



ARCHISCAPE

Volume - 10 | Number - 1

January - March 2026

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Message from Editor's Desk



-- Dr. HARVEEN BHANDARI
Principal and Dean, Ph.D. Program
Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture

Dear Readers,

The first quarter of 2026 (January–March) has been a dynamic and enriching period, reflecting the department's commitment to academic excellence, global exposure, and holistic development. The quarter commenced with engaging initiatives such as the collaborative winter school and the pre-conference webinar series, setting a strong academic foundation. Students further benefited from insightful interactions through the Master Class by alumnus Ar. Varunpreet Singh, alongside a series of expert sessions and site visits that bridged theoretical knowledge with practical understanding.

A highlight of this quarter was the prestigious International Conference SHAPE 2026, which served as a significant milestone, bringing together global thought leaders and fostering meaningful dialogue on sustainable architecture. The conference brought distinguished members of the Council of Architecture (COA) and Heads of Institutes from various Schools of Architecture across the country to the portals of Chitkara University, enhancing its national visibility and recognition. The delegates and guests of SHAPE 2026 were deeply impressed by the state-of-the-art infrastructure and seamless hospitality extended by Chitkara University. The warm reception, efficient coordination, and attention to detail created a welcoming and enriching experience, earning widespread appreciation and applause from participants across the globe.

The quarter was marked by vibrant participation across industry and global platforms, including the INTEXT Expo at Ludhiana and Chandigarh, the Global Immersion Programme in Singapore, and the school's enthusiastic presence at the Bharat Parv celebrations at the Red Fort, New Delhi. Complementing these experiences were remarkable student achievements, insightful paper presentations, and steady progress across various Ph.D. review stages, collectively reflecting a dynamic and thriving culture of research, innovation, and academic excellence.

All these achievements are a reflection of the university's progressive work culture and the visionary leadership that continuously inspires excellence, fosters innovation, and empowers both students and faculty to push boundaries and achieve global standards. Overall, this quarter stands as a testament to the institution's pursuit of innovation, collaboration, and academic distinction, paving the way for continued growth and excellence.



COLLABORATIVE WINTER SCHOOL

The Chandigarh Urban Redevelopment Project

05 - 21 January 2026

CSPA conducted a collaborative Winter School titled 'The Chandigarh Urban Redevelopment Project with Special Focus on the Heart of the City: Sector 17, Chandigarh' jointly organised with School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, University of Maryland, USA from 05-21 January 2026. The extensive two-week school brought together faculty and students from both institutions for an intensive academic, studio-based, and field-oriented engagement focused on understanding and reimagining Chandigarh's urban core. The programme was convened by **Dr. Harveen Bhandari, Principal, CSPA**, and **Prof. Tanya Bansal, Director, Real Estate Development Program, University of Maryland, USA**. The Winter School was actively supported by **Dr. Kanika Bansal, Dean Academic Affairs**; **Dr. Margaret McFarland, Professor Emeritus and Founding Director, Graduate Programs, Real Estate Development** and **Prof. Ken Filler, Assistant Director, School of Architecture, University of Maryland**. This joint initiative was widely promoted by the partner University by introducing the program and details of Chitkara University on the official website of the University of Maryland.

The screenshot shows the myEA website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'myEA' logo and 'EDUCATION ABROAD' and 'MARYLAND GLOBAL' links. Below the navigation bar, there's a section titled 'UMD-Winter: India: Chandigarh Urban Redevelopment Project (RDEV)' with a 'GO BOLDLY.' banner. Underneath the banner, there are tabs for 'Overview', 'Academics', 'Costs & Affordability', 'Activities', and 'Living Abroad'. A message states 'This program is not currently accepting applications.' with a 'Request Info' button. To the right, there's an 'Information Sheet' table:

Credit Type	Resident Credit
Housing Options	Hotel/Hostel
Minimum GPA	2.5
Language of Instruction	English
Program Type	Maryland Short-term

Below the table, there's an 'About the Program' section with text describing the interdisciplinary project format course. It mentions that students will work in multidisciplinary teams, analyze the urban fabric, and design a vision for redevelopment. It also lists upcoming information sessions:

- 1. MAPP First Look Fair - Monday, Sept. 8th, 12 - 2pm in the Great Space in the ARCH building.
- 2. Virtual Info Session - Tuesday, Sept. 9th, 6 - 7pm via Zoom: <https://umd.zoom.us/j/kenfiller>
- 3. In Person Info Session - Friday, Sept. 12th, 1 - 1:45pm, room 1103 in the ARCH building

There's also an 'Eligibility' section stating that students must be in good academic and judicial standing and have completed RDEV350 or RDEV600. The Chitkara University logo is at the bottom left.





The school began with a formal welcome and group formation at Chandigarh Press Club. The preamble of the winter school was established through opening remarks by Dr. Harveen Bhandari, followed by expert sessions by Ar. Surinder Bahga, Principal Architect, Saakaar Foundation, Chandigarh, on Chandigarh's evolution, regulations, and urban challenges; Dr. Margaret McFarland, Founding Director, UMD, on the foundations of real property value; and Dr. Kanika Bansal on Chandigarh as a model of planned urbanism in India. Prof. Ken Filler, Assistant Director, UMD, introduced methodologies for systematic observation, documentation, and data collection, after which Dr. Harveen Bhandari formally introduced the redevelopment project with a special focus on Sector 17.

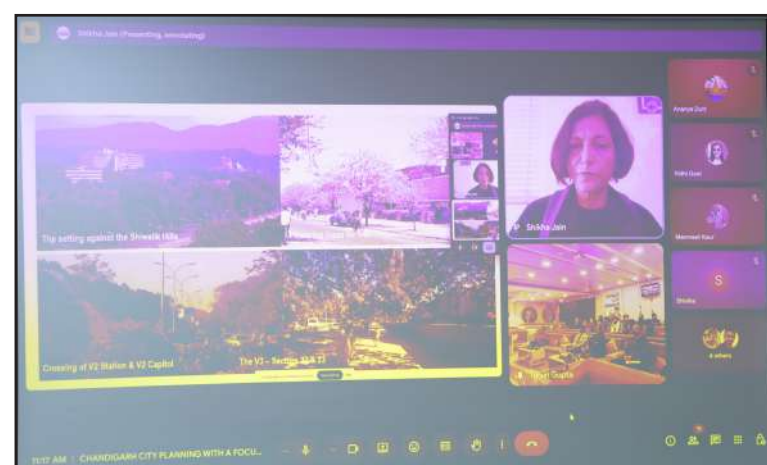


The winter school involved ten students from the University of Maryland and 12 students from CSPA. During the initial two days students carried out site visits and group surveys, during which they documented land use, built form, mobility patterns, public spaces, and human activity across Sector 17. As part of the academic programme, students worked extensively on-site to understand the urban context, followed by intensive studio-based exploration to translate field observations into design-led solutions. The design studio was supported by Assoc. Profs. Tarun Gupta, Mekhala Saha and Asstt. Prof. Dr. Prateek Dhasmana along with Dr. Margaret McFarland and Prof. Ken Filler.



Various expert sessions and academic activities were structured to deepen the theoretical and practical understanding of planning, design, and conservation within the city of Chandigarh.

- A key highlight was the expert lecture by **Dr. Shikha Jain, Director, DRONAH**, who presented an in-depth discussion on Chandigarh city planning with a focus on the cultural and institutional sectors, particularly Sector 10 and Sector 14.
- The academic discourse was further enriched through an expert lecture by **Ms. Mehak Singh, Practicing Advocate, Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh**, who offered clarity on the mechanics of property transfer, title, and financing, strengthening participants' understanding of the legal dimensions of urban redevelopment.
- Followed by an expert session by **Ar. Saurabh Singla, Managing Partner, Opera Builders, Panchkula**, discussed the real estate scenario in Chandigarh, highlighting market dynamics, development trends, and on-ground constraints.
- **Dr. Harveen Bhandari** shared insights into the academic vision and pedagogical approach of the CSPA, situating the studio work within a broader academic framework.



The last two days witnessed student presentations at Chitkara University. A thorough study and analysis led to the final presentations that showcased urban design and redevelopment proposals for Sector 17, supported by detailed site analysis, policy review, development strategies, and financial assessments. The jury appreciated the rigour of analysis and contextual sensitivity demonstrated by the students, observing that the proposed interventions could contribute meaningfully to the rejuvenation of Chandigarh's central business district. The culmination of a meaningful interdisciplinary collaboration paving the way forward to work on planned cities in the future with a different perspective.



The successful conduct of the Winter School was made possible under the guidance of **Ar. Surinder Bahga, Principal Architect, Saakaar Foundation, Chandigarh**. The event concluded with the felicitation of faculty members and students from both institutions.





January - March 2026





Social Media Coverage



Chitkara University organises winter school on urban redevelopment



Held from January 5, the 17-day intensive international design studio brought together 10 students from the University of Maryland and 12 students from Chitkara University.

A 17-day Collaborative Winter School on Urban Redevelopment, jointly organised by the Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture at Chitkara University and the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at the University of Maryland, concluded with final student presentations proposing innovative strategies for revitalising Sector 17, Chandigarh.

Held from January 5, the 17-day intensive international design studio brought together 10 students from the University of Maryland and 12 students from Chitkara University. The programme focused on re-imagining the future of Sector 17, Chandigarh through contemporary urban redevelopment approaches, and was conducted under the guidance of Saakaar Foundation principal architect Surinder Bahga.

During the final jury, students presented comprehensive proposals backed by in-depth site analysis, policy reviews, development frameworks, and financial feasibility assessments. Jury members commended the overall quality of work, noting that several

proposals demonstrated strong potential to contribute meaningfully to the rejuvenation of Chandigarh's central business district. Chitkara University pro chancellor Madhu Chitkara said, "This Winter School reflects our commitment to global academic collaboration and practice-oriented learning. Such initiatives enable students to engage with real-world urban challenges while gaining valuable international perspectives."

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/chitkara-university-organises-winter-school-on-urban-redevelopment-101769091033017.html>

चितकारा यूनिवर्सिटी व अमरीका की यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ मेरीलैंड ने पुनर्विकास पर विंटर स्कूल कार्यक्रम करवाया

बनू, 23 जनवरी (पुनर्विकास) : चंडीगढ़ के सिटी सेंटर रीडेवलपमेंट पर चितकारा यूनिवर्सिटी और यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ मेरीलैंड (अमरीका) के छात्रों ने 17 दिनों तक चितकारा यूनिवर्सिटी में करवाए गए कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ किया।

17 के पुनर्विकास के लिए आयोजित कार्यक्रमों में शामिल हुए चितकारा यूनिवर्सिटी और यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ मेरीलैंड (अमरीका) के छात्रों ने 17 दिनों तक चितकारा यूनिवर्सिटी में करवाए गए कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ किया।



अजीत समाचार
उत्तर भारत का सम्पूर्ण अखबार
http://www.ajitsamachar.com/20260124/20/10/1_1.cms

CHITKARA HOLDS WINTER SCHOOL

Chandigarh: Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture, Chitkara University, and the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, University of Maryland, USA, joined hands to organise a collaborative winter school from January 5 to 21. The programme, titled "The Chandigarh Urban Redevelopment Project with Special Focus on the Heart of the City: Sector 17, Chandigarh," comprised two weeks of intensive site visits and studio-based design exercises, culminating in student presentations. The Winter School was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Surinder Bahga, Principal Architect, Saakaar Foundation, Chandigarh. The academic exercise was convened by Dr. Harveen Bhandari, Principal, Chitkara



PunjabTimes

Joseph Times / 2026 01 22 Page 6 English

Chitkara University and University of Maryland Collaborate on Urban Redevelopment of Chandigarh's Sector 17

R Media News

Chandigarh, January 22

Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture, Chitkara University, Punjab, and the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, University of Maryland, USA, joined hands to organise a Collaborative Winter School held from 5 January to 21 January 2026 at Chitkara University, Punjab. The Collaborative Winter School, titled "The Chandigarh Urban Redevelopment Project with Special Focus on the Heart of the City: Sector 17, Chandigarh," comprised two weeks of intensive site visits and studio-based design exercises, culminating in student presentations. The Winter School was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Surinder Bahga, Principal Architect, Saakaar Foundation, Chandigarh. The academic exercise was convened by Dr. Harveen Bhandari, Principal, Chitkara



School of Planning and Architecture, and Prof. Tanya Bansal, Director, Real Estate Development Program, University of Maryland. The programme received active support from Dr. Kanika Bansal, Dean-Academic Affairs, Chitkara University, while Dr. Margaret McFarland, Professor Emerita, and Prof. Ken Filler from the University of Maryland guided the studio work in person. A total of 10 students from the University of Maryland, USA, and 12 students from Chitkara University carried out on-site studies to understand the urban context of Sector 17 and subsequently worked in the design studio to develop innovative redevelopment solutions. The studio was coordinated by Dr. Tarun Gupta, Dr. Prateek Dhasman, and Dr. Mohita Saha from Chitkara University. The final presentations showcased comprehensive urban design and redevelopment proposals for Sector 17, supported by detailed site analysis, policy review, development strategies, and financial assessments.

दिव्य भारत

चितकारा यूनिवर्सिटी और यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ मेरीलैंड के बीच चंडीगढ़ के सेक्टर-17 के शहरी पुनर्विकास पर सहयोग

विंटर स्कूल का संचालन आर्किटेक्ट सुरिंदर बाग्हा, प्रिंसिपल आर्किटेक्ट, साकार फाउंडेशन, चंडीगढ़ के मार्गदर्शन में किया गया।



चंडीगढ़, 23 जनवरी (अमरपाल न्यूज़) चितकारा यूनिवर्सिटी और यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ मेरीलैंड (अमरीका) के छात्रों ने 17 दिनों तक चितकारा यूनिवर्सिटी में करवाए गए कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ किया।

चंडीगढ़ के सेक्टर-17 के शहरी पुनर्विकास पर सहयोग। चितकारा यूनिवर्सिटी और यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ मेरीलैंड (अमरीका) के छात्रों ने 17 दिनों तक चितकारा यूनिवर्सिटी में करवाए गए कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ किया।

Letter of Appreciation by UMD



SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE,
PLANNING & PRESERVATION
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Architecture Building #145, Suite 1200
3835 Campus Drive
College Park, MD 20742
Tel: 301-405-8000
www.arch.umd.edu

January 21, 2026

Prof. (Dr.) Harveen Bhandari
Principal & Dean-Ph.D. Program
Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture
Chitkara University, Punjab, India.

Dear Prof. Harveen Bhandari,

It gives me immense pleasure to express my sincere appreciation for your exemplary leadership and dedicated efforts in the successful conduct of the Collaborative Winter School 2025-26, a joint initiative between the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, University of Maryland, USA, and the Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture, Chitkara University, Punjab, India, held from 5 January to 21 January 2026. Your willingness to be part of this initiative, along with your consistent support throughout the program, made this international collaboration both possible and impactful. I am confident that the Winter School benefited students from both institutions by enriching academic discourse during the studio activities focused on the, "Chandigarh Urban Redevelopment Project, with special emphasis on Sector 17, Chandigarh."

We are grateful for the time, commitment, and academic insight you invested in mentoring participants and in making this unique India-based urban redevelopment project a success. Your contribution has not only strengthened institutional ties but has also paved the way for future academic collaborations and meaningful joint initiatives.

With sincere thanks and appreciation,

Dawn E. Jourdan, esq., Ph.D, AICP
Professor and Dean
School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
University of Maryland

Maryland's Built Environment School



SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE,
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REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Architecture Building #145, Suite 1200
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www.arch.umd.edu

January 21, 2026

Dr. Kanika Bansal
Professor & Dean, Academic Affairs
Dean, Master of Planning
Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture
Chitkara University, Punjab, India.

Dear Dr. Kanika Bansal,

It gives me immense pleasure to express my sincere appreciation for your valuable contribution in the successful conduct of the Collaborative Winter School 2025-26, a joint initiative between the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, University of Maryland, USA, and the Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture, Chitkara University, Punjab, India, held from 5 January to 21 January 2026.

Your willingness and dedication to make this initiative a success is worth appreciation. You actively contributed to the enriching academic discourse during the studio activities focused on the, "Chandigarh Urban Redevelopment Project, with special emphasis on Sector 17, Chandigarh."

We are grateful for the time, commitment, and academic insight you gave during this collaborative project.

With sincere thanks and appreciation,

Dawn E. Jourdan, esq., Ph.D, AICP
Professor and Dean
School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
University of Maryland

Maryland's Built Environment School

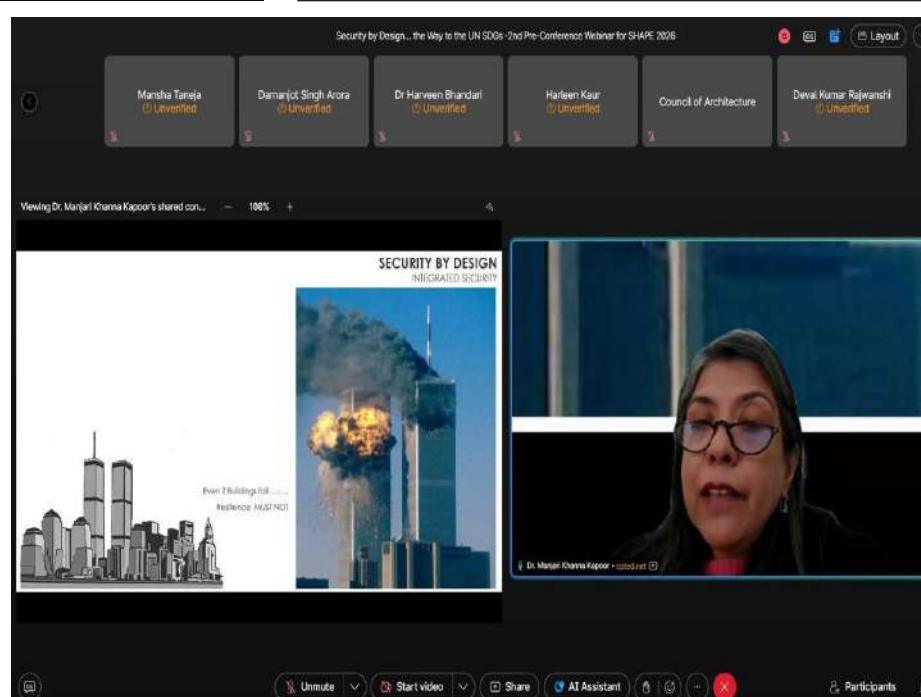
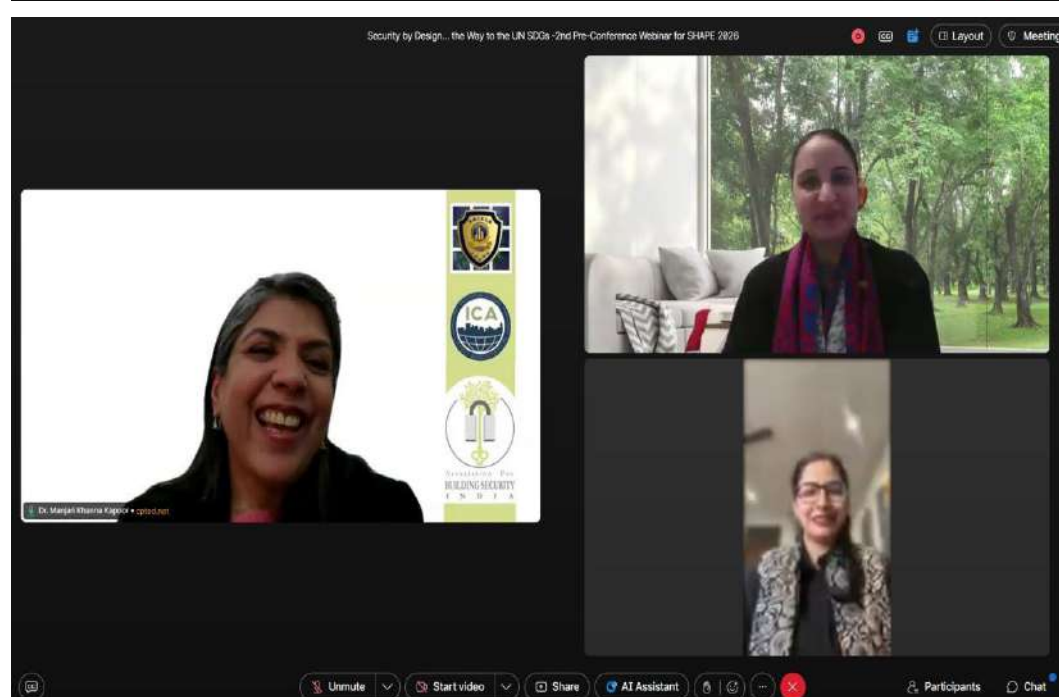


2ND PRE-CONFERENCE WEBINAR Security by Design

14 January 2026

The Council of Architecture (COA), in collaboration with the Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture (CSPA), successfully conducted the 2nd Pre-Conference Webinar of SHAPE 2026, as part of the lead-up to the 3rd International Conference of the Council of Architecture. The webinar featured an enlightening expert session by **Dr. Manjari Khanna Kapoor, Principal Partner, MSA Architects and Vice President, International CPTED Association**, on the topic 'Security by Design - The Way to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals'. The presentation offered valuable insights into security by design as a strategic pathway towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, emphasizing the importance of context-sensitive, people-oriented, and sustainable design approaches.

Prof. Jayashree Deshpande, Director, COA-TRC, Pune and Convenor, SHAPE 2026, shared the vision and thematic direction of the conference, highlighting the relevance of the pre-conference webinar series. Prof. Abhay Purohit, President, COA, New Delhi, addressed the gathering with his guidance and perspectives. The distinguished speaker was formally introduced by Dr. Harveen Bhandari, Principal and Dean, Ph.D. Program, CSPA and Co-Convenor. The session was effectively moderated by Ar. Shaffali Joshi, Assistant Professor, CSPA. The webinar saw active participation from academicians, practicing professionals, research scholars, and students, fostering a rich and meaningful academic dialogue.

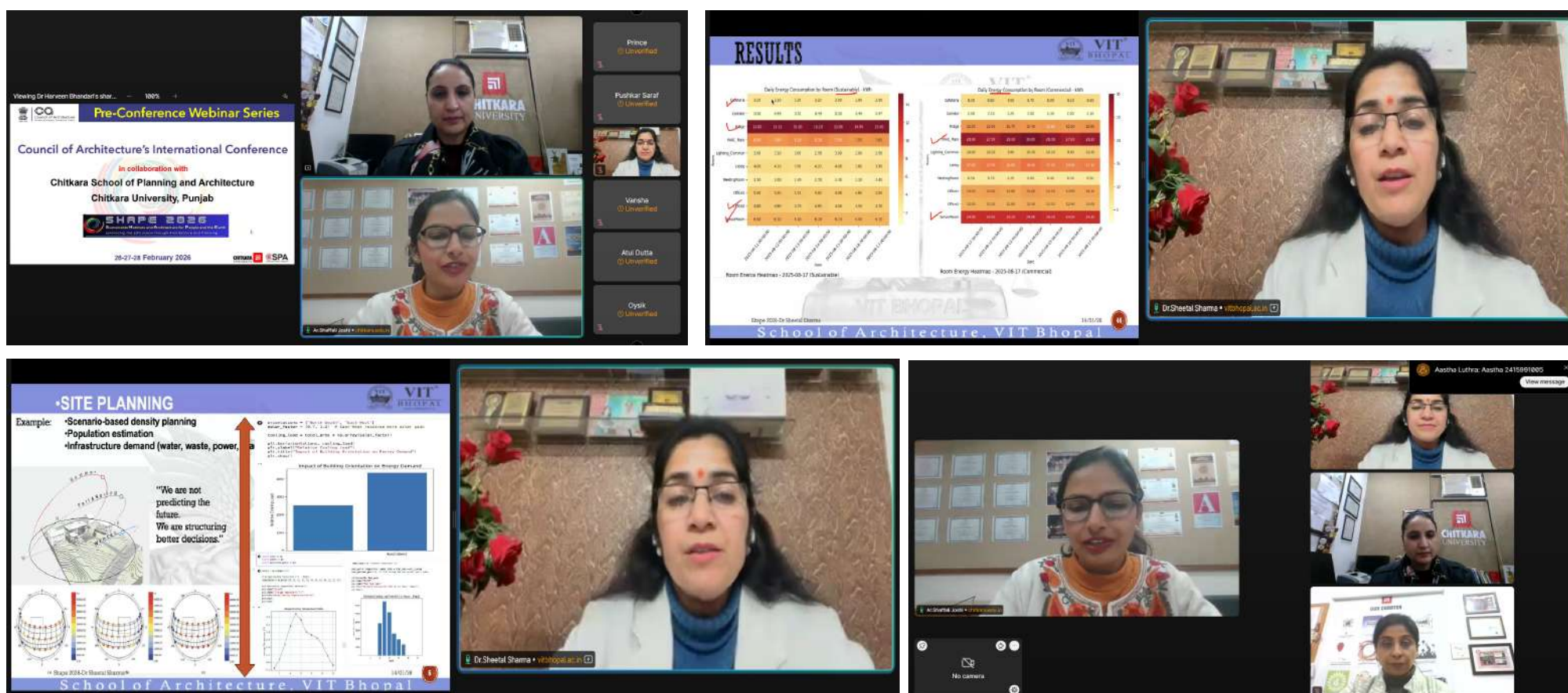




3RD PRE-CONFERENCE WEBINAR Reimagining Architecture and Urban Planning

14 January 2026

CSPA, in association with the Council of Architecture (COA), successfully organized the 3rd Pre-Conference Webinar as a precursor to the International Conference organised by CSPA in collaboration with the Council of Architecture. The webinar featured a thought-provoking expert lecture by **Dr. Sheetal Sharma, Dean & Professor, School of Architecture, VIT Bhopal University**, on the theme 'Reimagining Architecture and Urban Planning'. The webinar was set in motion with an interactive quiz-based approach and explored contemporary shifts in architectural and urban planning practices, encouraging critical discourse on sustainable, future-oriented, and context-sensitive design approaches. The session also comprised formal introduction to Conference themes and pre-conference activities by **Dr. Harveen Bhandari, Co-Convenor, SHAPE 2026**. The webinar was efficiently steered by **Asstt. Prof. Shaffali Joshi, CSPA**, facilitating constructive interaction and meaningful deliberations. The webinar witnessed enthusiastic participation from 150-plus academicians, practicing professionals, research scholars, and students, leading to insightful interactions and a vibrant academic exchange.



MASTERCLASS Professional Journey and Progression in Architecture

15 January 2026

CSPA organised a session for students of architecture titled 'Professional Journey and Progression in Architecture: Through the Lens of an Alumni'. The expert was **Ar. Varunpreet Singh, Associate Architect based in Canada**, and an alumnus from **Batch 2009-2014, B.Arch., CSPA**. Ar. Varunpreet Singh shared his inspiring professional journey from academic foundations to international practice. He reflected on his architectural education at Chitkara University and his postgraduate studies at the University of Calgary, highlighting how his foundational training at Chitkara University in research, design thinking, and policy understanding shaped his career. Drawing from over a decade of experience in architecture, urban design, and planning, he discussed working on



large-scale mixed-use, high-rise, and transit-oriented developments in the Greater Toronto Area. An exemplary session exemplifying the success stories of CSPA alumni and their payback to their alma mater by inspiring the next generation of architects in the making.



CHITKARA UNIVERSITY

Masterclass on
Professional Journey and Progression in Architecture: Through the lens of an Alumni

Learning, Practice, and Growth Beyond the Classroom

15th January 2026
10:00 AM onwards

Venue: Pierre Hall, Le Corbusier Block

Faculty Coordinator:
Ar. Jasmeet Kaur
Associate Professor

Organised by
Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture

Ar. Varunpreet Singh
Associate Architect
Canada & CSPA Alumni
Batch 2009 - 2014



SANJH 2.0

AMANAT@ INTEXT Expo Ludhiana

17 January 2026

CSPA organized an Inter-University **Poster Making Competition** titled '**AMANAT: Punjab Heritage Horizons 2026**' on 17 January 2026, as part of **Sanjh 2.0 (Architect's Conference)**, in collaboration with the **IIA Punjab Chapter** and **ITPI Punjab Regional Chapter** at **Ludhiana Exhibition Centre, Ludhiana**. This conference was conducted from 13-17 January 2026 as part of the famous architecture exhibition - **INTEXT EXPO 2026** held every year. The competition was convened by **Dr. Harveen Bhandari** and **Dr. Kanika Bansal** from **CSPA**, with the support of **Ar. Dinesh Bhagat** and **Ar. Indu Arora** (Executive Members, **IIA Punjab Chapter**). **Asstt. Profs. Kritika Arora** and **Pardeep Singh Maan, CSPA**, coordinated the event and attended with a delegation of 15 students.





January - March 2026

Centered on the theme '**Punjab's Built Heritage & Cultural Identity**', the students creatively explored and visually expressed Punjab's rich architectural legacy - ranging from rural dwellings and forts to sacred structures and civic buildings. 30 entries were received, out of which 22 best entries were shortlisted and exhibited during the conference. In addition, CSPA students also participated in '**PEHCHAAN - Documentation of Punjab Architecture**', an **Inter-University Exhibition** of documented drawings of Punjab. The team displayed their documentation entry on the Shahi Makbaras of Malerkotla, celebrating the identity and historical significance of Punjab's built heritage. The students also visited **INTEXT EXPO 2026**, which showcased architecture, building materials, construction technologies, interiors, and sustainable innovations. **Sanjh 2.0** was a meaningful confluence of heritage, creativity, and industry engagement, providing students a vibrant platform for learning, collaboration, and professional growth.



Special Address @ Sanjh 2.0 INTEXT Expo Ludhiana

Dr. Harveen Bhandari was invited to share the theme and relevance of AMANAT situating it well within the context of Saanjh 2.0. The jury evaluation for this was conducted by eminent architects and professionals. **The Chief Guest, Sh. Sanjeev Arora, Minister, Local Bodies, Industry & Commerce, Investment Promotion and Power, Government of Punjab**, announced cash prizes for winners. This inter-university competition witnessed participation from GNDEC, Ludhiana; Chandigarh University, Mohali; NSUT, Delhi; and CSPA, Chitkara University, Punjab. The results to be announced soon with exciting cash prizes.



January - March 2026

CSPA Heads, Dr Harveen Bhandari and Dr Kanika Bansal, were felicitated at Sanjh 2.0 for successfully organizing and coordinating an Inter-University Poster Making Competition. Sanjh 2.0 was a rich confluence of architects and planners from the North zone under the aegis of the IIA Punjab Chapter and ITPI Punjab Regional Chapter.

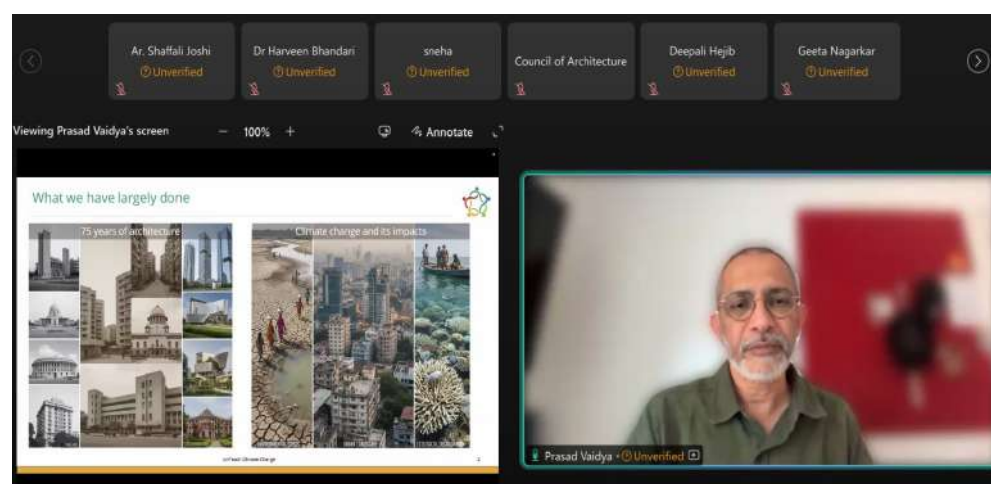


4TH PRE-CONFERENCE WEBINAR

Teaching for Sustainability in the Built Environment

21 January 2026

CSPA & the Council of Architecture continued the momentum of academic dialogue by focusing on the critical role of education in shaping a sustainable built environment through the 4th webinar in the pre-conference webinar series. The session featured an engaging and insightful expert lecture by **Ar. Prasad Vaidya, Director of Solar Decathlon India and Senior Advisor to IIHS and AEEE**, on 'Teaching for Sustainability in the Built Environment'. The lecture stood out for its depth, clarity, and relevance, offering a nuanced perspective on how pedagogy can act as a catalyst for long-term sustainable transformation. The webinar opened with remarks from **Prof. Jayashree Deshpande, Director, COA-TRC, Pune, and Convenor, SHAPE 2026**, followed by the deliberations on the theme by **Dr. Harveen Bhandari, Co-Convenor, SHAPE 2026**. The webinar saw active participation from academicians, professionals, researchers, and students, fostering a rich exchange of ideas and reinforcing the academic spirit of the upcoming International Conference SHAPE 2026.





STUDENT ACTIVITY

Global Immersion Programme @Singapore

25-31 January 2026

Sanjhvi (Batch 2025), a student of the 2nd Semester, successfully participated in the **Global Immersion Programme** conducted at the **Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)** from 25-31 January 2026. The programme focused on emerging domains such as Generative AI, Design Thinking, and AI-Driven Analytics, providing valuable international academic and cultural exposure. As part of the programme, she attended the SUSS Masterclass on Business, Technology, and Sustainability, where she gained insights into innovation-driven practices, data-informed decision-making, and sustainable approaches in modern industries.

The immersion experience also included industry exposure, faculty-led sessions, and visits to key urban and cultural landmarks in Singapore, enhancing her global perspective and interdisciplinary learning. Sanjhvi was awarded a Certificate of Completion by SUSS in recognition of her active participation and successful completion of the programme.





BHARAT PARV CELEBRATIONS Srujan 2.0 @New Delhi

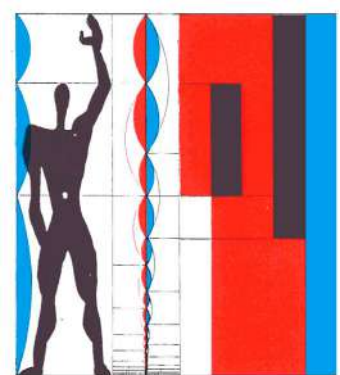
26-31 January 2026

Bharat Parv 2026 was a six-day national festival held from 26-31 January at the Red Fort, New Delhi, celebrating India's Republic Day, diverse culture, and 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'. CSPA is proud to announce that two models prepared by students, namely -

- **The Tower of Shadows, Capitol Complex, Chandigarh**
- **Model for a Structural Steel Framework for an Industrial Setup**

were exhibited during the 'BHARAT PARV celebrations' as part of SRUJAN 2.0 - an Architectural exhibition organized by the Council of Architecture, displaying works of architecture students across India. The exhibition was an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism at the Red Fort, New Delhi during the Republic Day 2026 celebrations. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon'ble **Minister of Tourism** in the presence of **Dr. Abhay Purohit, President, Council of Architecture**. The models made were a part of the Building Construction studio and reflected a strong hands-on academic pedagogy adopted at CSPA. Dr. Harveen Bhandari and Dr. Kanika Bansal visited the exhibition as special invitees by COA and were congratulated for the school's contribution. CSPA also received a Certificate of Collaboration and a letter of gratitude for participation in the Bharat Parv celebrations at Red Fort.





January - March 2026

SITE VISIT

Mohali Carnival 2026

02 February 2026

The Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture organized a site visit to **Mohali Carnival 2026 - Saras Mela, Open Ground, Sector 88, Mohali**, for the 2nd Semester students of B.Arch., Batch 2025, on 02 February 2026. The students were accompanied by **Asstt. Profs. Ananya Dutt, Vidhi Goel** and **visiting faculty Ar. Mohita Garg**. The visit was designed to provide students with first-hand exposure to temporary exhibition structures commonly employed in large-scale exhibition spaces as part of their ongoing Architectural Design Studio. During the visit, students closely observed the structural details of temporary exhibition setups, circulation patterns on the exhibition grounds, and innovative approaches to displaying crafts and exhibits. This experiential learning opportunity has significantly enriched students' understanding of spatial design, fostering both analytical insight and creative appreciation of temporary architectural interventions.



5TH PRE-CONFERENCE WEBINAR

History of Urban Form of India

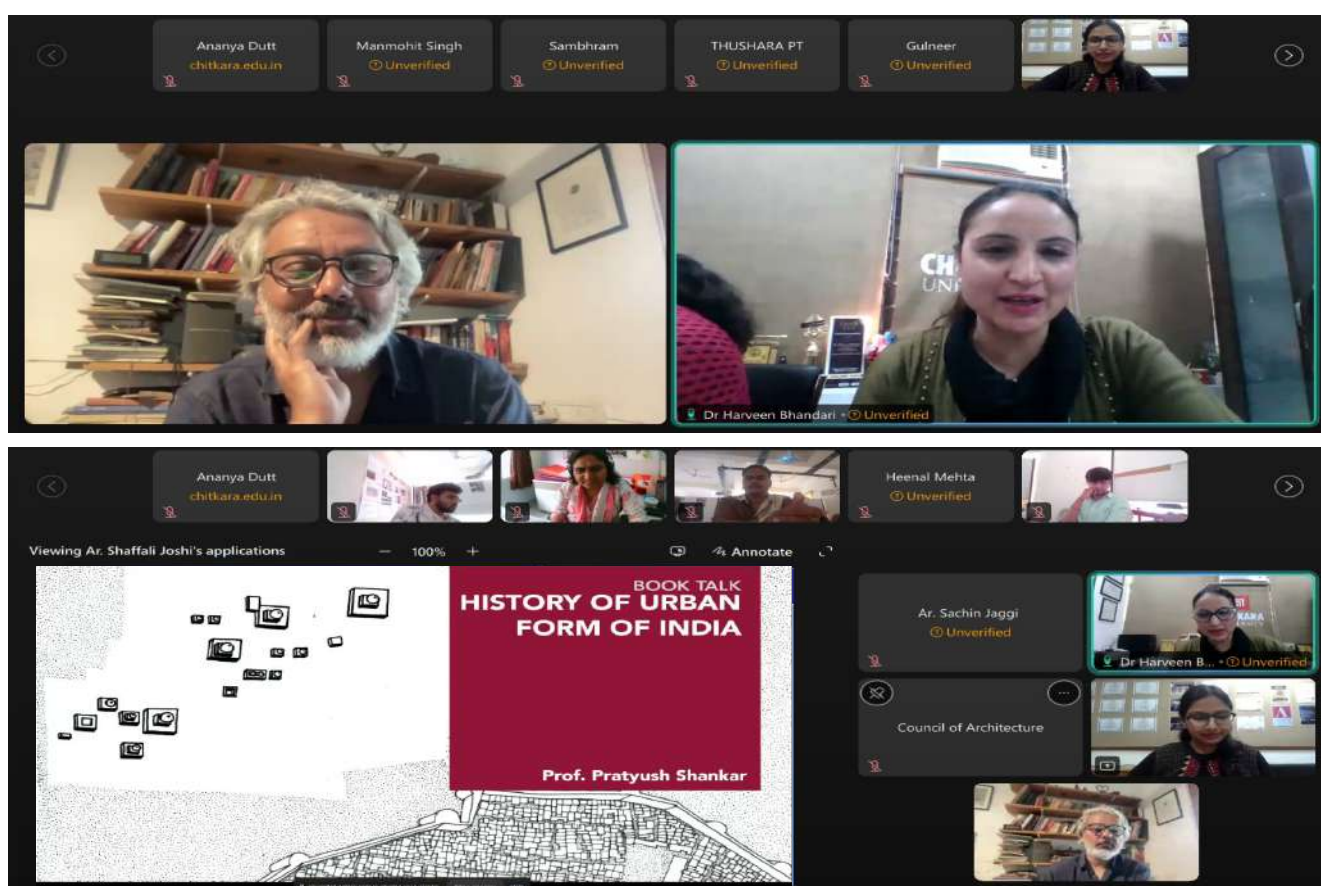
04 February 2026

As part of the 3rd International Conference, the 5th Webinar of the Pre-Conference Webinar Series of SHAPE 2026 was organized on 04 February 2026. An eminent lecture was delivered by **Ar. Pratyush Shankar, Provost and Dean, School of Environmental Design and Architecture, Navrachana University, Vadodara**, on 'History of Urban Form of India'. Drawing upon rich historical scholarship and contemporary interpretations, the lecture offered a nuanced understanding of India's urban evolution, engaging



January - March 2026

participants through clarity of thought, critical insights, and articulate presentation. The webinar began with opening remarks by Prof. Jayashree Deshpande, Director, COA–TRC, Pune, and Convenor of SHAPE 2026, who outlined the conference's academic vision and thematic framework. The speaker was formally introduced by Dr. Harveen Bhandari, Principal and Dean, Ph.D. Program, CSPA, and Co-Convenor, SHAPE 2026. The session was adeptly moderated by Ar. Shaffali Joshi, Assistant Professor, CSPA. With active participation from academicians, professionals, researchers, and students, the webinar facilitated thoughtful discourse and further strengthened the intellectual foundation of SHAPE 2026.



6TH PRE-CONFERENCE WEBINAR

Panel Discussion: Water and Architecture

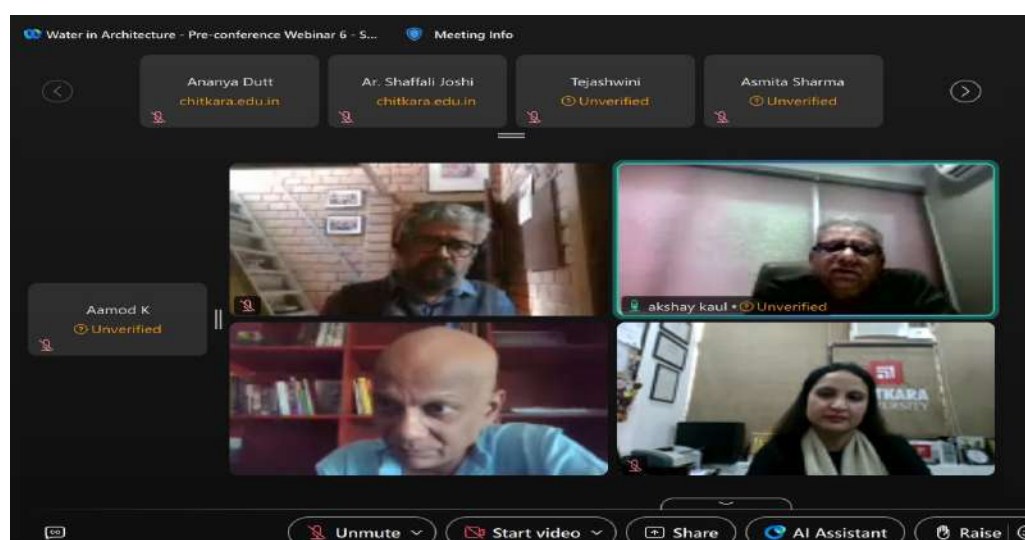
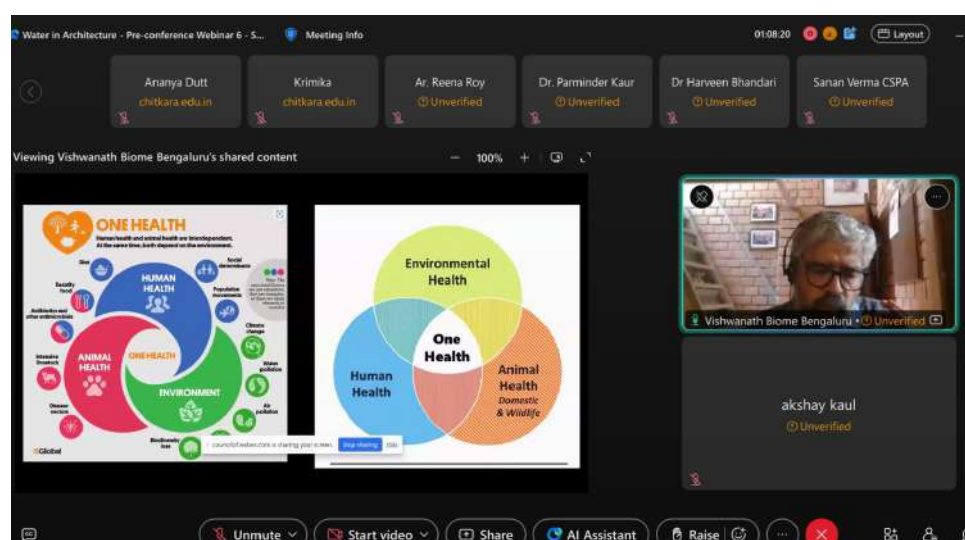
11 February 2026

Serving as the culminating chapter in the academic journey toward the 3rd International Conference, the 6th and final session of the Pre-Conference Webinar Series under SHAPE 2026 was successfully convened on 11 February 2026. Jointly organized by the Council of Architecture (COA) and the Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture (CSPA), this closing webinar brought the series to a meaningful conclusion, encapsulating months of rigorous dialogue, critical inquiry, and collaborative learning in the domain of sustainable built environments. The session featured eminent experts: **Ar. Akshay Kaul**, Founder of Akshay Kaul and Associates, New Delhi, who delivered his address on 'Water: The Future of the Past', **Er. Vishwanath Srikantaiah**, Founder of Biome Trust, Bengaluru, who spoke on 'Design in a Water Scarce World'; and the distinguished moderator, **Dr. Aneerudha Paul**, Professor at KRVIA Mumbai and Technical Advisor to SPARC, presented 'Closing the Loop – Restoring Waterbodies of Peri-Urban Areas in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region'. Each speaker offered a focused 15-minute presentation, followed by a stimulating panel discussion that encouraged interdisciplinary dialogue and critical reflection. The webinar commenced with opening remarks by **Prof. Jayashree Deshpande**, Director, COA–TRC Pune





and Convenor of SHAPE 2026 and an introduction to session by Dr. Harveen Bhandari, Co-Convenor, SHAPE 2026. With enthusiastic participation from academicians, professionals, researchers, and students, the concluding webinar strengthened the intellectual foundation and momentum leading up to SHAPE 2026.



EXHIBITION

Saint-Gobain - Transparency 20.0 Finale

12 February 2026

CSPA received a **Certificate of Recognition** for adopting the competition brief as a studio project proposed by the team Transparency 20.0. This competition, hosted by Saint-Gobain glass company, focused on the exhibition and jury evaluation of shortlisted student projects, bringing together finalists, jurors, and faculty coordinators. The exhibition showcased diverse architectural proposals aligned with India's vision for 2047 from various schools of architecture across the country. Student work from CSPA was awarded the **Best Studio Project Award**, recognising academic excellence and studio rigor. Faculty mentors were also conferred **Certificates of Participation** for academic coordination and guidance. Asstt. Prof. Dr. Prateek Dhasmana attended the event as a **Studio Coordinator**, representing the institution during the jury review. A proud moment for Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture and Chitkara University.







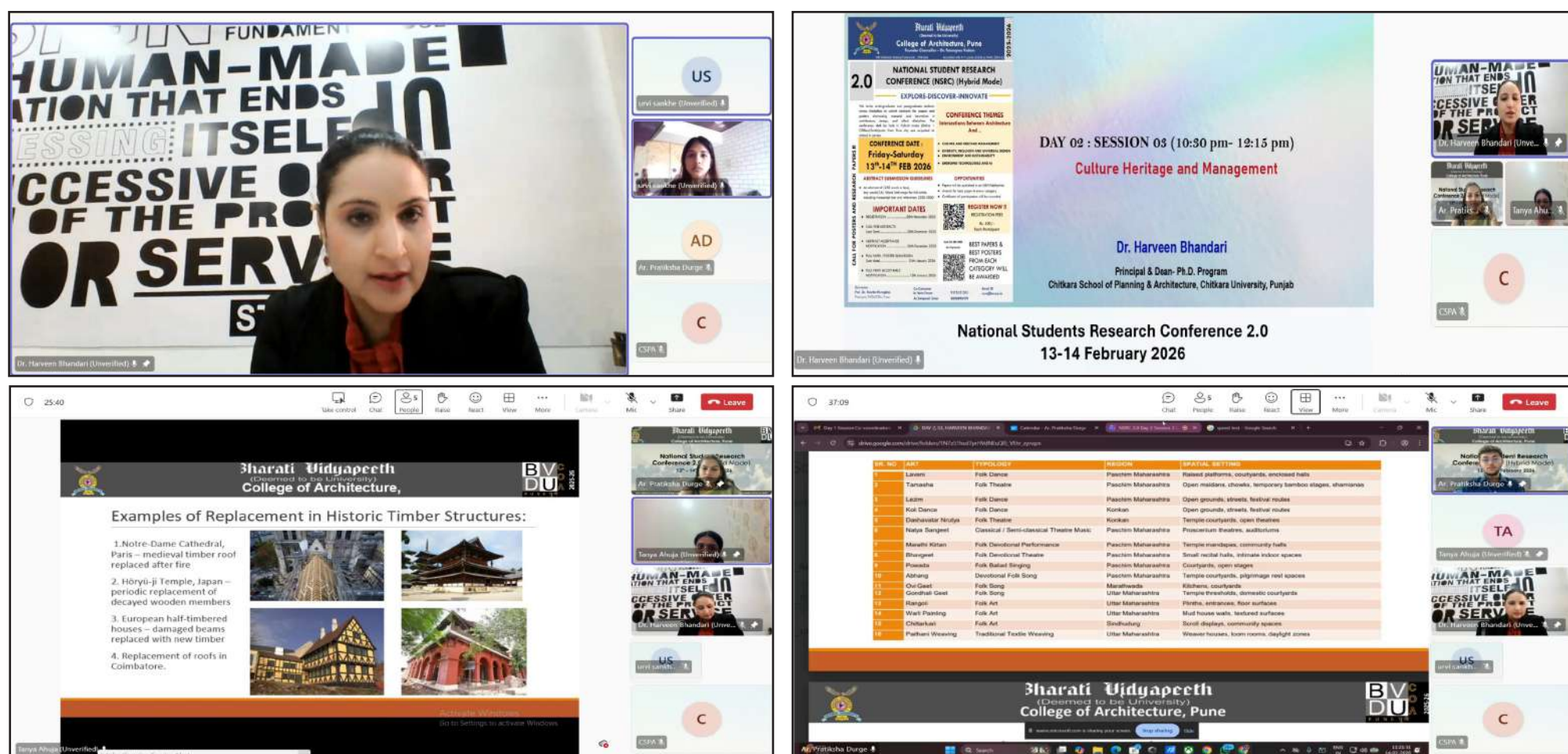
January - March 2026

FACULTY ACTIVITY

NSRC 2.0 @BVDU, Pune

13 - 16 February 2026

Dr. Harveen Bhandari, Principal CSPA, was invited as the Session Chair for the National Students Research Conference 2.0, organized by Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) - College of Architecture, Pune, held on 13-14 February 2026. Dr. Harveen chaired the Session under the theme 'Culture and Heritage Management', wherein she discussed insightful perspectives on balancing continuity and change in heritage conservation. In her address, Dr. Bhandari emphasized the importance of contextual sensitivity, community engagement, and adaptive reuse as key strategies for safeguarding India's rich cultural legacy. The session witnessed research paper presentations by students from six architecture institutes across India, exploring rural heritage conservation and urban transformation. Her address inspired young researchers to approach heritage with responsibility, innovation, and deeper cultural understanding.



ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION

Archex INTEXT EXPO 2026

13 - 16 February 2026

Chitkara University was an academic partner to the annual North India's premier architecture, interior, and exterior design expo - Archex 2026. Chitkara University's involvement as the education partner underscored its commitment to fostering innovation and excellence in architecture education. Dr. Harveen Bhandari represented CSPA as a special guest and delivered a keynote address on the pivotal 'Role of Building Materials & Technology'. The inaugural ceremony was graced by esteemed guests, including Sh. Mandip Singh Brar, IAS, Home Secretary, Chandigarh, and Sh. Daves Moudgill, Ex-Mayor Chandigarh (UT) & Ar. Surinder Bahga, Saakar Foundation.





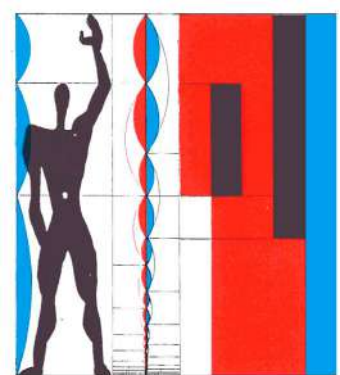
January - March 2026

The Parade Grounds, Sector 17, Chandigarh, were abuzz with creativity and innovation on the launch of the 8th Edition of this exhibition. The four-day extravaganza, from 13 to 16 February 2026, brought together architects, industry experts, students, and enthusiasts to explore the latest trends and advancements in architecture and building technology.



Student Participation and Felicitation @Archex





A team of 15 students from the 6th Semester actively participated in the exhibition, engaging in a range of student competitions. The expo served as a valuable platform for students to interact with industry professionals, explore innovative materials, and gain insights into the latest advancements in architectural building technology. One of the key highlights of the event was an insightful panel discussion on the theme '**Gap between Industry and Academia**'. The session witnessed participation from students of IKGPTU, Mohali, Chandigarh University, and Chitkara University. Bringing together industry experts, academicians, and students, the discussion addressed critical challenges in architectural education. Moderated by Ar. Bhavna Sharma, the panel featured valuable perspectives from **Udayveer Singh Shergill (Batch 2023, CSPA)**, who shared a student's viewpoint on bridging this gap. The expo also celebrated creativity through the '**Archex Student's Design Competition**', a four-day multidisciplinary event with participation from three teams of five students each. The competition concluded with an impressive showcase of innovative ideas, where two teams from **CSPA secured top honors - winning the First prize of ₹2,500 and the Second prize of ₹1,500**. Overall, the event highlighted the importance of strengthening industry-academia collaboration, fostering a more integrated and future-ready approach to architectural education.





BOOK LAUNCH Cubist Modernism

25 February 2026

The book launch of 'Cubist Modernism' authored by **Ar. Sangeet Sharma** was graced by **Dr. Madhu Chitkara, Pro-Chancellor, Chitkara University**, and the eminent guests from the Council of Architecture. The event was also attended by **Dr. Harveen Bhandari** and **Dr. Kanika Bansal**, marking a significant moment in celebrating architectural thought and discourse.





INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SHAPE 2026

26-27-28 February 2026

The **3-day International Conference SHAPE 2026**, held from 26–28 February 2026 at Chitkara University in collaboration with the Council of Architecture (COA), successfully brought together global thought leaders, academicians, architects, and students on a common platform. This marked the 3rd annual edition of COA's international conference. Centered around the theme '**Sustainable Habitats & Architecture for People and the Earth**', aligned with the UN SDGs, the conference focused on addressing critical challenges in sustainable design and development.





Inaugural Ceremony

The inaugural ceremony, held on 26 February 2026 at the Exploretorium, was graced by **Hon'ble Dr. Madhu Chitkara, Pro-Chancellor, Chitkara University**, along with distinguished dignitaries, including **Dr. Amit Mittal, Pro Vice Chancellor, Research Programs, Chitkara University** and esteemed members from COA - **Dr. Abhay Purohit, President, COA; Ar. Gajanand Ram, Vice President, COA; Ar. Jayashree Deshpande, Director, COA-TRC, Pune & Convenor, SHAPE 2026** and **Mr. Raj Kumar Oberoi, Registrar, COA** and **Dr. Harveen Bhandari, Co-convenor, SHAPE 2026; Dr. Kanika Bansal, Dean, Academic Affairs, CSPA**. The inaugural also witnessed the presence of **members of the COA Executive Committee** and senior architects from Chandigarh, Punjab, and Haryana, along with noteworthy retired Chief Architects from Chandigarh and Haryana. The ceremony marked the formal commencement of the three-day conference in the presence of distinguished dignitaries, eminent architects, academicians, researchers, and participants from across India and abroad.



The session began with a welcome note and conference opening address by **Asstt. Prof. Kritika, CSPA** who warmly greeted the gathering and set the tone for the event. This was followed by the ceremonial lamp lighting by the dignitaries, symbolizing the illumination of knowledge and declaring SHAPE 2026 open. The students then presented a **Ganesh Vandana**, seeking divine blessings for the successful conduct of the conference. A video glimpse of Chitkara University was also showcased, highlighting the vibrant campus and its commitment to academic excellence.





Council of Architecture
Ministry of Education, Government of India

SHAPE 2026
Sustainable Habitats and Architecture for People and the Earth
Embracing the SDG vision through Architecture and Planning

CHITKARA
UNIVERSITY

International Conference

26-27-28 FEBRUARY 2026

CONFERENCE STEERING TEAM

Chief Patron
Prof. Dr. Abhay Purohit
President
Council of Architecture

Co-Patron
Dr. Madhu Chitkara
Pro-Chancellor
Chitkara University

Convenor
Prof. Ar. Jayashree Deshpande
Director
COA-TRC, Pune

Co-Convenor
Prof. Dr. Harveen Bhandari
Principal & Dean Ph.D. Program
CSPA, Chitkara University

SHAPE 2026, organized by the Council of Architecture in collaboration with Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture, focuses on advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals through architecture and planning. The conference brings together professionals, researchers and students to explore sustainable, equitable, and human-centered design solutions.





The session proceeded with the Presidential Address by **Dr. Abhay Purohit, President, COA**, who formally launched the conference and shared visionary insights. **Prof. Ar. Jayashree Deshpande, Director, COA-TRC, Pune and Convenor of the Conference**, set the academic tone of SHAPE 2026, while **Dr. Madhu Chitkara, Pro-Chancellor, Chitkara University**, shared the institutional vision aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. The conference themes and tracks were introduced by **Dr. Harveen Bhandari, Principal, CSPA and Co-Convenor**, outlining the intellectual direction of the conference. The inaugural ceremony also included the release of the Book of Abstracts for SHAPE 2026 and the COA books by the dignitaries, marking an important milestone in the conference proceedings. The ceremony concluded with a sense of enthusiasm and anticipation for the academic engagements that followed, setting a strong and inspiring foundation for the conference proceedings.









Rooting Sustainability beyond the Conference Hall





Strengthening partnerships, shaping the future...





January - March 2026

Keynote Sessions

The conference featured insightful keynote sessions delivered by three distinguished international experts, who shared diverse perspectives on architecture, culture, and the evolving role of design in contemporary society. These sessions provided participants with valuable global insights and inspired critical thinking on the future of architecture and the built environment.

Prof. Ali A. Alraouf, Professor, University of California, Berkeley, USA, delivered a thought-provoking keynote titled '**CREATE/INNOVATE or EVAPORATE: On the Inevitability of Breaking Borders in Architecture - A Trilogy of Architectural Icons**'. His lecture emphasized the need for innovation, interdisciplinary thinking, and the breaking of conventional boundaries in architecture to address rapidly changing global challenges.



Ar. Robert Greenwood, Partner and Director, Snøhetta (Asia Pacific), presented a keynote lecture titled '**Making Place for People**'. His talk highlighted the importance of human-centered design and discussed how architecture can shape meaningful public spaces that respond to social and cultural contexts.

Ar. Peter Rich, Founder, Peter Rich Architects, Johannesburg, South Africa, delivered an inspiring keynote titled '**Conversations with Africa**'. Through his work and experiences, he explored the relationship between culture, landscape, and architecture, demonstrating how context-driven design can create meaningful and sustainable built environments. These keynote sessions enriched the conference by bringing global perspectives, innovative ideas, and experiential insights, greatly contributing to the academic discourse of SHAPE 2026.





Many nations, one vision, shaping a sustainable future together at SHAPE 2026



Felicitating Special Invitees from COA





A cultural evening woven with rhythm, heritage, and expression





January - March 2026

Panel Discussions

A series of panel discussions was organised during SHAPE 2026 to facilitate meaningful dialogue among eminent architects, academicians, and professionals. These sessions provided an interactive platform for the speakers to collectively reflect on the ideas presented in the keynote and plenary lectures, while engaging participants in discussions on sustainability, urban transformation, and the future of architecture.



The first panel discussion, held on 26 February 2026, brought together Ar. Yatin Pandya, Principal Architect, FOOTPRINTS E.A.R.T.H., Ahmedabad; Prof. Ali A. Alraouf, Professor of Architecture and Urbanism; Ar. Robert Greenwood, Partner & Director, Snøhetta (Asia Pacific), and Ar. Ashok B. Lall, Principal Architect, Ashok B. Lall Architects, New Delhi. The session was moderated by Ar. Prasad Vaidya, Director, Solar Decathlon India and the Sustainable Energy Lab at IIHS. The discussion focused on contemporary approaches to sustainable and human-centered architecture.





The second panel discussion, conducted on 27 February 2026, featured **Ar. Neelam Manjunath**, Principal Architect, Manasaram Architects, Bengaluru; **Prof. Dr. Anupama Kundoo**, T.U. Berlin, Principal Architect, Anupama Kundoo Architects, Pondicherry, Bombay and Berlin; and **Ar. Siddhartha Wig**, Principal Architect, The Elements, Panchkula. The session was moderated by **Dr. Manjari Khanna Kapoor**, academician and researcher in architecture and sustainable development. The panel explored themes of material innovation, sustainable design practices, and responsible architectural creativity.



The third panel discussion, held later the same day, included **Ar. Peter Rich**, Founder, Peter Rich Architects, Johannesburg, South Africa; and **Prof. Jeurg Grunder**, Founder, Jeurg Grunder Architekten, Bern, Switzerland. The discussion was moderated by **Ar. Yatin Pandya**, Principal Architect, FOOTPRINTS E.A.R.T.H., Ahmedabad. The conversation centered on architecture rooted in culture, community, and ecological sensitivity.



January - March 2026



The fourth panel discussion, conducted on 28 February 2026, featured **Dr. B. S. Bhooshan**, Principal Architect, BSB Architects, Mysore; **Ar. Malay Deshmukh**, Partner, Associated Space Designers, Pune and **Dr. Himanshu Burte**, Associate Professor, ADCPS, IIT Bombay. The session was moderated by **Dr. Kanika Bansal**, Dean, Academic Affairs, CSPA. The discussion reflected on human habitats, urban development beyond megacities, and evolving practices of sustainable architecture in India. These panel discussions significantly enriched the conference by fostering thoughtful dialogue, exchange of professional insights, and collaborative learning, thereby strengthening the connection between research, practice, and policy in shaping sustainable and inclusive built environments. Following each panel discussion, the panelists and moderators were formally felicitated in recognition of their valuable contributions to the conference and for enriching the academic discourse of SHAPE 2026.



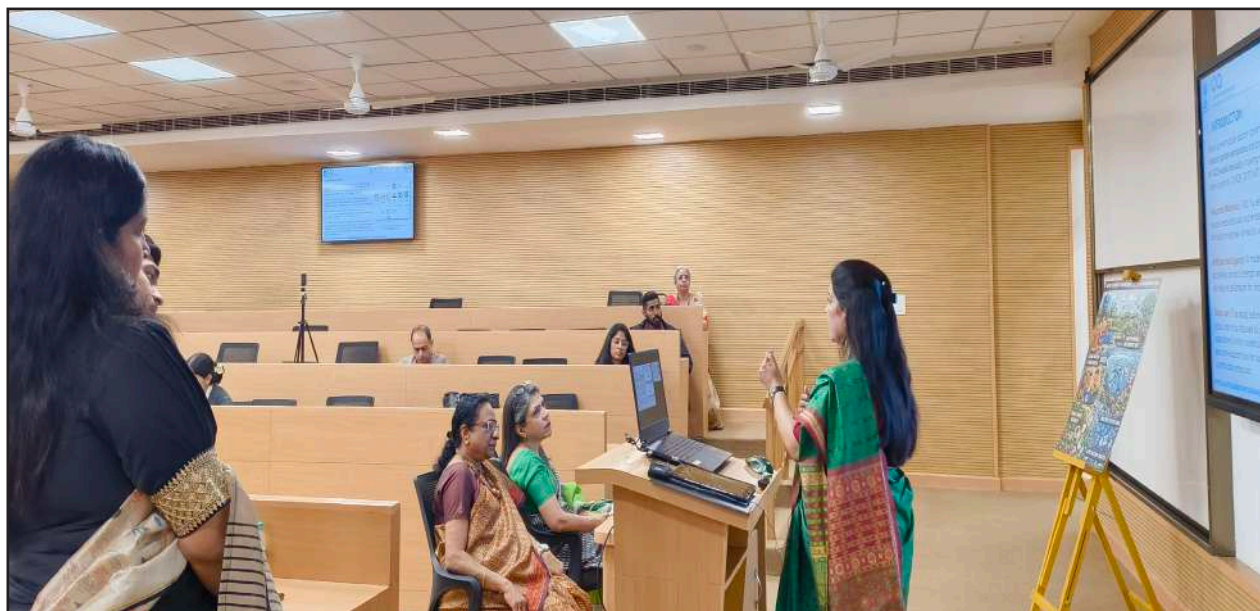


January - March 2026

Paper Presentations

The conference witnessed enthusiastic participation from researchers, academicians, practitioners, and students from national and international institutions. Selected research papers were presented across five thematic tracks of SHAPE 2026, reflecting the central vision of sustainable and human-centered development in the built environment.

The presentations were organised under the following themes:



Theme 1: Inclusive Cities, Equity & Human-Centered Habitats



Theme 2: Architecture for Climate Resilience & Environmental Stewardship



Theme 4: Health, Well-being & Liveable Environments



Theme 3: Water, Resource & Environmental Systems for Sustainable Living



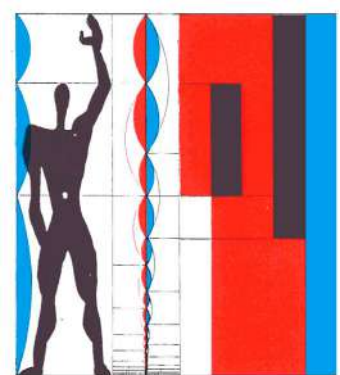
Theme 5: Partnerships, Governance & Collaborative Futures



January - March 2026

The papers presented under these themes addressed a wide range of contemporary issues through innovative research, case studies, design explorations, and policy perspectives, fostering meaningful academic discussions and knowledge exchange among participants. The interactive sessions provided an opportunity for presenters to receive constructive feedback from experts and engage in scholarly dialogue with fellow researchers. All presenters were awarded certificates and commemorative trophies in recognition of their academic contribution to the conference. Additionally, Certificates of Excellence were conferred upon the Best Paper under each thematic category, acknowledging outstanding research, originality, and relevance to the conference themes. **Asstt. Prof. Pardeep Maan** from CSPA received the **Best Paper Award** in paper presentations.





Plenary Sessions

The conference also featured a series of plenary sessions delivered by eminent national and international experts from academia and professional practice. These sessions provided deeper insights into contemporary architectural challenges, sustainable development practices, and innovative design approaches. The plenary speakers shared their research, professional experiences, and critical reflections, contributing significantly to the intellectual discourse of the conference. The plenary talks covered a wide range of themes related to sustainability, human settlements, design innovation, and the socio-cultural dimensions of architecture.



Ar. Malay Deshmukh presented 'The Magarpatta Model: Genesis of Integrated Township Policy, Maharashtra', discussing the evolution of integrated township development



Ar. Yatin Pandya spoke on 'Designing for the Place, People and Planet', emphasizing context-sensitive and environmentally responsible architecture



Ar. Ashok B. Lall delivered a lecture titled 'Dealing with the Present and Preparing for the Future', reflecting on the evolving challenges of urban development and sustainable practices



Ar. Neelam Manjunath presented 'Creative Responsibility vs Responsible Creativity', highlighting the role of architects in shaping sustainable and socially responsive design solutions



Prof. Dr. Anupama Kundoo delivered on 'Rethinking Materiality: Natural Resources and Human Resourcefulness', focusing on innovative material use and sustainable construction approaches



Ar. Siddhartha Wig presented 'Sustainability - A Practitioner's Viewpoint', sharing practical perspectives on implementing sustainability in architectural practice



Ar. Jeurg Grunder presented 'Designing with Nature and People: Experiments in Sustainable and Social Architecture', showcasing projects that integrate ecological sensitivity and community engagement



Dr. B. S. Bhooshan spoke on 'Human Habitat beyond the Mega Cities', highlighting the importance of addressing settlement development in smaller towns and emerging urban areas



Dr. Himanshu Burte spoke on 'The Critical Practice of Sustainable Architecture in India', that explored critical perspectives on sustainability and architectural practice within the Indian context



Pre-Conference Activities

Six pre-conference activities were organised under SHAPE 2026 to encourage student engagement, experiential learning, and creative exploration of the conference themes. These activities provided a platform for architecture students and participants from across India to showcase their creativity, research abilities, and critical thinking while engaging with real-world urban and environmental challenges aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1 One of the key activities was the Site Visit to the Capitol Complex, titled '**Concrete Poetry Walk: The Architectural Palimpsest of Chandigarh**'. Led by Ar. Kapil Setia, Former Chief Architect of Chandigarh, the walk offered participants an immersive experience of Le Corbusier's monumental vision for Chandigarh, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

2 Another major activity was the 3-Day Urban Design Workshop titled '**Revitalisation of Sector 17, Chandigarh**'. The workshop focused on developing context-sensitive urban design proposals for Sector 17, once the vibrant commercial heart of the city.

3 Creative expression was encouraged through the **Poster Competition – 'Shaping Sustainable Horizons'**, where students visually explored themes such as Responsible Use of Resources (SDG 12), Water & Architecture (SDG 6), and Nature-Integrated Architecture (SDG 15) through hand-made posters.

4 Complementing this was the **Collage Making Competition – 'Paper to Purpose: Visual Stories from Recycled Matter'**, which began with a hands-on experience at the Chitkara University Paper Recycling Plant, where students produced recycled paper sheets and used them to create collages centred on Climate Action (SDG 13).

5 The **Video Documentary Competition – 'SustainaCine: Camera for a Cause'** invited institutional teams to document on-ground sustainability initiatives undertaken within their campuses. The documentaries highlighted interventions aligned with the conference themes such as inclusive cities, climate resilience, water systems, health and liveability, and governance partnerships, encouraging practice-based research and visual storytelling.





January - March 2026

6 Another experiential activity titled 'Explore the City Beautiful: Walking Through the Legacy of Chandigarh' allowed participants to engage with the city's cultural and urban landscape through curated walks to places such as the Pierre Jeanneret Museum, Rock Garden, Sukhna Lake, and vibrant public spaces in Sectors 17, 22, and 8. The activity enabled participants to experience Chandigarh as a living laboratory of modernist planning and contemporary urban life.

All participants of the pre-conference activities were awarded Certificates of Participation, while Certificates of Excellence were presented to the top entries in the competitions. Selected works from these activities were exhibited during SHAPE 2026 and featured in the conference proceedings and digital platforms, further extending the academic and creative impact of the conference.



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CHITKARA
UNIVERSITY

SITE VISIT TO CAPITOL COMPLEX

HAND HOLDING FOR 3-DAY URBAN DESIGN WORKSHOP

ACTION THROUGH POSTERS AND COLLAGES

PARTNERSHIP IN VIDEO DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

EXPLORE 'THE CITY BEAUTIFUL'



Wrapping up - SHAPE 2026

We are proud to have successfully hosted the International Conference – SHAPE 2026 in collaboration with the Council of Architecture (COA). The conference created a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange and dialogue on contemporary challenges in architecture and the built environment. The three-day conference witnessed participation from across India as well as several countries, making it a truly global academic gathering. Through keynote addresses, invited talks, technical paper presentations, and panel discussions, the conference facilitated meaningful discussions on sustainability, urban transformation, heritage conservation, and innovative design practices. The sessions encouraged interdisciplinary learning and collaboration among professionals, researchers, and students. In addition to the academic sessions, the conference also included pre-conference activities, student engagement events, and recognition of scholarly excellence through Best Paper Awards, celebrating innovative research and encouraging emerging scholars in the field. Overall, SHAPE 2026 successfully served as a dynamic platform for dialogue, collaboration, and dissemination of knowledge, reaffirming the commitment of the Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture toward advancing research, professional practice, and academic excellence in the field of architecture and planning.



Scientific Committee of SHAPE 2026



Dr. Rina Angel and team CSPA received a Certificate of Appreciation for the documentary on sustainable practices followed in the campus



January - March 2026





Students receiving the Certificate of Participation for the Urban Design Workshop



Team CSPA with the delegates of the Council of Architecture



Students Volunteers for SHAPE 2026



Pre-Conference Visit & Interactions



Meeting with Hon'ble Dr. Ashok K Chitkara,
Chancellor, Chitkara University



Meeting with Hon'ble Dr. Madhu Chitkara,
Pro Chancellor, Chitkara University





EXPERT SESSION

Women's Health Awareness

14 March 2026

Asstt. Prof. Shaffali Joshi and Asstt. Mgr. Krimika participated in the session **SustainaStaff Series - Chapter 5: Women's Health Check-Up & Learning Breast Self-Examination (BSE)**, organised by the Centre of Excellence for Sustainability on 14 March 2026. It was an important awareness and preventive health session exclusively for female faculty and staff members. The session aimed to encourage women to prioritize their health through early detection practices and informed self-care.



DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

The Eternal Modernist

14 March 2026

The first-year students of Architecture attended the screening of the documentary 'The Eternal Modernist' at Alliance Française de Chandigarh on 14 March 2026. The students were accompanied by Asstt. Profs. Manmeet Kaur and Dr. Niva Turna. It offered them a window into the life and works of one of modern architecture's most influential figures, **Ar. Shiv Dutt Sharma**. The documentary is an inspiring reflection on the values of design, innovation, and cultural context that Ar. Sharma has experienced in his professional journey and especially while working with Le Corbusier on the planning of the city of Chandigarh. Students also got an opportunity to directly engage with stalwarts Ar. Shiv Dutt Sharma and Ar. Sangeet Sharma, partner architects, SD Sharma Associates, who have shaped the architectural discourse of the Chandigarh city.





ARCHITECTURE AND CINEMA Inspiration Beyond the Studio

15 March 2026

The CSPA team comprising Dr. Harveen Bhandari and the students spent an inspiring afternoon watching the famous film **'In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones'**. The movie beautifully portrays the life of architecture students, their struggles, creativity, friendships, and the unique culture of architecture studios, making it deeply relatable for our budding architects. The star cast also includes our iconic Shah Rukh Khan in his young days, making the experience even more special for the students to spot the King Khan in one of his early screen appearances. It was an engaging and nostalgic cinematic experience. A heartfelt thanks to the Chitkara University Management for arranging the tickets and making this enriching experience possible for our students.



SITE VISIT Resort on Contours: A Visit to Kikar Lodge

17 March 2026

CSPA organized an academic visit to **Kikar Lodge** on 17 March 2026 for the 4th and 6th Semester B.Arch. students as part of the Integrated Design Studio. This immersive visit was carefully curated to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of resort planning and operations within a contoured site. The resort, featuring a variety of accommodation types, banquet facilities, restaurants, a swimming pool, landscaped areas, and service zones, served as a live case study for experiential learning. During the visit, students explored the resort's infrastructure and services, gaining valuable





insights into the complexities of designing on uneven terrain while ensuring functional efficiency, high-quality standards, and enhanced guest experiences. The resort staff conducted guided tours, offering detailed explanations on design, services, landscaping strategies, and backend services. The visit proved to be an enriching learning experience, enabling students to critically understand aspects such as functional design, spatial planning, circulation, and ergonomics in hospitality architecture. Under the guidance of the Integrated Design Studio faculty team **Ar. Jasmeet Kaur, Ar. Lohit Jain, Ar. Pardeep Singh Maan, Ar. Mekhala Saha, Dr. Prateek Dhasmana, Ar. Kritika, Ar. Sidhant Madan**, along with visiting faculty **Ar. Amarjit Singh Sodhi, Ar. Suchitra Sodhi, Ar. Shini Arora, Ar. Ravneet Kaur, Ar. Samanyu Bhatnagar, and Ar. Rishabh Khurana** the students gained valuable practical exposure to site-responsive design and spatial organization in real-world contexts.





AWARD CEREMONY

Chandigarh's Indian Modernists'

24 March 2026

A group of Architecture students and faculty members from CSPA attended the event titled '**75 Years of Making of Chandigarh: Honouring Chandigarh's Indian Modernists**' on 24 March 2026 at the Government Museum & Art Gallery, Chandigarh. The awards were conferred upon by '**Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab and Administrator, Chandigarh**'. The award ceremony recognised the contributions of senior architects who worked on the various aspects related to design of city of Chandigarh. The students were acquainted with the key contributions and significant role of these stalwarts in shaping Chandigarh's modernist legacy.





EXPERT SESSION

Making Spaces That Feel Right

25 March 2026

An insightful industry session on 'Making Spaces That Feel Right: Innovation in Built Environment Through Tiles' was conducted on 25 March 2026. The session was delivered by Mr. Ashwani K. Asija, Associate Vice-President, Simpolo Vittrified Pvt. Ltd., along with his team from the company. Students of B.Arch. 4th and 6th Semesters, along with faculty members at CSPA, gained valuable industry exposure and learned about Simpolo's latest innovations in tiles and surface solutions, including advanced materials, finishes, and applications that can enhance design thinking, material understanding, and practical learning in architecture education. A display of product samples was also set up, providing participants with hands-on exposure to contemporary textures, technologies, and construction possibilities. The students were given the snack boxes at end of the session by the Simpolo Vittrified Pvt. Ltd.





FACULTY ACTIVITY

National Online Capacity Building Program

27-28 March 2026

Assoc. Prof. Mekhala Saha participated in the National Online Capacity Building Program (CBP) titled 'Integrated Water & Sanitation: The Blueprint for Sustainable Architecture', organized by the Council of Architecture in collaboration with the Indian Plumbing Association on 17 March 2026. The program was designed to enhance the knowledge and competencies of architects and future professionals by emphasizing the integration of efficient plumbing systems, sustainable water management practices, and comprehensive sanitation planning within architectural design.



PAPER PRESENTATION

Time, Territory & Tradition

27-28 March 2026

Three faculty members - Ar. Ananya Dutt, Ar. Sidhant Madan & Ar. Mekhala Saha presented their research paper titled 'Reimagining Spatial Planning from Women's Perspective: Women and Placemaking' at the International Conference on Time, Territory & Tradition: Interdisciplinary Dialogues on Cultural Landscapes. The conference was organized by Vastukala Academy, College of Architecture, in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. The paper critically examined the gendered dimensions of urban planning, highlighting how conventional planning frameworks often overlook women's needs, safety, and mobility. Through theoretical grounding in feminist geography, intersectionality, and spatial justice, the study proposed a shift towards inclusive and participatory placemaking practices.





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CSPA NEWSLETTER

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EXPERT SESSION

Technical Writing in Architectural Research

30 March 2026

Dr. Iyer Vijayalaxmi Kasinath, Professor, School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, delivered an expert session on 'Technical Writing in Architectural Research' on 30 March 2026. The session was attended by research scholars, and 8th Semester students. During the session, Dr. Kasinath explained the key aspects involved in selecting an appropriate title for a thesis or research paper. She also discussed how to write both structured and unstructured abstracts and explained the importance and relevance of graphical abstracts in academic publications. The session further covered the process of conducting a literature review and clearly explained what should be included in the methodology and results sections of a research paper. Lastly, she explained what the discussion section should include and how it helps in presenting the outcomes of research effectively. The session concluded with an interactive discussion where the queries of the research scholars regarding their research work were addressed.



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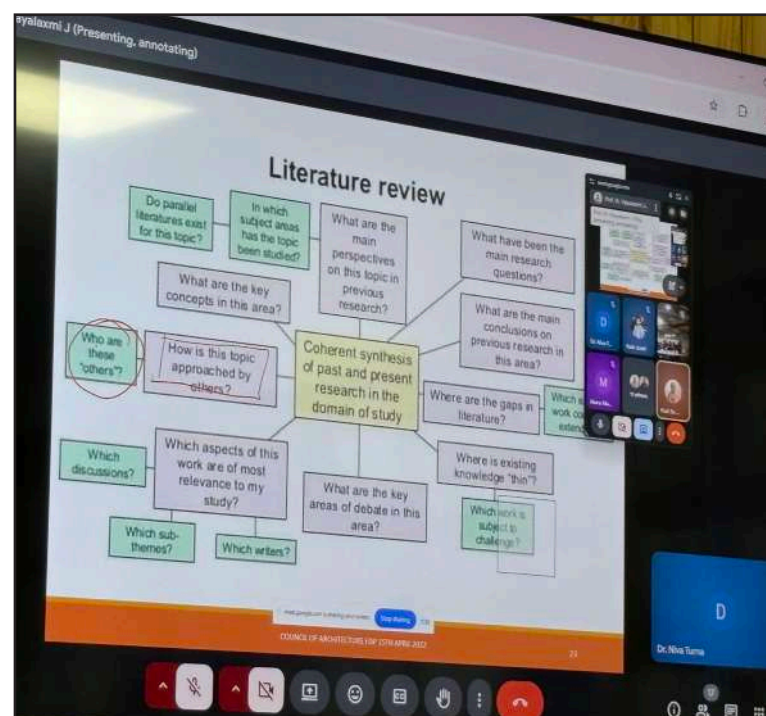
TECHNICAL WRITING IN ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH

Dr. Iyer Vijayalaxmi Kasinath
Professor
Department of Architecture
School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada

Date: 30th March, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM onwards
Mode: Hybrid

Organised by: Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture



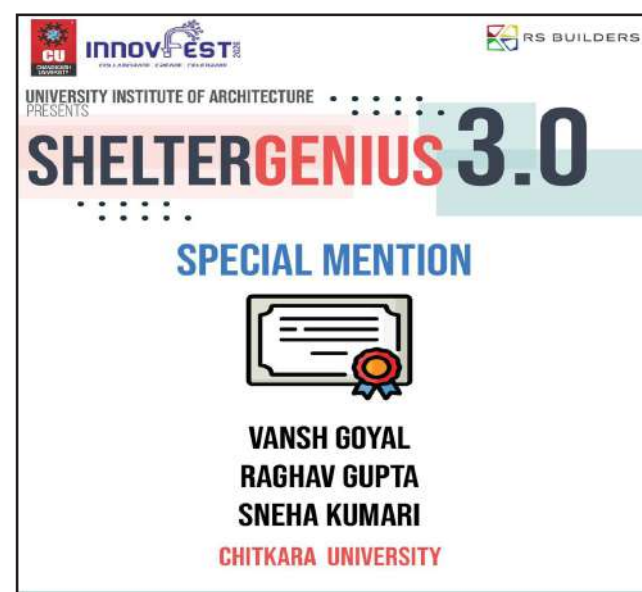




Student Achievement

ShelterGenius 3.0 Competition

The students participated in the **ShelterGenius 3.0**, an architectural design competition conducted by Chandigarh University. The jury of the same was conducted on 19 February 2026. The participating team from CSPA comprised **Vansh Goyal (Team Lead)**, **Raghav Gupta**, and **Sneha Kumari** from Batch 2023. The team achieved a '**Special Mention**' in this competition, which is a commendable accomplishment. The jury and panel appreciated their ideas and presentation while also offering constructive suggestions to further strengthen the project. The team demonstrated clarity of thought, confidence, and professionalism throughout the jury interaction. CSPA appreciates the sincere efforts, teamwork, and dedication shown by the students and congratulates them on this achievement.



Student Startup

Naman Arora, a third-year B.Arch. student (Roll no. 2315991041) and **founder of Archlab**, is building a venture focused on innovative prefabricated and container-based commercial spaces, including cafés, kiosks, and modular units. Archlab aims to make construction faster, cost-effective, and sustainable by integrating smart design with efficient fabrication, offering end-to-end solutions from concept to execution. **He recently secured 2nd position at a startup pitch event held at Microsoft, Gurugram, winning a cash prize of ₹ 5,000.** Presenting before a panel of investors, mentors, and Microsoft leadership, this achievement validated his vision and strengthened his confidence in scaling architectural ideas into viable business solutions.



Student Achievement



Further elevating his journey, Naman was selected for the **International Startup Foundation (ISF) finals held in Dubai**, where he represented Chitkara University. His startup impressed a distinguished jury, including Sheikh Ayman Al Awadhi, who also awarded him five project orders marking a significant step toward global recognition. The event also witnessed the presence of **Hon'ble Pro Chancellor Dr. Madhu Chitkara and Mr. Piyush Garg, Vice President, CEED**. Chitkara University

is known for mentoring student startups, fostering industry-academia partnerships, and driving innovation initiatives at the university. From being shortlisted among top participants at the national finals to advancing to the international stage, Naman's journey reflects innovation, determination, and the growing potential of Archlab as a scalable and impactful architectural venture.



Student Achievement



Badminton Tournament

Aryan Chopra, a B.Arch. student secured **First Position** in Men's Singles at the **2nd Edition of the Chitkara Badminton Tournament**, held on 28 March 2026 at Chitkara University, Punjab, and won a **cash prize of ₹11,000**. The tournament was organized by the Chitkara University Sports Board, where Aryan stood out with his outstanding performance and competitive spirit. This achievement reflects his dedication to sports and the university's emphasis on holistic development.





Ph.D. Progress Review Stages



Pre-Thesis of Ar. Mona Sood



Pre-Thesis of Prof. Roopali Bansal



Progress Review Seminar - III of Ar. Swati Behl



Progress Review Seminar - I of Prof. Antony Boity



Pre-Thesis of Ar. Renuka Pardeep Chutke





Lohri Celebration on Campus





Birthday Celebrations



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