

Prof. Jagan Shah

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Jagan Shah is Director of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India. NIUA has been at the forefront of urban policy and research for four decades. During Shah's tenure, the institute has embarked on a new programme of consolidation and innovation. NIUA's current portfolio includes research and capacity building on smart cities, urban design and planning, climate change resilience, sanitation and waste management, E-learning, urban data observatories and SmartNet, a solutions exchange. NIUA supports the implementation of all the urban Missions of the Government of India.

Shah provides leadership on all activities at NIUA, which include the Smart City Lab for CIDCO, Maharashtra, the South-Asia Urban Knowledge Hub supported by the ADB, the Child-Friendly Smart Cities Hub supported by the Bernard van Leer Foundation, the Sanitation Capacity Building Platform supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the technical support for the HRIDAY Mission supported by the World Bank & Cities Alliance, and the Innovation Hub for Water, Sanitation & Hygiene supported by USAID. The institute publishes two journals: Urban India and Environment & Urbanization Asia, a SAGE Journal.

Shah is a professional architect and architectural historian & theorist trained at the School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi, the University of Cincinnati and Columbia University in New York. He has taught courses in architectural design, fundamentals of urban design and architectural conservation. He has served as Dean and Director of the Sushant School of Architecture in Gurgaon.

In his early career, Shah divided time between teaching, writing, filmmaking and independent consultancy. He is the author of Contemporary Indian Architecture (2008), co-author of Building Beyond Borders (1995) and co-editor of Round (2006) a collection of Asian writings on architecture and planning. He is a founding member of the Modern Asian Architecture Network established in 2001. Between 1997 and 2002, he co-created two internationally acclaimed documentaries: Kumar Talkies and Pather Chujaeri: The Play is On. He received an Arts Research & Documentation grant from the India Foundation for the Arts (2004-06) to create a secondary archive on the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and has served as an expert member of the Theatre Infrastructure Cell (2009-10) at IFA. Shah has extensive experience in heritage-led livelihoods initiatives, which he developed for the Jaipur Virasat Foundation and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust. In 2005, he led a project supported by the Prince Charles Trust to revive the walled city of Jaipur, which triggered the past decade of urban work.

In 2006, Shah conducted the first ever Peer Review of the Delhi Master Plan 2021 commissioned by the Ministry of Urban Development. He was the first Chief Executive of Urban Space Consultants, a start-up that survived the global financial meltdown and was acquired by one of India's leading business houses in 2010. He has been advisor for City Development Plans in Madhya Pradesh and the urban design of 30 stations on the Delhi-Panipat and Delhi-Meerut lines of the Rapid Rail Transit System for the National Capital Region. He contributed to the Revision of the Regional Plan 2021 for the National Capital Region, and has served on the KC Sivaramakrishnan Committee (2014) for identifying a site for the new capital of Andhra Pradesh and the Madhukar Gupta Committee (2015) for amending the Delhi Development Act 1957. He is an Independent Director on the Board of Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Ltd. and a Trustee on the Board of Clean Air Asia.

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