



Project Bank 2025-26

Overview: Placemaking Project Bank

Since 2024 we've been on an experimental mission to thematically collectivise projects across India to:



Address a funding gap in **hyper-local** public realm projects that can be scaled in other locations.

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.

Implement tangible, impactful projects beyond convenings & conferences.



Provide visibility for projects that need advocacy, grant writing support, & resources to get started.

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

Emerging Project Focus Areas

- 4 Social Spaces & Safe Streets
- 3 Revitalizing Cultural & Heritage Precincts
- 2 Urban Heat & Climate Action
- 2 Waterfront & Nature-based
- 2 Tribal & Rural Livelihoods
- 2 Participatory Data and Rights

15 Shortlists
15 Cities
5 Themes
8 Phase 1 Projects

New Delhi/Citywide
 People's Place Repository

Kota, Rajasthan
 Reimagining Chambal
 Grey Water network

Mani Nagar, Ahmedabad
 Markets, School Zones

Ahmedabad/Agra
 Heat Refuge Elements

Moti Talav, Sawantwadi
 Street Redesign Historic
 Core

Girgaum, Tardeo
 Social Spaces in Slums

Khar, Mumbai
 Reviving Vacant lots

Aurangabad
 Bus Stop Heat Refuge

Muzaffarnagar
 Happy Streets

Karbi Anglong District
 Oral History Mapping

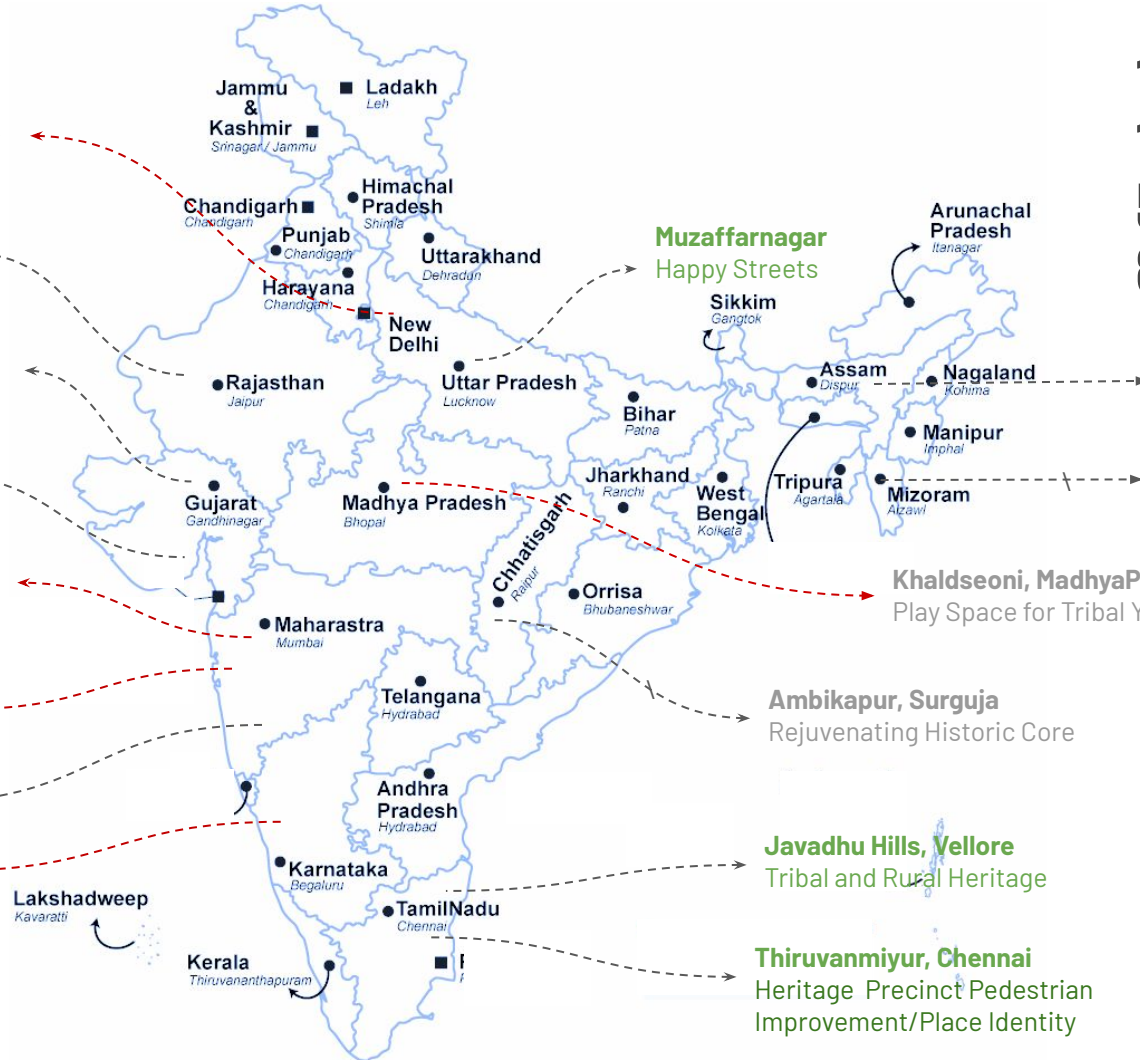
Aizawl
 Bus Stop Placemaking

Khaldeoni, Madhya Pradesh
 Play Space for Tribal Youth

Ambikapur, Surguja
 Rejuvenating Historic Core

Javadhu Hills, Vellore
 Tribal and Rural Heritage

Thiruvanniyur, Chennai
 Heritage Precinct Pedestrian
 Improvement/Place Identity



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
- Thiruvanniyur 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



Project Thiruvanniyur Mada Street Pilot Event Funded by Socratus Foundation

Source: Dhanya Rajagopal & Pavithra Sriram

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



[Visit Carousel of Dreams Foundation](#)



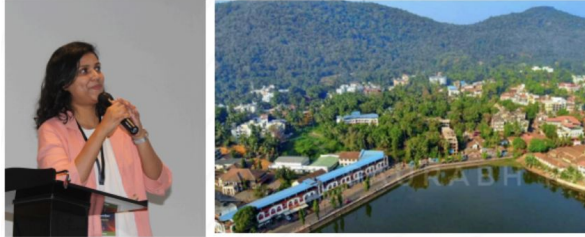
View Video

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

PC: Sreejith Ajith

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



Member Contributors



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(New Delhi)
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Srikanth KS
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Homegrown

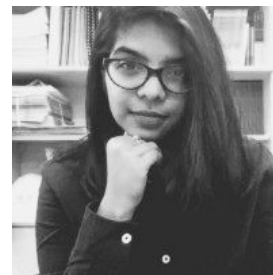
Placemaking India Project Bank Team



Priyank Shah
(Vadodra, Gujarat)
Meraki Design studio



Vineeta Shetty
(Pune/Barcelona)
The Smart Citizen



Dhanya Rajaopal
(Chennai/Warsaw)
The Thinking Cauldron

SHORTLISTED PROJECTS 2025-26

1. Digital People's - Place Inventory 2.0, 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) (90% of your contributions goes directly towards implementing the project)

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



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

CITY
सभा



1. Digital People's - Place Inventory 2.0, 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. Happy Streets Muzaffarnagar, UP



Details: Pedestrian friendly linear public space design to improve a neglected nallah (covered recently) behind rowhouses into a linear public space parallel to a commercial district

Location: Gaushala Road, New Mandi, Muzaffarnagar, UP

Team: Virasat Rasa- Aditya jain, Meenal Mittal and Anshika Dhiman

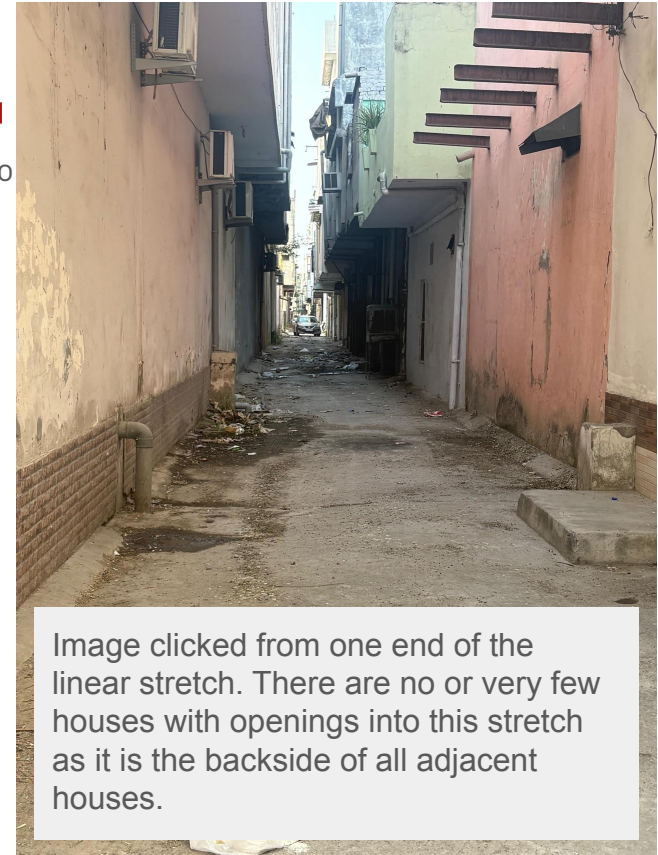
Nature of Assistance: Funding and Liaising with local authorities

Themes: Urban Play, Public Space, Safety and cleanliness, Accessibility

Progress So far:

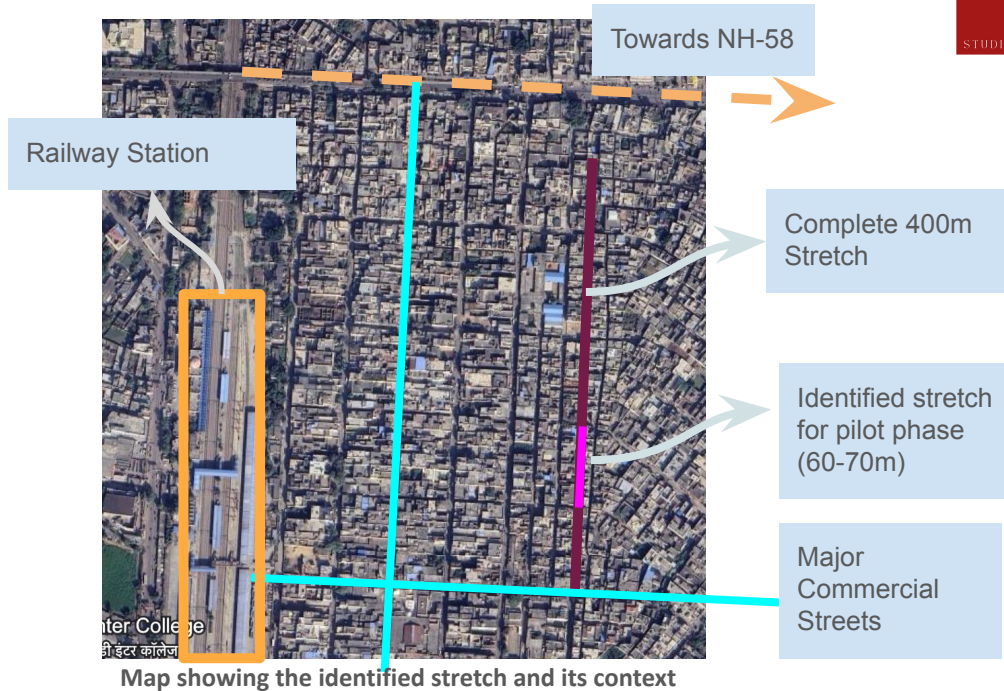
- Engaged with residents
- Identified the pilot stretch, which can be replicated and leveraged to develop full 400 m stretch and other locations within the city.

Estimated Fund Required (in INR): Rs. 4.5 lakh(2 for implementation; 2.5 for design-DPR bank development)



Source: Aditya Jain

2. Happy Streets Muzaffarnagar, UP



Next Steps:

1. Initiating conversation with potential collaborators.
2. Developing a design bank/ pool (with DPR) of similar projects for the local authority to select projects from.
3. Funding for implementation and development of Design bank via CSR



Engaging with stakeholders from other potential locations within the city.

S Narrow stretch with poor vehicle access and no parking potential; better suited as a pedestrian-friendly public space.

W Existing litter on stretch and condition of wall surfaces of adjacent houses.

O Location of the stretch is adjacent to commercial streets and food joints. No similar stretch exists.

T Readiness of the local authorities since no similar community/ urban play/ public place focused project exist within the city.

3. Raahat Heat Refuge Elements, Agra/Ahmedabad

Details: Using local materials like terracotta, cardboard and passive design to create urban street components that provide heat refuge in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Agra (UP)

Team: Mani Chauhan

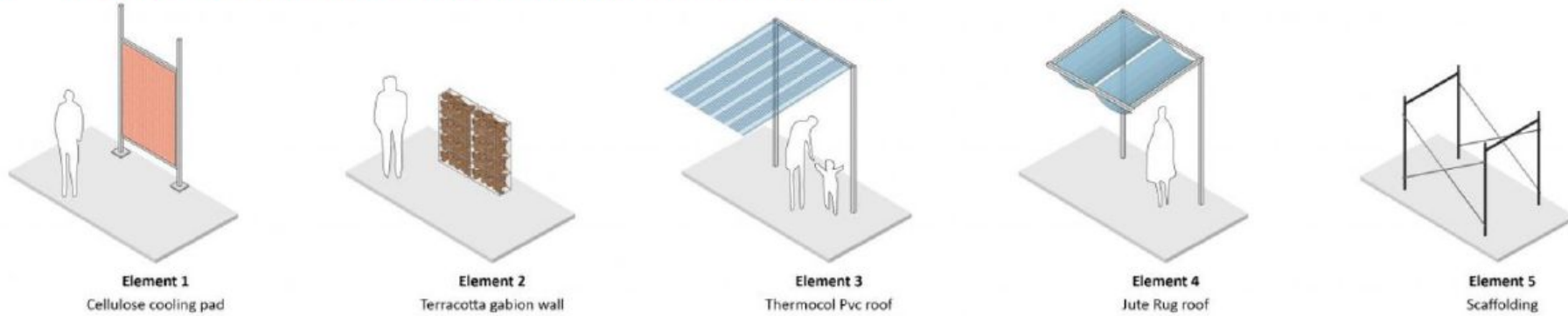
[Rahat : the urban coolers | CEPT - Portfolio](#)

Nature of assistance: Funding for Implementation (TBD), programming partnership, Outreach.

Themes: Heat Mitigation, Public Health



3. Raahat Heat Refuge Elements, Ahmedabad/Agra



Student Thesis Project

[Rahat : the urban coolers | CEPT - Portfolio](#)

Progress So Far:

1. Connected with Mentors in the Urban Heat Sector to chart longterm project plan.
2. Connected with a space to help with prototyping.
3. Identifying other location and use cases such as Anganwadi's and Government Schools.
4. Suggested few grant and funding pathways.

4. Social Spaces in Slums, Girgaum, Tardeo, Mumbai

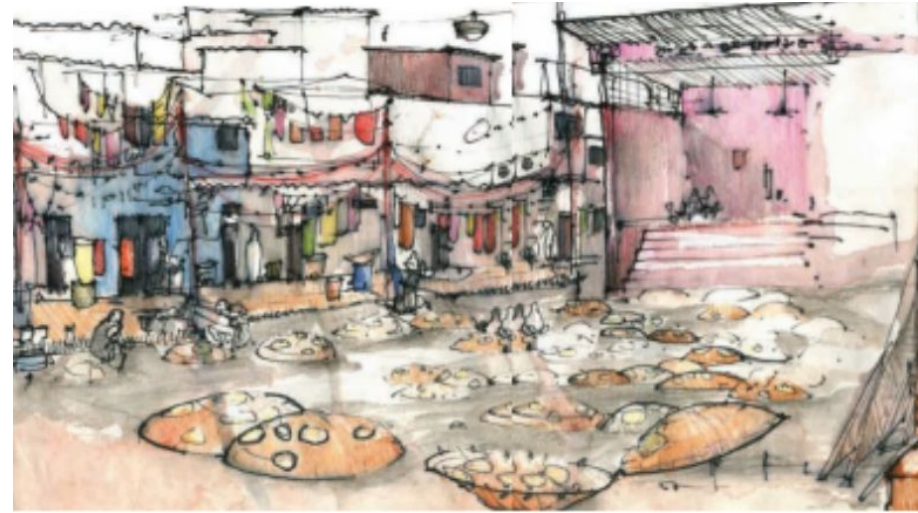
Details: Safe spaces for children, women and elderly in slum rehabilitation projects in Mumbai in 27 sq m rooms on the ground floor of Slum Redevelopment Authority (SRA) buildings. Opportunity for introducing in other SRA settlements. Exploring Placemaking as a tool for demonstrating policy changes.

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

4. Social Spaces in Slums, Girgaum, Tardeo, Mumbai



- Placemaking is a process not a product
- A tool to address complex, intangible community challenges
- A catalyst for leading change initiatives

5. Heat Responsive Bus Shelter, Chatrapati Sambhajinagar, Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Details: The lack of shade in a very important transit hub in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad), Maharashtra is posing a health hazard for residents in Aurangabad, where temperatures soared to 42 degrees Celcius in April 2026. The project is seeking sponsors to support the user experience improvement, and urban health emergency infrastructure. This pilot will help initiate similar heat infrastructure in the city.

Team: Aurangabad Smart City, (Arpita Sharad)

Nature of Assistance:

- **Funding** the bus shelter implementation in this location
- Match with **Sponsors** who want to advertise on the bus stop
- **Estimated Project Cost:** 50 Lakhs INR (90% of your contributions goes directly towards implementing the project)

Themes: Climate action, Transport and mobility, health



5. Heat Responsive Bus Shelter, Chatrapati Sabhajinagar, Aurangabad, Maharashtra



Progress So Far:

1. Connected with Mentors in the Urban Heat Sector
2. Identified pilot locations to introduce heat mitigation materials in the design
3. In the meanwhile, **tactical features like Shamyana and clay with water pot can be included.**

6. 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 Chitari streetscape design, 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

6. Moti Talav Historic Core Vision, Sawantwadi, Maharashtra



Progress So Far

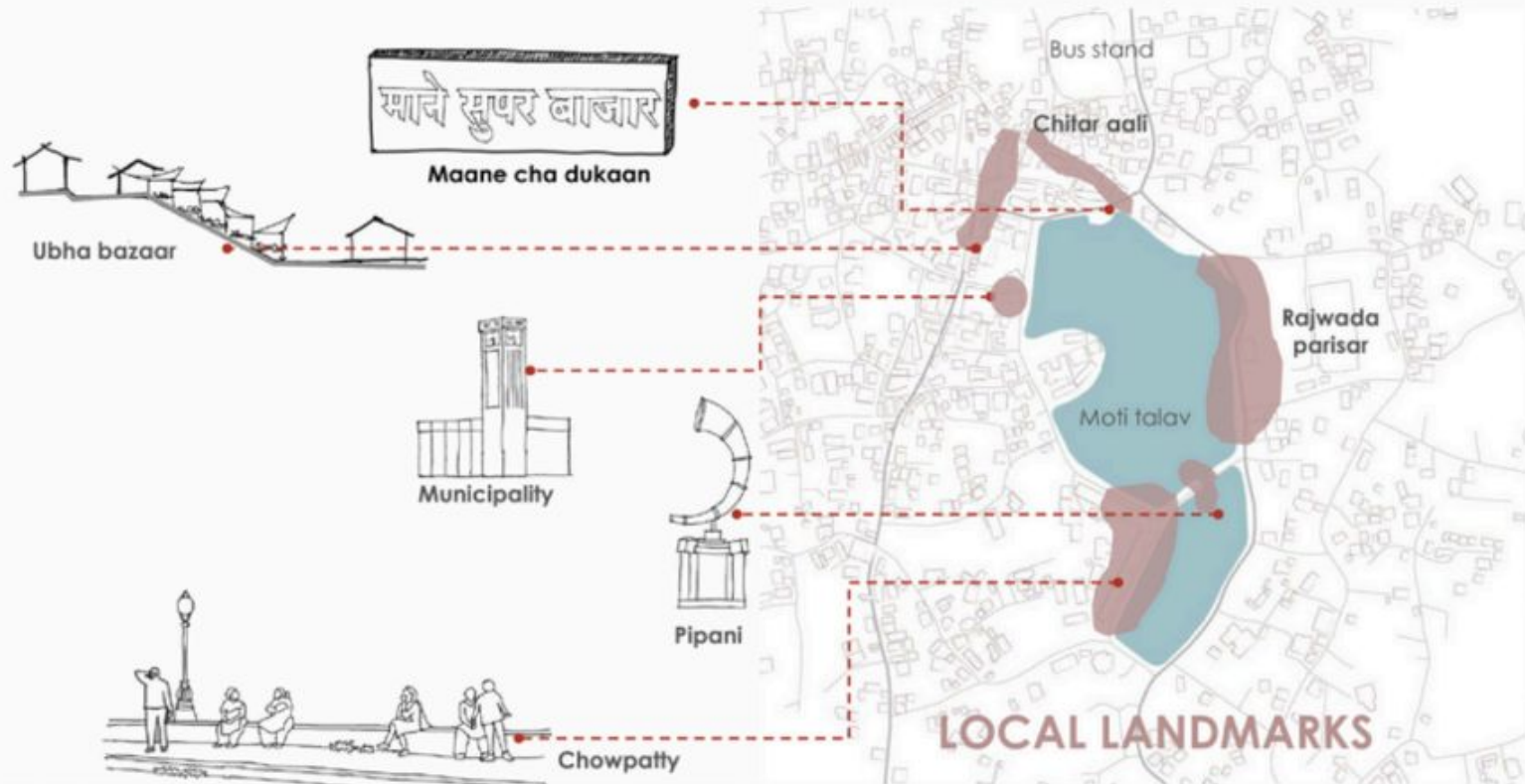
- Connected with key stakeholders
 - The Royal Family of Sawantwadi
 - Sawantwadi Municipal Council
 - Chitari Artists community
 - MTDC: State Tourism Department

Next Steps

- Funding for Chitari Artist Street documentation & design development
- Historic street heritage walk

6. Moti Talav Historic Core Vision, Sawantwadi, Maharashtra

PLACE IDENTITY & ASSOCIATION



7. Rural Livelihood & Documentation, Jawadhu Hills, Tamilnadu

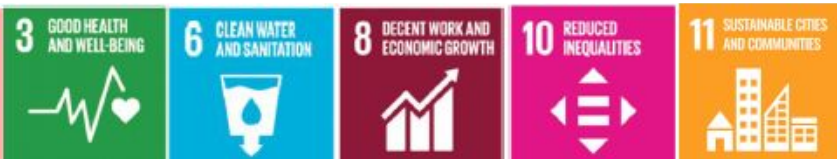
Details: Oral history documentation, community hall construction in Melpattu Village school. Livelihood training opportunity through Lantana Products & materials for construction materials. Jawadhu is home to a former observatory and is a destination for stargazing.

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

Nature of Assistance: Funding, Partnership and Grants, UNESCO Cultural Landscape Recognition.
Potential to GI tag Lantana Camara Products

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

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



7. Rural Livelihood & Documentation, Jawadhu Hills, Tamilnadu



Lantana Camara invasive Species to products for local livelihoods



Progress So far:

- Jan 2026: Visit to Jawadhu hills by Priyank Shah & Vineeta Shetty.
- 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 for UNESCO Cultural Landscape Tag

Sustainable Livelihoods : Local indigenous communities sometimes utilize invasive plants like Lantana for income, creating, for example, furniture and decorative items from its wood.

8. Thiruvanimiyur Heritage Streets, 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, Pavithra Sriram

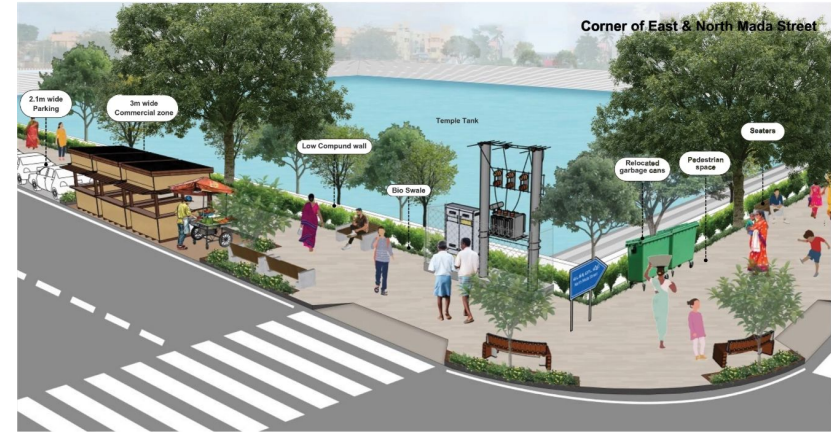
Nature of Assistance: Funding pilot improvements, assistance for parking management plan, partnership.

Phase 1 Cost: 4.7 Lakhs INR (5500 USD)

Upgrades to all 4 side: 22,000 USD

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

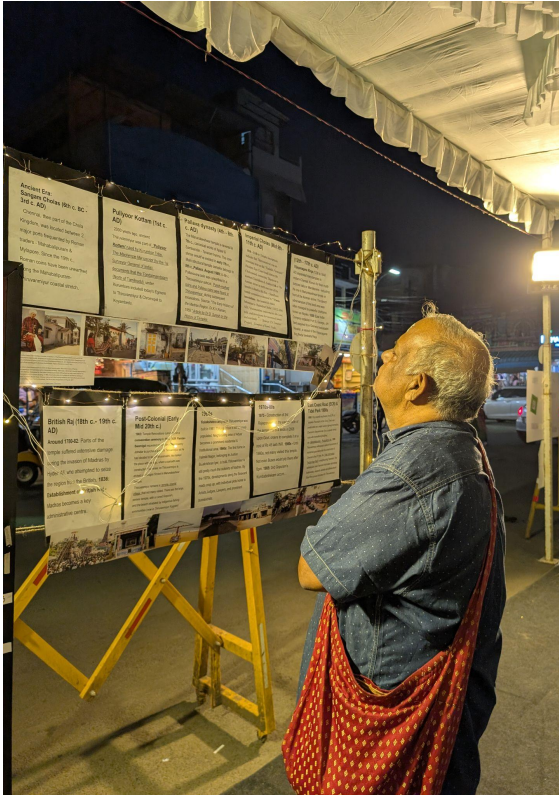
View Video: [Project Thiruvanimiyur Mada Street](#)



Tell us what you think – write it here!



8. 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

8. Pedestrian Friendly Temple Precinct, Chennai, Tamilnadu



Our unique participatory design process at the pilot event has received a positive media & public response beyond Thiruvanniyur.. This visibility and momentum present a perfect scenario to push for permanent implementation.

SUPPORT LOCAL IMPACT

Scan QR to Contribute



As a community, we are committed to being active facilitators of change.

Placemaking rooted in hyper-local needs are often invisible & under-resourced. We wish to change that by tapping into our network of civically engaged practitioners!

Consider contributing to
Placemaking India Project Bank Fund
and support these shortlisted projects.