

Editor's Note

Streets filled with water. Falling bridges. Collapsing airport roofs. If anyone needed proof that good infrastructure is the need of the hour then last month had more than enough of it. Clearly there are governance issues involved and The Infravision Foundation (TIF) believes its many interventions, current and future, will add to the growing public engagement with the infrastructure around them. TIF hopes to amplify these concerns with the public, state and corporate players.

Champions Lab takes off

TIF's Municipal Finance Champions Lab on Integrated Wastewater Management and Circularity brought together various stakeholders to address the challenges and explore solutions in wastewater reuse. Held at the India Habitat Centre, the event focused on institutional capabilities, policy frameworks, technological innovations, financial models, and the integration of treated wastewater into irrigation networks, economic strategies, capacity building, and research to enhance wastewater management practices. By implementing comprehensive recommendations, stakeholders can significantly improve the sustainability and scalability of wastewater reuse initiatives, thereby contributing to water conservation and environmental protection. The Lab was held in collaboration with the World Bank and several officials from the departments concerned in states. TIF and World Bank have planned another workshop to be announced soon.



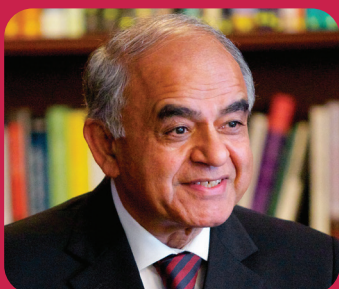
Glimpse of workshop in action



Dr Nupur Bahadur, Senior Fellow,
The Energy and Research Institute



Jagan Shah, CEO,
TIF talks to participants



InfraKatha #3

Gurcharan Das, noted author, will be in conversation with **Dilip Cherian**, Advisor, TIF, on a timely subject, **Indian Infrastructure: The Difficulty of Being Good**. The third session of TIF's monthly series, InfraKatha, will be at **Gulmohar, India Habitat Centre**, New Delhi, on July 19, 2024, at 7 pm.

Entry from Gate No. 3. All are welcome.

All for Accessibility

InfraKatha#2 was a moving tribute to force of will and pure courage. Paralympian Dr Deepa Malik was in the house discussing the need for inclusive infrastructure. In a conversation with TIF CEO Jagan Shah, laced with personal anecdotes, Malik said: "Life is the only festival you celebrate every day." She added that her father always told her it is better to light a lamp than curse the darkness. "My parents never treated me as a burden. We found our purpose reclaiming my own life, removing labels, finding my ability. With weak legs, using a wheelchair is work. I have spent 25 years in this body. My message is of ability in disability." Malik spoke of the many places that are not accessible to people with disabilities and asked for better urban planning. "People have to understand that we deserve equal rights," she said. "Infrastructure is a big part of the story. When I started I had no footsteps to follow but I innovated new ways. I tweeted, wrote letters, raised my voice, whether for rally licences or amendment of the Motor Vehicles Act. We have to make the infrastructure work for us."



▲ Guests with Kaveree Bamzai, Head, Advocacy, TIF; Jagan Shah, CEO, TIF; Sunit Tandon, Director, India Habitat Centre; with Dr Malik



▲ Dr Malik in conversation with Jagan Shah

TIF@Academics

TIF CEO Jagan Shah contributed a chapter titled Getting a grip on Green: Indian cities and the promise of sustainability, resilience and inclusion to a book edited by Markus Muller on India in the 21st Century: Moving to a Post-Industrial Society and published by Springer-Verlag.



DF@Climate Lab

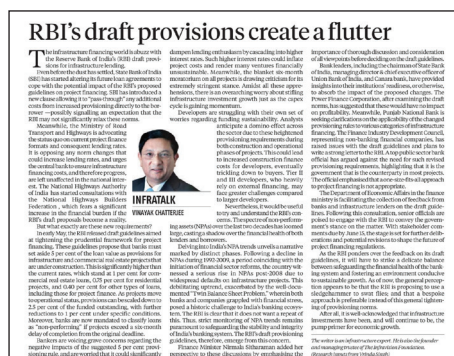
In the last week of June, Akhilesh Tilotia, a Distinguished Fellow (DF) at The Infravision Foundation, joined experts and practitioners from 10+ countries gathered at the Climate Policy Lab at The Fletcher School at Tufts University Boston to discuss the policy and implementation challenges in green transition. The 30+ participants and the 10+ faculty and staff gathered for peer learning and imbibing frameworks that others have developed. Dean Kelly Sims Gallagher led a series of insightful sessions on the policy inventory, expert solicitation, and policy gap analysis. The session on adaptation by Erin Coughlan de Perez offered a chance to consider how such investments may be made more conducive for the private sector to invest in.



Akhilesh Tilotia, Distinguished Fellow, TIF (centre, in red T-shirt), with other participants

TIF@Media

#1. TIF Founder Vinayak Chatterjee wrote about the draft provisions of RBI on infrastructure lending creating a flutter. In Business Standard, he wrote that the SBI has started altering its future loan agreements to cope with the potential impact of RBI's proposed guidelines.



#2. Member, Council of Advisors, TIF, Prof G Raghuram wrote an insightful article on the critical safety and tech issues that need to be addressed in the light of the tragic accident of the Kanchanjunga Express.

Kanchanjunga Express accident: Critical safety and tech issues that need to be addressed

By G Raghuram

Jun 20, 2024 08:41 AM IST

Instant Loan

Over the past few years, the Railways seems to be focusing more on visible events, which may show that it is on the path of modernisation.



TIF@TheMovies

Kalki 2898AD, Telugu Hindi movie

Director: Nag Ashwin

Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Prabhas, Deepika Padukone

Nag Ashwin's Kalki begins where the Mahabharata ends, in death and destruction. It imagines a time 6,000 years later, in a universe very much like ours with the Ganga has completely dried up washing our sins, the air is too toxic to breathe, and Kashi is the only great city left in the world after the "Bombay wars". The privileged few live on something called the Complex which sucks up the water and power left on earth in an island in the sky, where food is plentiful, and water clean. Becoming an inhabitant of the Complex requires a certain accumulation of units, which can be accrued through hunting human bounty. Women have been rendered infertile, and the rebels have exiled themselves to the last remaining land under the shadow of a giant tree, which the leader, a woman named Mariam, says is like a temple. The land itself is called Shambala and has a multi-faith army defending it. Kalki's imminent birth is celebrated with rain, the tree suddenly grows new shoots because of sunlight, and the idea of God being reborn, celebrated in several religions, gathers force. Could the effects of climate change be any more magnified?.



Work in Progress

TIF has started work on The Trees Outside Forest in India (TOFI) project which aims to enhance the marketability and integration of TOF products in public construction projects. This initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, supported by USAID, promotes tree products sourced outside designated forest areas, providing locally sourced, eco-friendly materials for sustainable urban and regional development. TIF will review and propose amendments to all policies, norms, regulations and codes related to urban planning, building construction and public procurement in seven states of India.

Test Your Infra Power

1. Where is India's bullet train expected to run from in 2026?
2. Where is the largest reservoir in India?
3. Through which pass does river Sutlej enter India?
4. Which kind of coal has the most carbon content?
5. Why did England pass the Clean Air Act of 1956?



1. Between Mumbai and Ahmedabad
2. On Rihand river caused by the Rihand Dam
3. Shipki La on the India-Tibet border
4. Anthracite
5. Because of the Great Smog of London of 1952 in which at least 4,000 people died because of poor air quality



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