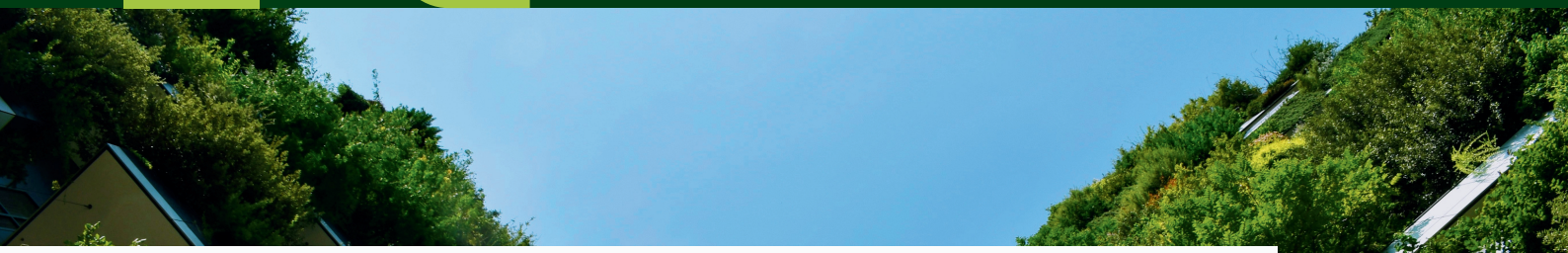
BRAINSTORMING SESSION & PANEL DISCUSSION

SSM Priority Area : Environment & Ecology in Delhi

Urban Greening and Air Quality in Delhi :

Problems, Interventions and Technology Enabled Policy Frameworks

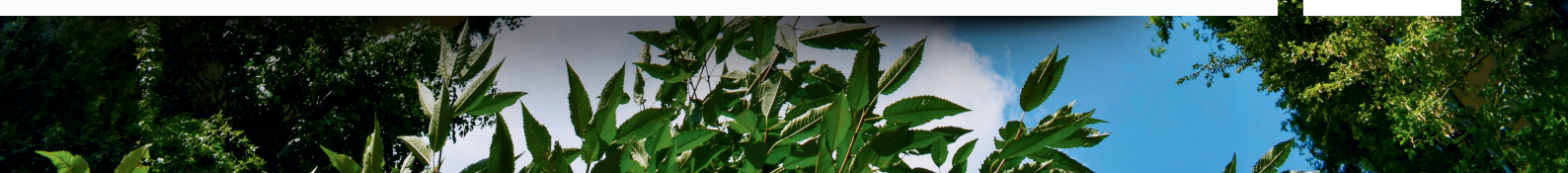


Date : 1st September 2026 (Tuesday)

Venue : Seminar Hall, Administrative Block, GGS Indraprastha University, Sector-16C, Dwarka, New Delhi

ORGANISED BY :
Lead Knowledge Institution (LKI),
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU), New Delhi
Under the State Support Mission of NITI Aayog

In association with
Centre for Sustainability and Climate Change,
University School of Environment Management



About Lead Knowledge Institution- Delhi

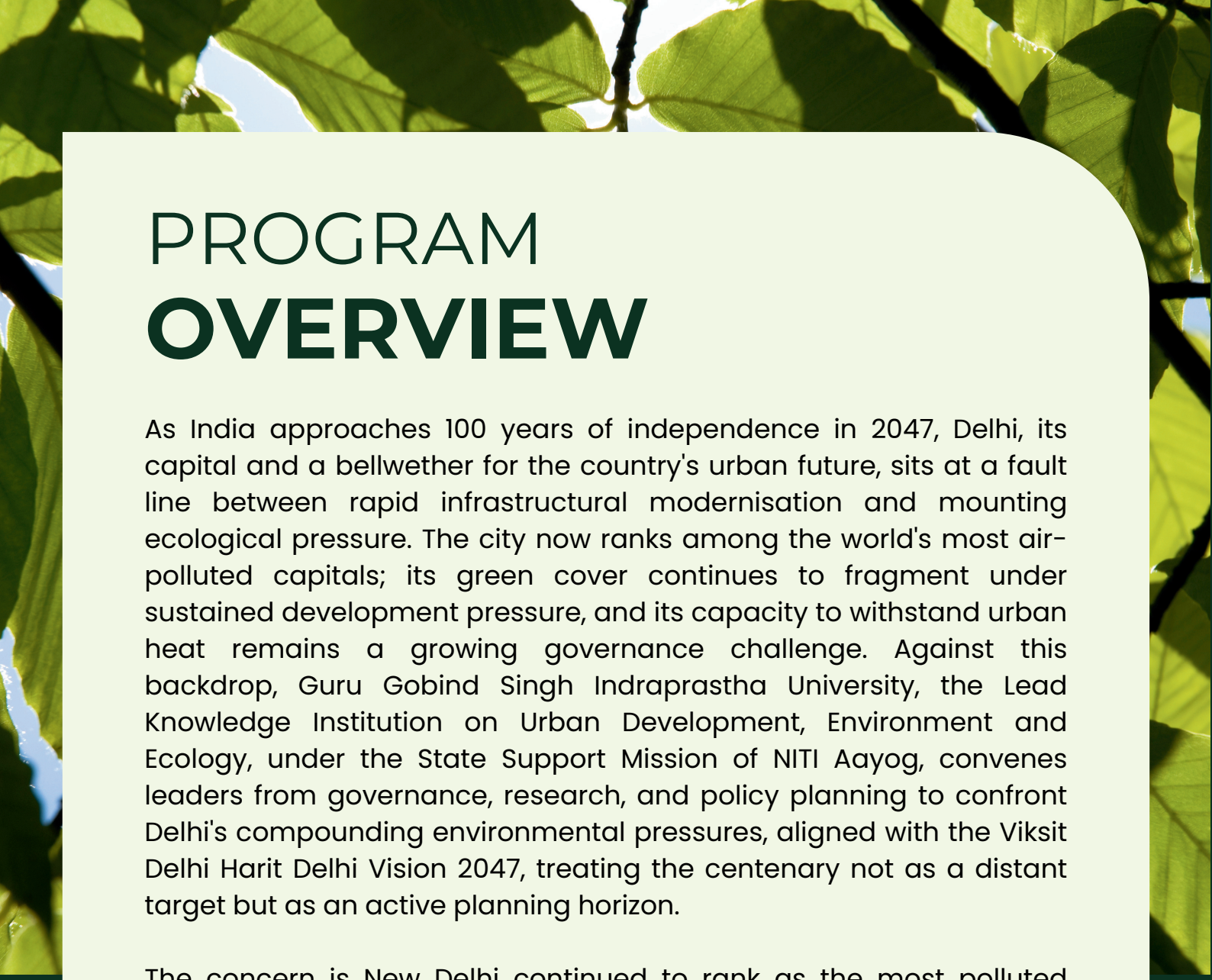
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) has been designated as the Lead Knowledge Institution (LKI) under the State Support Mission (SSM) of NITI Aayog by the Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD). The University is providing research-based knowledge and policy support for the development of the State Vision for Viksit Delhi @2047. In this role, GGSIPU facilitates collaboration among academic and research institutions, organizes capacity-building programmes, documents best practices, and provides research support for sustainable and inclusive development.

About GGSIPU

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU), established in 1998 by the Government of NCT of Delhi, is a premier institution of higher education. Recognised by the UGC under Section 12B of the UGC Act, the University promotes excellence in teaching, research and extension activities across diverse professional fields. GGSIPU has been accredited with an A++ Grade by NAAC for seven years. It was ranked 93rd among Indian universities in NIRF 2025, placed among top 1000 Universities of the world by QS World University Ranking 2026 as well as THE World University Rankings 2026.

About Centre for Sustainability and Climate Change, University School of Environment Management GGSIPU

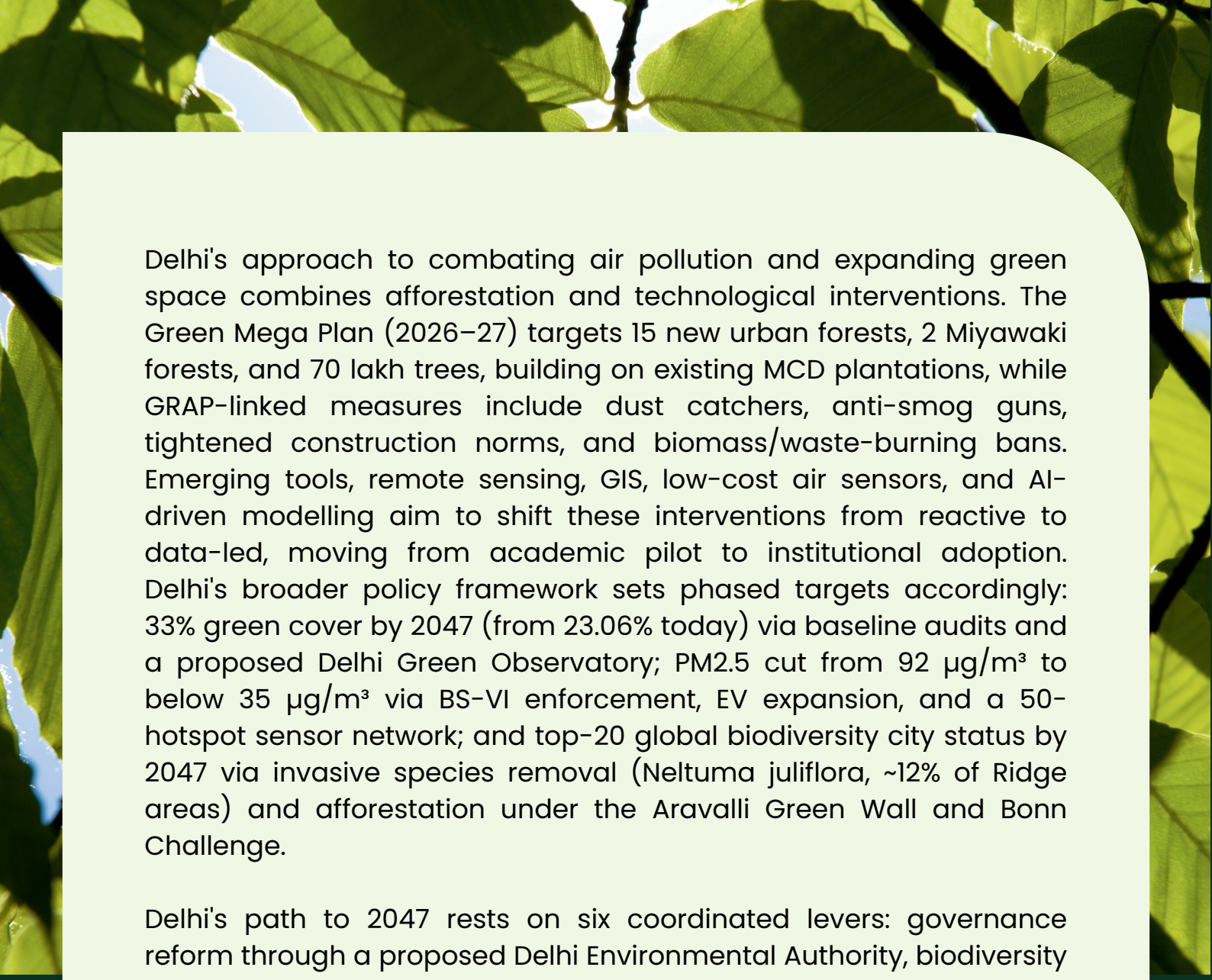
The Centre for Sustainability and Climate Change (CSCC), USEM, established in April 2023, promotes interdisciplinary research, innovation and education to address climate change challenges. The Centre develops evidence-based and sustainable solutions through research, collaboration and stakeholder engagement, while advancing climate resilience and nurturing future sustainability leaders.



PROGRAM **OVERVIEW**

As India approaches 100 years of independence in 2047, Delhi, its capital and a bellwether for the country's urban future, sits at a fault line between rapid infrastructural modernisation and mounting ecological pressure. The city now ranks among the world's most air-polluted capitals; its green cover continues to fragment under sustained development pressure, and its capacity to withstand urban heat remains a growing governance challenge. Against this backdrop, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, the Lead Knowledge Institution on Urban Development, Environment and Ecology, under the State Support Mission of NITI Aayog, convenes leaders from governance, research, and policy planning to confront Delhi's compounding environmental pressures, aligned with the Viksit Delhi Harit Delhi Vision 2047, treating the centenary not as a distant target but as an active planning horizon.

The concern is New Delhi continued to rank as the most polluted capital city in the world for the eighth consecutive year (World Air Quality Report 2025), with PM2.5 levels often exceeding ten times the WHO safe limit. Its green space tells a more complex story with uneven distribution, invasive species and reducing biodiversity and resilience; the citywide per capita average (21.34 m^2) exceeds the WHO's minimum yet masks severe inequity, with informal settlements largely deprived of ecological access and much of the existing cover non-native with limited carbon value and lack of focus on utility plants (medicinal and high carbon sequestration value). Forest cover has slightly declined even as tree cover improved (ISFR 2023), leaving the city short of both its own 33% target and MoEFCC's national 30% benchmark. Governance continues to treat these as separate crises rather than a compounding system, and policy remains disconnected from ground-level ecological data.



Delhi's approach to combating air pollution and expanding green space combines afforestation and technological interventions. The Green Mega Plan (2026–27) targets 15 new urban forests, 2 Miyawaki forests, and 70 lakh trees, building on existing MCD plantations, while GRAP-linked measures include dust catchers, anti-smog guns, tightened construction norms, and biomass/waste-burning bans. Emerging tools, remote sensing, GIS, low-cost air sensors, and AI-driven modelling aim to shift these interventions from reactive to data-led, moving from academic pilot to institutional adoption. Delhi's broader policy framework sets phased targets accordingly: 33% green cover by 2047 (from 23.06% today) via baseline audits and a proposed Delhi Green Observatory; PM2.5 cut from 92 µg/m³ to below 35 µg/m³ via BS-VI enforcement, EV expansion, and a 50-hotspot sensor network; and top-20 global biodiversity city status by 2047 via invasive species removal (Neltuma juliflora, ~12% of Ridge areas) and afforestation under the Aravalli Green Wall and Bonn Challenge.

Delhi's path to 2047 rests on six coordinated levers: governance reform through a proposed Delhi Environmental Authority, biodiversity and climate resilience through native restoration and urban cooling infrastructure, resource efficiency through water and energy retrofits, pollution control through stricter emissions and bringing more urban ecosystem service available and stakeholder's participation. Public engagement is the umbrella strategy to sustain these gains beyond any single policy cycle. This brainstorming workshop brings together the institutions through leaders, subject experts, researchers, policymakers and for providing perspectives needed to critically examine this roadmap while addressing the SDG 11 (make cities more adequate, safe, resilient and sustainable), building shared understanding and momentum toward Delhi meeting its centenary as a genuine benchmark for sustainable urban transformation.

OBJECTIVES

01 Creating a platform for discussion and information sharing with stakeholders on Urban Greening and Air Quality in Delhi

02 Analysing the problems, interventions, technologies and policy frameworks

03 Future planning for addressing Urban Greening and Air Pollution in Delhi



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Date : 1st September 2026 (Tuesday)

Venue : Seminar Hall, Administrative Block, GGS Indraprastha University, Sector-16C, Dwarka, New Delhi

Time	Event Speaker/Presenter Details
9:30 AM onwards	Registration of participants
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Lighting of the Ceremonial Lamp
	Address by Padma Shri Awardee Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma, Vice Chancellor, GGSIPU
	Breif about Lead Knowledge Institution (LKI) – NITI Aayog State Support Mission, Delhi by Prof. Gagan Deep Sharma, Chief Coordinator – LKI, GGSIPU
	Address by Dr. S.D. Attri, Expert Member, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), GoI, Delhi
	Presidential Address by Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Hon'ble Minister of Food & Supplies, Industry, Forest & Environment, GNCTD
	Vote of Thanks by Ms. Shikha Agarwal, Nodal Officer, LKI-Delhi, GGSIPU
	Group photograph
11:00 – 11:15 AM	High Tea

11:15 – 01:30 PM	**Thematic Session 1 : Urban Greening, Needs, Status and Future Strategy**	
11:15 – 11:30 PM	Lead Presentation	Prof. Prodyut Bhattacharya, Head at Centre for Sustainability and Climate Change, USEM, GGSIPU, Delhi
11:30 – 01:30 PM	Expert Panel Discussion	Sh. Chetan Aggarwal, Centre for Ecology, Development and Research (CEDAR) Sh. Vijay Dhasmana, Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Gurugram Dr. Jitendra Vir Sharma, Rtd. IFS, Sr. Director, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Delhi Sh. Prem Parivartan, Founder, Give Me Trees, Delhi Dr. G. V. Subrahmanyam, Former Advisor, MoEF&CC, GOI Prof. Meenakshi Dhote, School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Delhi

11:15 – 01:30 PM	**Thematic Session 2: Air Quality Condition: Status, Management Challenges, and Improvement Strategy**	
11:15 – 11:30 PM	Lead Presentation	Dr. S.D. Attri, Expert Member, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), GoI, Delhi
11:30 – 01:30 PM	Expert Panel Discussion	Prof. Prateek Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, DTU, Delhi Ms. Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director, Centre for Science and Environment, Delhi Prof. Ashish Aggarwal, IIM, Lucknow Prof. Chirashree Ghosh, Department of Environment Studies, University of Delhi Dr. B. Sengupta, Former Member Secretary, Central Polllution Control Board
01:30 – 01:45 PM	Recommendations and concluding session. Vote of Thanks-Prof. Prodyut Bhattacharya, Head, Centre for Sustainability and Climate Change, USEM, GGSIPU, Delhi	
	Lunch	

Mentor
Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma, Vice Chancellor, GGSIPU

LKI Core Committee
Prof. Gagan Deep Sharma, Chief Coordinator
Dr. Sudeep Kumar, Member
Prof. Sanjay Dhingra, Member
Ms. Shikha Agarwal, Deputy Registrar & Nodal Officer, LKI-Delhi

Registrar
Dr. Kamal Pathak

Program Convenor
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