared insights from the U20 Sherpa conference held in Ahmedabad. He highlighted Ahmedabad’s journey as a heritage city that has successfully emerged as a hub of education, health, and sustainable transportation, with the introduction of electric buses in its fleet.

Indore’s Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargav, extended a warm welcome to the audience and panelists in what is known as the cleanest city in India. Speaking about the theme of the conference he said, “If we strengthen just one aspect of our cities’ local identities, other aspects will also improve.” Shankar Lalwani, Member of Parliament, Indore (TBC), graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour and applauded the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under whose leadership India will host the upcoming G20 summit in September. Speaking about the digital as an important aspect of urban development, he said “Digital advancement can help provide better services to people.”

A series of thought-provoking and insightful sessions were held

throughout the day. The sessions focused on “Catalyzing Digital Urban Future,” “Reinventing Framework for Urban Governance & Planning,” and “Championing ‘Local’ Identity.” The sessions highlighted the need for inclusive development, neighborhood planning, digital governance, and maintaining the unique identity of each urban area.

It was unanimously felt that the cities need newer ways of governance. One of the sessions discussed how the current urban plans lack the necessary flexibility to accommodate the ever-changing dynamics of city life or governance models for regions like the National Capital Region (NCR) around Delhi and other metropolitan areas. Moreover, the escalating challenges posed by climate change were acknowledged as further reasons for reinventing urban governance practices.

The U20 Conference served as a platform for fruitful discussions and knowledge exchange, with the aim of finding sustainable solutions and promoting effective urban governance across Indian cities. ■

Upcoming Events

JUNE - JULY

U20 MAYORS' SUMMIT 2023



7-8 JULY 2023 | Ahmedabad

The U20 Mayors' Summit set to take place in July 2023 will allow U20 cities to present their joint recommendations to the government of India as President of the upcoming 18th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit. The G20 Leaders' Summit is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on September 9 and 10, 2023. The U20 endeavors to inform the debates of national leaders by bringing together mayors from G20 cities within a shared framework. The G20 Presidency and Heads of State receive contributions from the U20, strengthening the position of cities as world economic and political leaders.

June 27, 2023
Webinar

EQUITABLE PLANNING APPROACHES TO ACHIEVE ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIVE BEHAVIOR AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

June 30, 2023
Webinar

ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIVE BEHAVIORS

For more details
<https://twitter.com/U20India>

About the U20 Process

The U20 brings together mayors from G20 cities under a common framework and coordinates a joint position to inform the discussions of national leaders. Contributions from the U20, including the U20 Communique, are shared with the G20 Presidency and Heads of State, enhancing the role of cities as global economic and political leaders. The U20 is an independent initiative that is permanently convened by the conveners UCLG and C40. For more information, www.u20india.org

U20 Conveners



UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments

Supported By



U20 Chair



Editorial Support



This edition is curated and designed by Urban Update Magazine published by AILSG