

## Session 2

# Pedestrian Empowerment and Creating Pedestrian-Friendly Ecosystem

29th February, 1430 hrs to 1645 hrs

### Speakers

**Ruchi Varma**

*Founder and CEO, HumanQind*

**Rishi Aggarwal**

*Director, Mumbai Sustainability Centre*

**Sanjay Anand**

*Buddha Paidal Yatri Manch, Bodh Gaya, SUM Net India*

**Mahendra Yadav**

*Cycle aur Paidal Yatri Manch, Patna, SUM Net India*

**Harshad Abhyankar**

*Save Pune Traffic Movement Professor,*

**C. Ramachandraiah**

*Centre for Economics and Social Studies, Hyderabad*

### Background

The evolution of roadways over the last century has progressively restricted movement on foot. Planning, design of roads and the current infrastructure clearly show that they are vehicle centric and not pedestrian centric. One can see this approach in policy making/infrastructural design of road - to speed up automobile travel by getting pedestrians out of the way, and to prevent crashes by separating vehicles from pedestrians by constructing big flyovers and subways. So, decision-making should be decentralized.

At the same time, pedestrians are not vocal about several issues on the road related to pedestrian safety and convenience. We are expecting that pedestrians should become vocal for their demands for better pedestrian infrastructure. It is therefore important to empower pedestrians in the city.

### Objective

This session will be around common issues, strategies and activities with regard to empowering pedestrians. Some of the following questions will be discussed:

1. Immediate interventions required to improve overall pedestrian facilities and to empower pedestrian (actionable)
2. How to organize pedestrians to make them an effective voice for raising their demands for better pedestrian infrastructure, safety and convenience.
3. What can be done to have a mass-based pedestrian pressure group in the city?
4. Why aren't pedestrians vocal about pedestrian issues?

5. Short-term & long-term goals for creating walkable cities (what & how)
6. What makes pedestrians vocal against several odds? (like pedestrians do not speak when they see illegal parking on footpaths, two-wheelers on footpaths, vocal clashes with motorists, etc.) on the roads.
7. What makes pedestrians empowered?
  - a. Knowledge/Awareness of right of way
  - b. Guidelines
  - c. What Else?
  - d. Can walkable streets make pedestrians empowered? (good network of walkable streets can make them confident to raise their voices to maintain it?)

**Session:**

The session is planned as a panel discussion. It is broadly divided into three sections:

1. Experiences from different cities and groups: The speakers of this panel talk about their experience of empowering pedestrians and what they understand by it  
Duration: 60 mins
2. Panel discussion based on the questions in the 'Objective' section  
Duration: 60 mins