

# PLACE MAKING INDIA

Project Bank 2025-26



# Overview

## Why we created the Project Bank

Since 2024 we have been on an experimental mission to:

- Address a funding gap in hyper-local public realm projects.
- Thematically collectivise projects across India.
- Prioritize placemaking needs in underserved areas, rural India, Tier 2 & Tier 3 cities.
- Tap into the Placemaking India's membership and global affiliates as mentors, donors or champions of projects.
- Provide visibility for projects that need advocacy and resources to get started.
- Implement tangible, impactful projects beyond convenings and conferences.

The Placemaking India Project Bank is also a program of [The Place Institute](#)

## Emerging Project Focus Areas

- 4 Social Spaces & Transit hubs
- 3 Cultural District & Heritage Zones
- 2 Urban Heat & Climate Action
- 2 Waterfront & Nature-based
- 2 Tribal & Rural Areas
- 1 Public Space Data

**New Delhi/Citywide**  
People's Place Repository

**Kota, Rajasthan**  
Reimagining Chambal  
Grey Water network

**Mani Nagar, Ahmedabad**  
Markets, School Zones

**Ahmedabad**  
Raahat Heat Refuge

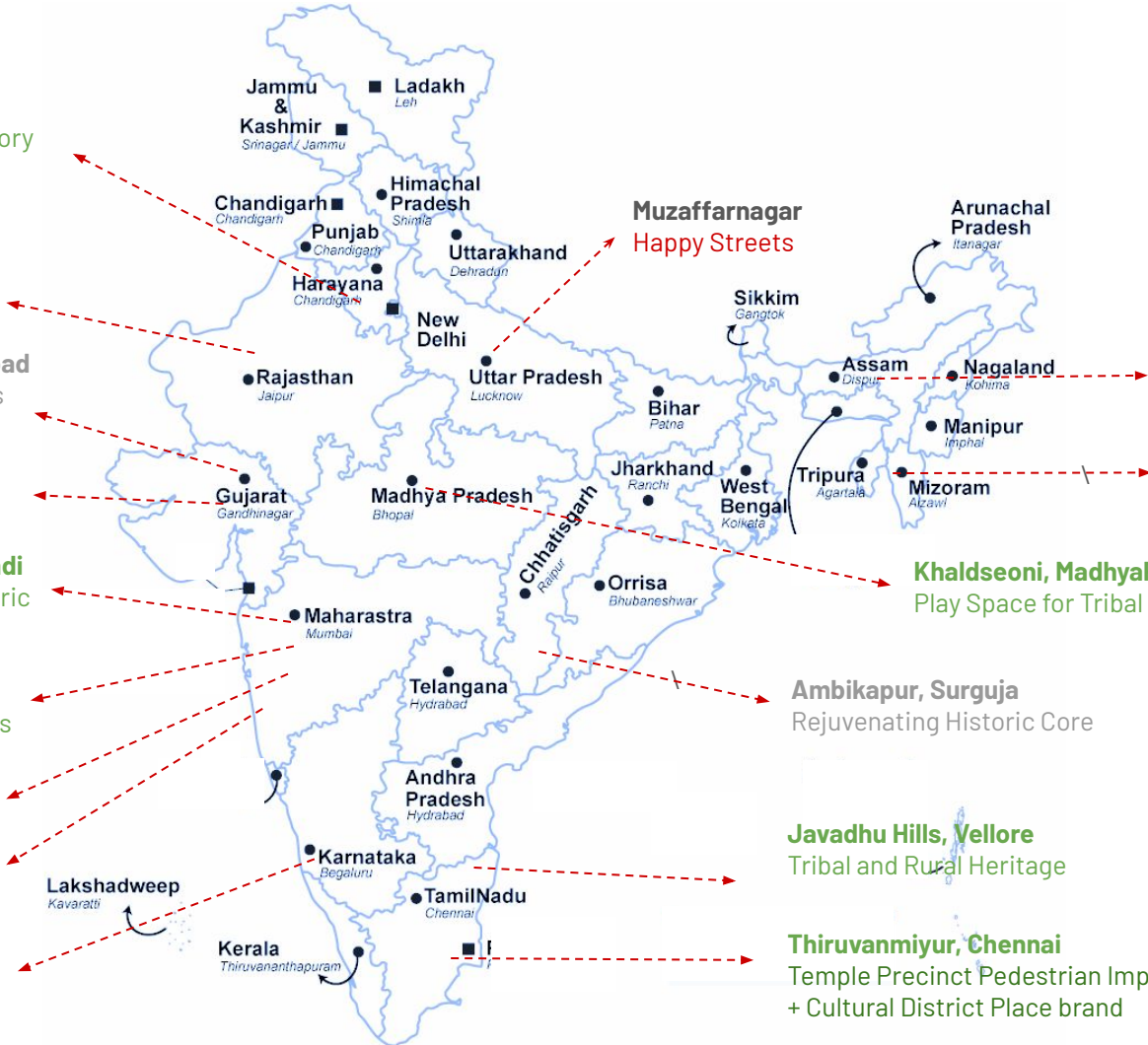
**Moti Talav, Sawantwadi**  
Street Redesign Historic  
Core

**Girgaum, Tardeo**  
Social Spaces in Slums

**Khar, Mumbai**  
Reviving Vacant lots

**Aurangabad**  
Bus Stop Heat Refuge

**North Bengaluru**  
Urban Heat Game  
Research



**16 Shortlists**  
**15 Cities**  
**5 Themes**  
**6 Phase 1 Projects**

**Karbi Anglong District**  
Oral History Mapping

**Aizawl**  
Bus Stop Placemaking

**Khalidseoni, Madhya Pradesh**  
Play Space for Tribal Youth

**Ambikapur, Surguja**  
Rejuvenating Historic Core

**Javadhu Hills, Vellore**  
Tribal and Rural Heritage

**Thiruvanniyur, Chennai**  
Temple Precinct Pedestrian Improvement  
+ Cultural District Place brand

# Our Impact So Far

Placemaking India has created a pool of projects that are spotlighted on local and international platforms, and connected with grants and potential donors.

## Connected with seed funding for 2 projects:

- Playscape in Jharkhand
- Thiruvanmiyur Heritage Precinct Corner Activation

## Created a working team for 2 projects:

- Jawadhu Hills, Tamilnadu
- Aurangabad Bus Stop, Heat Refuge

## Provided mentorship for 10 projects including:

- Raahat, Urban Heat Elements, Ahmedabad
- Happy Streets, MuzaffarNagar
- Rejuvenating Moti Talav, Sawantwadi
- Ambikapur historic core, Surguja



Source: Dhanya Rajagopal & Design Co:Lab

## Our Impact So Far: Orion Park

[Orion Park](#) in Jharkhand's coal belt received funding from a private donor and was inaugurated on January 26th 2025



PC: Sreejith Ajith

[Visit Carousel of Dreams Foundation](#)



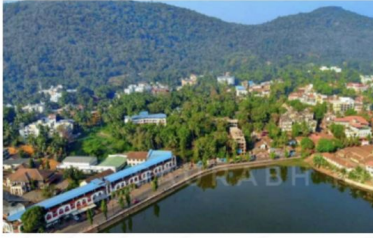
View Video

[Orion Park: Placemaking India Project Bank's first initiative](#)



# Our Impact So Far: Visibility on National & Global Platforms

**People | Place | Paani – Reimagining  
Sawantwadi's Moti Talav**  
Swarada Poyarekar, ThirtySquare



**Light in the Heart of Darkness: Transforming  
Santhal Country**

Sreejith Ajith, Carousel of Dreams



**Indigenous Placemaking in the Eastern Ghats**  
Kumareswari Rajendran, DCube



# **Shortlisted Projects 2025-26**

## 1. Digital People's Place Inventory Phase 2.0, New Delhi

**Details:** Partner with diverse women groups (seen now as Change Agents) to demonstrate planning knowledge (as obtained via the People Place Inventory) and to host a series of 'City-Logues' within their hyper-local contexts. This creates a space where deliberation occurs, fostering a positive and informed relationship with their city.

**Team:** [City Sabha](#), 7 women from Delhi's low-income settlement

### Nature of Assistance:

- Funding the "City-Logues" projects
- **Project Cost:** 5.8 Lakhs INR (6,873.64 USD)

**Themes:** Social Spaces, Low-income settlements, Wellbeing.

**View Details:** [People's Place Inventory – City Sabha](#)





## 1. Digital People's Place Inventory Phase 2.0, New Delhi



City Sabha - A grassroots organization co-developed a **People's Place Inventory (PPI)** to document and disseminate place-based narratives that locate marginalised identities, present realities, and future imaginings of people, often excluded from city plans and decision-making due to Delhi's top-down, male-dominant planning paradigm.

The City-logues project is an extension of this PPI.

## 2. Social Spaces in Slums, Girgaum, Tardeo, Mumbai

**Details:** Safe spaces for children, women and elderly in slum rehabilitation projects in Mumbai in 27 sq m rooms on the ground floor of Slum Redevelopment Authority (SRA) buildings. Opportunity for introducing in other SRA settlements. Exploring Placemaking as a tool for demonstrating policy changes.

**Team:** [PLURAL](#)

### **Nature of Assistance:**

- Collaboration of social NGOs for this project
- Project Cost For funding two units: 17 lakhs INR (19,515 USD)

**Themes:** Social Spaces, Low-income settlements, Wellbeing.



Source: PLURAL

### 3. Pedestrian Friendly Temple Precinct, Chennai, Tamilnadu

**Details:** Community-led cultural district rebranding of heritage precinct, including pilot corner activation, clean-up and signage. Long-term plans include parking management and permanent pedestrian pathway.

**Team:** Dhanya Rajagopal, Design Co:Lab, Thiruvannamiyur Sangam (CBO)

**Nature of Assistance:** Funding pilot improvements, assistance for parking management plan, partnership.

**Pilot Project Cost:** 4.7 Lakhs INR (5500 USD)

**Upgrades to all 4 side:** 22,000 USD

**Themes:** Cultural precinct, Parking, Safe Streets, Walkability improvement.

**View Video:** [Project Thiruvannamiyur Mada Street](#)



Source: Design Co:Lab and Dhanya Rajagopal





### 3. Pedestrian Friendly Temple Precinct, Chennai, Tamilnadu



#### Progress So far:

- Raised 1 lakh INR through Socratus Collective Wisdom
- Parking Management Proposal discussed with Urban Works Institute
- Invited to present at the Bologna International Parklet Symposium, 2024
- Connected with industry leader in street design advocacy for collaboration
- Connected with local MLA, community organizations and residents
- Created a public engagement video.
- Exploring a Neighbourhood Lab idea

#### 4. Sensory Playscapes in underserved areas, Madhya Pradesh /Pan India

**Details:** Addressing the lack of quality public spaces for children in regions that are underserved or subject to civil unrest. Sensory playscapes using materials like cob, recycled wood, metal and tyres in 10 high-need zones in North and North East of India.

**Team:** [Carousel of Dreams Foundation](#)

**Nature of Assistance:** Funding playscapes, assisting with NbS integration.

**Funding:** 4,00,000/- INR (4684 USD).  
[Milaap Crowdfund Link](#)

**Themes:** Rural Placemaking, Equal Play, Child-friendly public realm.



Playscape for Tribal Youth, Khandseoni, Madhya Pradesh





#### 4. Sensory Playscapes in underserved areas, Madhya Pradesh /Pan India



### Progress So Far

- Set up a crowdfunding page
- Raised INR 25,100 through individual donors
- Funded a previous playscape in Jharkhand successfully and implemented it



## 5. Moti Talav Historic Core Vision, Sawantwadi, Maharashtra

**Details:** Documenting and upgrading the bazaar and Chitari Street in Sawantwadi, home to artisan community specialising in wooden toys. Pilot walking tour curation.

**Team:** Swarada Poyarekar, Thirty Square

**Nature of Assistance:** Funding for streetscape design development, documentation, walking tour.

Grants & Proposal writing.

**Funding:** 4,20,000/- INR (5031 USD) + 10%.

**Themes:** Creative Economy, Arts, Waterfront, Sustainable Tourism



Market Street



GI Tagged Chitari card game



Local wooden toys

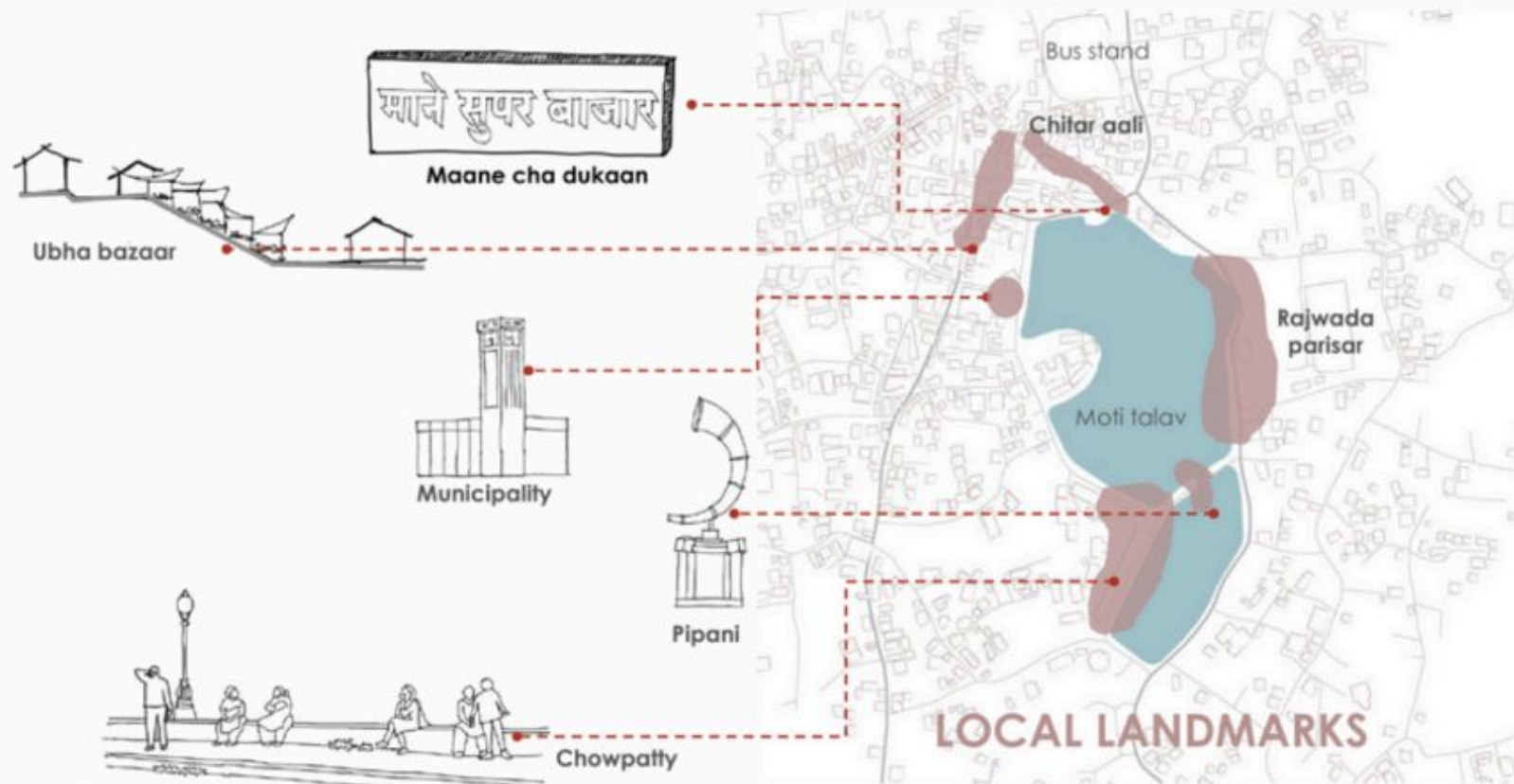
## 5. Moti Talav Historic Core Vision, Sawantwadi, Maharashtra



### Progress So Far

- Connected with key stakeholders
  - The Royal Family of Sawantwadi
  - Sawantwadi Municipal Council
  - Chitari Artists community
  - MTDC: State Tourism Department
- Connected with project mentorship resources
- Locating grant resources for Market street documentation
- Creating a vision document presented at the Placemaking Weekend India 2025

# PLACE IDENTITY & ASSOCIATION





## 6. Rural Livelihood & Documentation, Jawadhu Hills, Vellore, Tamilnadu

**Details:** Oral history documentation, Sanitation improvements in Melpattu Village school, and a community resource center in Jawadhu Hills, TamilNadu.

**Longterm:** UNESCO Cultural Landscape tag for Jawadhu Hills

**Team:** Kumareshwari Rajendran - Principal Architect  
DCube, Mannagam Foundation, Earth Matters Architecture

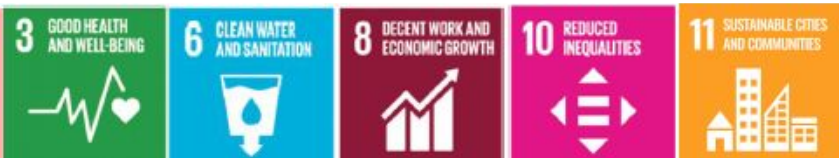
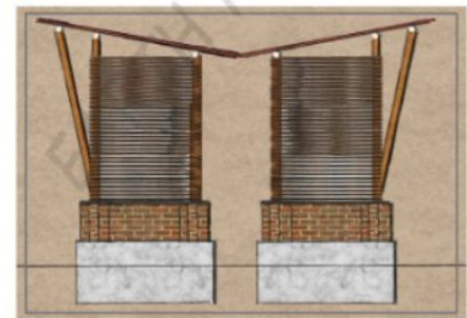
**Nature of Assistance:** Funding, Partnership and Grants, UNESCO Cultural Landscape Recognition

**Total Budget:** 13,20,000/- INR (15000 USD)

**Themes:** Rural Placemaking, indigenous knowledge, Cultural landscape, Heritage-based livelihoods.



Proposed sustainable toilet block model



## 6. Rural Development & Documentation, Jawadhu Hills, Vellore, Tamilnadu



### Progress So far:

- Matched with mentors in the sector
- Proposed plan for Youth Entrepreneurship program with local NGO
- Advisory on Documentation and Archiving of Jawadhu Hills cultural landscape and research
- Advisory and steps for UNESCO Cultural Landscape Tag
- Locating grants for documentation, community building and toilet block building.
- Long-term PhD research on Jawadhu Hills



## Member Contributors



Preeti Prada Panigrahi  
(New Delhi)

Director, Programs  
Socratus Foundation



Sandeep Venkataramu  
(Bengaluru)

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Arcadis



Srikanth KS  
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Principal  
Kriyakalpa Design  
Consultants



Varun Patra  
(Mumbai)

Co-Founder  
Homegrown

## Project Bank Team



Vineeta Shetty  
(Pune/ Barcelona)

Founding Convenor  
Placemaking India



Dhanya Rajaopal  
(Chennai/Warsaw)

Project Bank Administrator  
Placemaking India



## **SUPPORT LOCAL IMPACT**

**Grassroots-led Placemaking rooted in hyper-local needs are often invisible & under-resourced.**

**We wish to change that by tapping into the collective power of our network of civically engaged Placemakers.**

**Consider supporting these shortlisted projects by contributing to the Pilot Project Bank Fund.**

**SCAN & PAY**



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*90% of all project budget goes towards implementation*