

National Pedestrian Conference 2020

Theme - Right to Walk

28th & 29th February 2020

S M Joshi Auditorium, Pune

Session 1

Right to Walk: Keynote address

28th February, 1000 hrs to 1045 hrs

Speakers

Sujit Patwardhan

Trustee and Hon Secretary, Parisar

Mahesh Zagade

Former CEO, PMRDA and Former Transport Commissioner, Maharashtra

Avaneesh Akhoury

Head- Healthcare & Medical Expertise, AXA Business Services

Background

While the primacy to be given to pedestrians is provided abundant lip-service, the fact is that the pedestrian is relegated to the very last position in the pecking order on the streets of Indian cities. The pedestrian is also conspicuously missing in raising the demand for safer and better streets. While numerically a large segment, it is also heterogenous and often belongs to a lower socio-economic class. Having a good footpath may not be the highest priority for many belonging to this segment. Most pedestrians may not even be aware of their rights and where they are aware, they may lack the agency to act. No city in India has an effective mass-based pedestrian pressure group.

Objective

The objective of the keynote address is threefold:

1. To present how walking is a political, economic, social, cultural and behavioural question. To provide a comprehensive overview of walking in the current sociopolitical and urban planning-design scenario. And underline the importance of public mobilization and rights-based approach for improving walkability. The above points will be addressed by Sujit Patwardhan through his keynote address.
2. To understand the political and administrative indifference and unwillingness to improve walkability, and the actions through which it can be mitigated. The aforementioned point will be underscored through the keynote address by Mahesh Zagade
3. To highlight the importance of collective and corporate social responsibility for improving walkability in cities, and the importance of walking in public health

discourse.

Avaneesh Akhoury will shed light on this aspect through his keynote address.

About the session

While each keynote speaker is expected to engage with a particular aspect of walkability, if time permits the speaker could also talk about other aspects as delineated above. Each speaker has **15 minutes** for their address note. We are not expecting any of the address notes to be in the form of a powerpoint presentation.