

Urban Governance and Development Management (UGDM)
Prof. Uttam Kumar Roy
Department of Architecture and Planning
Indian Institute of Technology- Roorkee

Lecture – 40
Designing Urban Public Spaces

Welcome to lecture 40, in this lecture, we are going to discuss another very important crucial object of urban development that is urban public places. In this week we have been discussing few very critical elements like. We started in this week discussion on the urban environment in details we have discussed. In the last 2 lectures we have discussed about the traffic and transportation issues in the urban areas.

And today we are going to discuss the urban public places now what do you mean by urban public place and what kind of urban public places can be developed in our urban areas and what are the few design and planning gradually as those kinds of things will be covered in this lecture. So, briefly as I said that concept and categories of urban public places.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:14)

Contents

- ❖ Concept and Category of Urban Public Places ✓
- ❖ Examples and Significance of UPP
- ❖ Planning and Design
- ❖ Cases

Will be the first in today's lecture then some examples show with the significance of urban public place and some planning and design with some example that also I will show.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:28)

Concept and Category of Urban Public places

❖ A public space a common space usually open or semi open spaces created for community interaction and enjoyment

Basically the concept is a public space is defined by a common space usually it is open or semi open space created for community interaction and enjoyment. So, you can see the keywords written in the definition a public space is a common space. So, definitely it should be accessible for general people because it is a common public place and usually it is open or semi open space so that people can enter in and they can access and enjoy.

And mostly it is for community interaction social interactions and enjoyment now having said that I would like to show you different category before that. Let me show you that.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:13)

Why urban public places are required

- ❖ Social interaction leading to communal integrity
- ❖ Sharing of festivals and celebrations enhances exchanges and harmony
- ❖ Improved physical and mental health
- ❖ Reduced cases of disease and medical conditions
- ❖ Public Safety and security
- ❖ Better city Image to tourists and visitors

Why urban public places are required what do you think? What could be the reasons? One is we are all social animal human beings. And for that we need some amount of social interaction. So whenever we need that social interaction leading to communal integrity. That is what this possible through creation of urban public spaces than sharing of festivals and celebration enhances the exchanges and harmony.

In a country like India you know that there are several festivals celebrations throughout the year and every festivals and celebrations are the manifestation of the social integration. And this can happen in cities in various skills if there are variety of public places where people can come out from their house and use that place for the festivals and the celebration and improved physical and mental health.

It has been proved by various scientific studies that if the urban public spaces are around from your house. Then people tend more towards physical fitness they work a lot they interact with other people therefore they achieve physical and mental field health. So, this is another very important dimension of the urban public place the reduced cases of disease and medical conditions.

Because when a community and as an individual people or feet and healthy definitely the disease and the medical conditions will be much lesser then public safety and security in cities. If the people are there in the roads in the public places and these are the natural eye natural surveillance then the cases of theft and cases of all antisocial behaviour will be a much lesser definitely this will not eliminate the requirement of the law and order.

Arrangement like police etc but definitely we have seen in cities where the public places are better design and better utilized. They are the public safety and security is a major phenomenon then it also enhances the city image to tourists and the visitors. If we have a better public places the visitors and the tourists they come definitely they visit some accessible public places few museums few environmental or natural destinations in and around the cities.

So, this could be one of the destinations within the city and many cities they have created a few short few short loops of walkable tracks and walkable trips so that the visitors and the tourists they can have a short walk in the main areas and the at least attend or see and experience the public squares or public places and their environment. And now I will show some of the pictures.

(Refer Slide Time: 05:09)



This is a public place from the Egypt you can see the nature of the public places enclosed by a construction in two sites and remaining areas is utilized for the social integration. So, it is the urban public place is the phenomenon of the urban public place is not a new it is being practiced from ancient period. Let us see few other pictures to understand the phenomenon.

(Refer Slide Time: 05:41)



This picture I hope you have seen many a times this is a picture from the Greece Athens and that time they used to use the concept of Agora. Agora is basically market and social place and this is the main attraction of the Agora.

(Refer Slide Time: 06:07)



Which is pantheon and now you can see that this is the one artistic representation of the Agora where you can see the various structures and the connections of the urban public spaces. These kind of public spaces are there where you can see that people are interacting with each other. And also there are various kinds of other kind of activity related to business and the social purpose.

(Refer Slide Time: 06:41)



And this is another picture from Rome Colosseum this was built a long back and it was main purpose of the coliseum was to have public functions and there many people can attend basically this was the stadium that time made. So, this is another public places built that time.

(Refer Slide Time: 06:59)



This is another kind of public places inside the congested commercial areas in some of the places in Italy here you can see that one landmark feature. Landmark feature is there and one open space is there. So, open space and surrounded by various buildings and few other structures which is public convenience like parking like few structures and a few other structures are there and there are some pattern in the flooring.

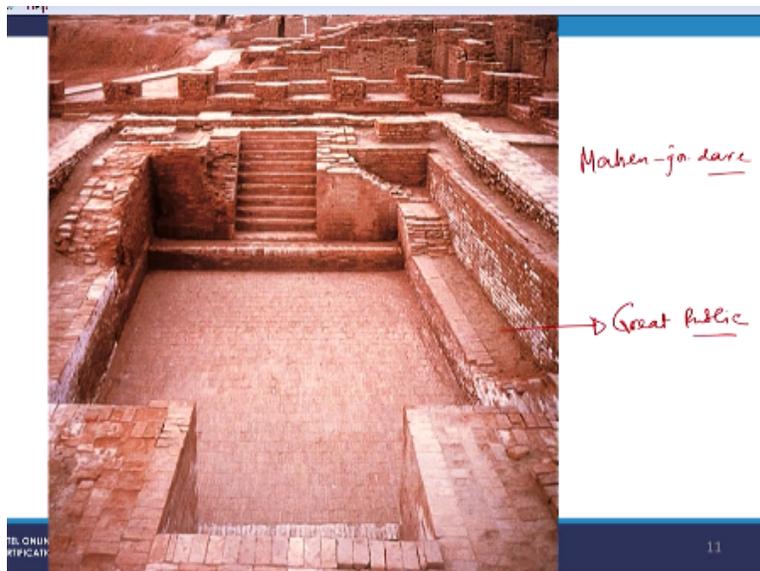
So, that it can guide people for the walking and two types of colour codes are there in the ground so these are a few phenomenon which acts and creates very interesting spaces for public places.

(Refer Slide Time: 07:49)



This is a similar public places from one of the cities from Peru you can see that again here it is not enclosed by two or three site but one site. It is enclosed by some landmark building, Landmark building with steps and green areas with fantastic settings and it is being used for both vehicle and the pedestrians as a public place.

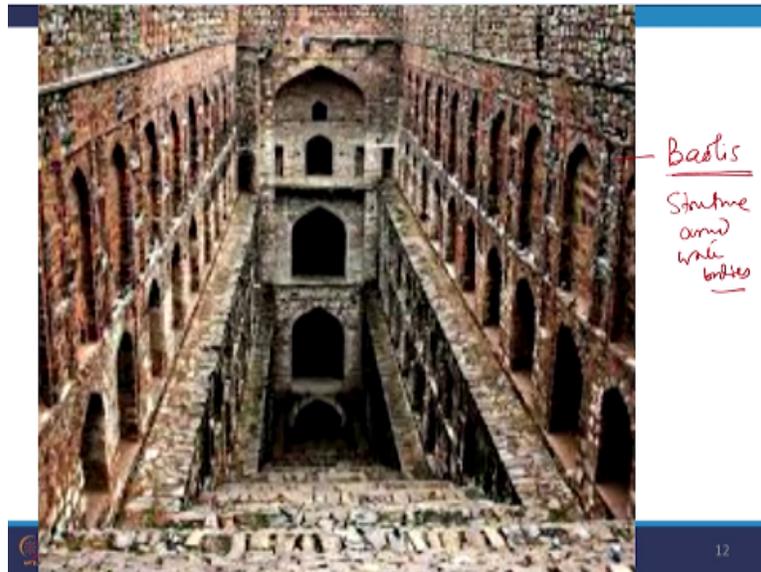
(Refer Slide Time: 08:22)



And this is the picture from the Mohenjo-Daro you know that Mohenjo-Daro is the Indus valley civilization 2500BC. And this is the example of the great bath public bath. So, this kind of public bath is not only for bathing but public interaction is to happen in this bath and this kind of a structured they could make in 2500 BC that means almost 4500 years back. So, this is a unique

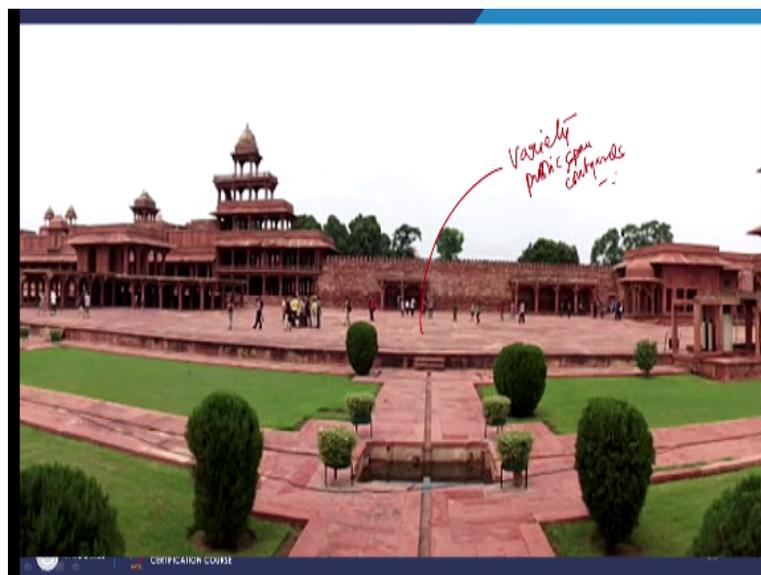
example what the Indus Valley civilization period people practiced. Next this is common picture of Baolis.

(Refer Slide Time: 09:06)



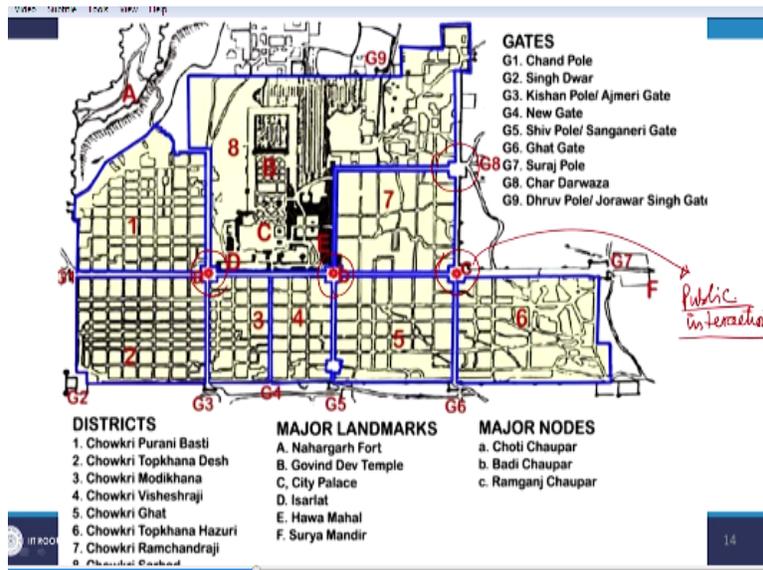
Baolis are the one of the very important example in the ancient and the later period where people use to create structures like this around the water bodies. So, Baolis are basically structure around water bodies so purpose of Baolis was basically extraction of the water social interaction and the passive climate control at the local level. Those kind of advantage they used to get from the Baolis especially this is a very common feature in the northern India.

(Refer Slide Time: 09:48)



And this I hope you know that this is the great city of Fatehpur Sikri. Fatehpur Sikri has multiple kind of public places and connected open spaces which is creating a fantastic public realm. So, this kind of variety of public open space public space courtyard are connected with each other and that is creating a kind of pedestrians paradise in the Fatehpur Sikri.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:22)



And then this is a plan of city of Jaipur this was one of the plan township during the ancient India and here you can see that in the road intersection they call it as Chaupar. And this Chaupar is basically not only the road intersection the Chaupar is also main for public interaction and some amount of business also. So, this kind of design element was every level in the township like Jaipur which was designed by Indians in India.

So, this is nothing new in India also there are many examples in contemporary India and other cities now let us see that. What kind of urban public spaces could be there in our city first is that there could be a parks and playgrounds. Parks and playgrounds are the very common open spaces which create a public open space and as per the norm we are mandated to provide parks and playground for each and every category of the age group.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:34)

Categories of Urban public places

- ❖ Parks, playgrounds
- ❖ Plazas and Public squares
- ❖ River/water fronts, ghats
- ❖ Connected Greens ————— walkable stretches + cycling
- ❖ Market places —————
- ❖ Public places around terminals and intersections
- ❖ Stadium and open air theatre
- ❖ Walkable trails ————— along green + roads
- ❖ Museum and thematic parks

Plazas and the public square plaza are basically the open space but not exactly the open green space. It is a semi paved or paved areas and these are using and these are being used during every time in the day it can be used during the night also. Unlike playgrounds and the plazas and public squares also attracts people for the tourism purpose for the business purpose and for shopping purpose.

So, this is another common phenomenon as part of the urban public place than we were in water fronts ghats. In India there are many rivers most of the cities are situated in the Bank of River or Canon Law of the sea and we have seen that they are ghats and canal bank river bank even though many of the riverbanks and the stages are spoiled by the human habitation without lack of control or lack of enforcement.

But still there are various rivers and ghats especially few older cities like Banaras and all other cities where it is being utilized as a major public place and the public congregation then connected greens. Connected greens are the concept that you connect the green to allow the walkable stretches in the cities stitches along with cycling. So, that is also allowed in the connected greens and city of Chandigarh is one of the very important cities.

Which try to adopt this workable green concept then market place? In India market places is also a public place various market place I am talking about the traditional market place which used to

happen which happens along the roads or in some designated corners or some junctions which creates a public place even though sometimes it seems like an organized or unplanned. But it can be organized keeping the benefit or the advantage of the marketplace as urban public space.

So, that is one of the strength in Indian situation but definitely it needs some kind of attention and the reorganization then public places around diagonals and intersection we have seen that there are a few stages of areas around the railway station bus terminals or airport or major terminals logistics areas where it creates a public place. People come there in the evening they spend their time because they have they get some place.

And sometime they come with their people whom they want to see off and after that they spent some time some commercial activities are there. So, those kinds of spaces are there and these are coming up in a larger way than stadium and open air theatre is very common in. In the earlier time and also current time then walkable trails along the green and also on the road boats along the green areas and road both are important.

And museums thematic parks are also very common trained in current planning and development of the urban areas and architecturally areas. For example there could be architectural heritage areas heritage zones which are an attraction for the tourist and the visitors. for example there could be architectural heritage areas heritage zones which is an attraction for the tourists and the visitors. Sometimes those kind of areas are also acts as a public places.

So, these are the variety of the public places there could be many in some of the areas there are a hill areas or some different coastal front areas those can be a fantastic destination as a public place for the citizens and also for the tourists. Now how we can create those kind of urban public place what kind of strategies what kind of design and the planning intervention could be there. Now as we have discussed earlier that in the planning document where do we make the planning document at the city level regional level.

Definitely one of our job is to identify the public places including the green areas we had a dedicated lecture on the green areas. So, all those areas need to be identified and listed and

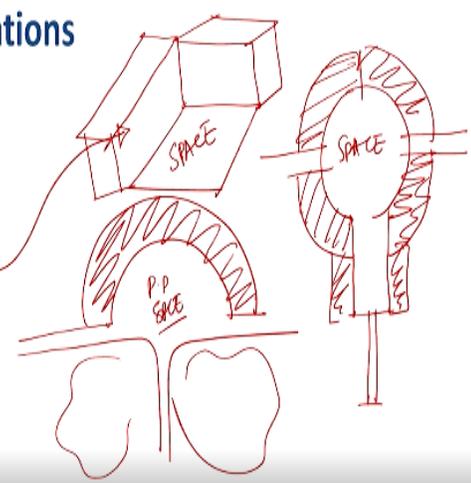
controlled and then we have to create few amount of public spaces in various parts of the cities with fantastic design and fantastic planning consideration. As the examples and the cases I showed earlier where you have seen that those areas are utilized for many time of the day throughout the years many people within the city and outside the city.

Those kind of a phenomenon those kind of events should happen in the public places which we create in our cities.

(Refer Slide Time: 16:26)

Design considerations

- ❖ The key elements that influence the public realm are:
 - The buildings that define the space;
 - The space
 - The people and the use the space.



Now let us see that what are the pallet planning and design considerations. Now in the planning and design consideration actually there are many considerations I would like to at least share few considerations so that when you do some planning and design at your area you do not miss some of them. So, key element what you should keep in your mind that which includes influences the design of the public places is that the buildings or the structure which defines the space.

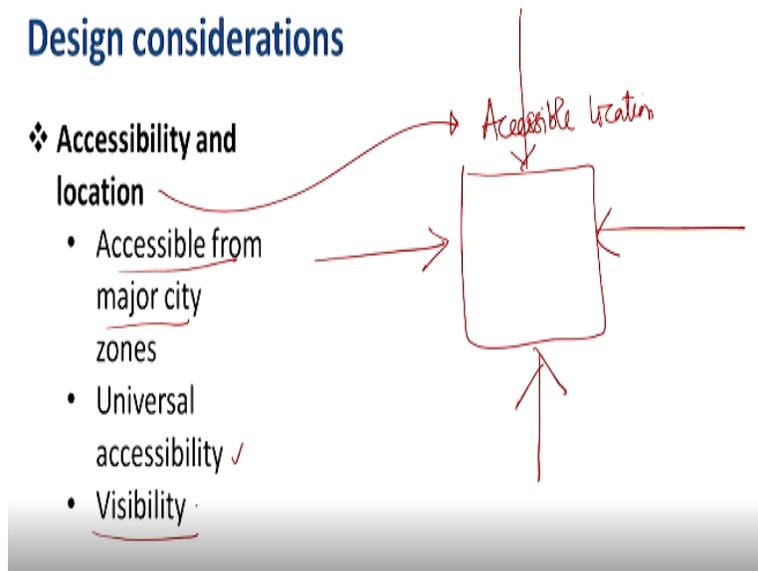
Now I have shown you that if this is the public place so either it is defined by a building here one side or maybe two side or maybe several side. So, a public place if the shape the shape is different like circular in the Saint Peters Rome they have made a public place in this shape having the access like that. So, this kind of and it is surrounded by the building like this as I am drawing the sketch for your understanding.

So, a space open face always needs a defined boundary which can be created by the buildings or these structures. But it may be possible that suppose there is a semi-circular open space and something like that and you can create a building like that. And this could be a public place and it can be accessed by various accessibility and it can be another building or natural environment areas.

So, the how you define the space by using structures in the building that is very important. Second in the space itself the quality of the space what you are you are creating that is the so space what you are creating in terms of their quality where people can access work freely elements where people can utilize I will come to later that what are the elements which should be there in the space.

And third is the people and the use of the space how people can access that space and use that space. Therefore one is the structure which is defining the space the quality of the spaces the second and the people who are coming there and using the space these three considerations are the fundamental consideration.

(Refer Slide Time: 19:00)



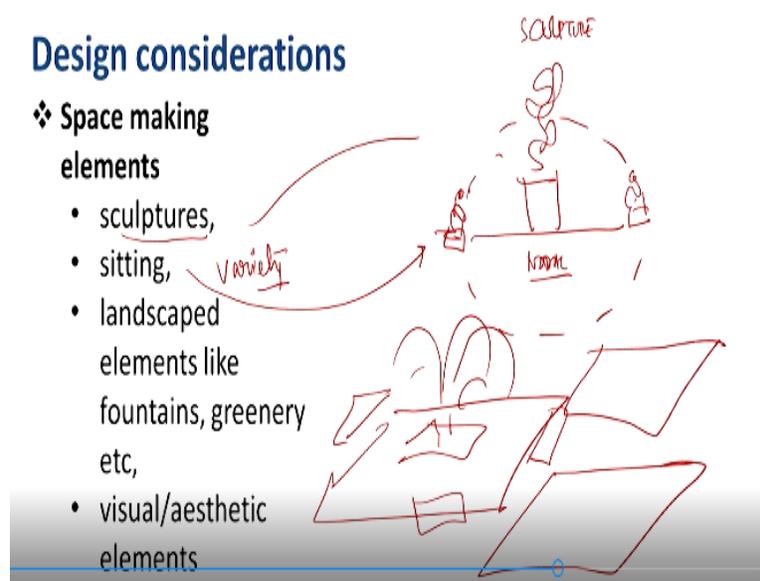
And next is the accessibility and the location. Now it has to be located in it in an accessible location right accessible location from major zones. Because if you create a public place it should be accessible from various direction. Not only one direction okay universal accessibility

will we required. Universal accessibility means the accessibility for all age group people differently abled people using wheelchairs using various equipment for walking.

So, a public place would offer the accessibility for all categories of people with minimal barriers or minimal difficulty. So, not only the location also the accessibility in terms of the quality of the ground, quality of the textures ,quality of level differences how we create and design this. So we have standard methodologies and standard norms and guidelines only thing we have to follow that and third is the visibility if the public open space is not visible.

At least from some point of the city sometimes it is lost within the crowd. The examples which I showed earlier you might have seen that maybe one side is the open. Another two or three sides is enclosed by the building and maybe it is visible from some a higher portion of the city. So, those kind of strategic location need to be taken at a planned pre-production phase where you can locate the public open space which is partly visible and also accessible 100% from various corners of the city and universal accessibilities maintained.

(Refer Slide Time: 20:45)



Next is the space making elements when you create a space define the space not only the defining the space is sufficient. There are few other elements which makes the space interesting and vibrant and usable by the common people. For example there could be sculptures in many

cases you will find that there are interesting sculpture and because of the sculpture there are people who are sitting in the benches and talking.

So, sculpture as a nodal point as an attraction people can use the surrounding areas of the sculpture in a public space that is sometime used. The seating as I told that the variety of seating is required to create the seating could be at the lower level at higher level in various level difference various kind of designs in terms of chairs, stools only common platform only in the ground with different textures.

Because there are many people they have several kind of new choices and they can use the seating arrangement as per their choices. Then landscaped elements like fountains greeneries etc we have seen that maybe they are some fountains and because of the fountain people are sitting in and around the fountain and we take a staggered courtyard. So, this kind of phenomenon so fountains could be there.

Then sitting and there could be various types of courtyard which can be created using the landscaping element like fountains, green areas etc. So, that can create a very interesting journey in the public open space. Then visual and aesthetic element consists of the colour scheme and the texture and the architectural treatment of the building and the landscape element. So, all these create a harmonious effect of the public space.

Where people feel good they feel safe they feel connected they feel together while sitting in the public space.

(Refer Slide Time: 23:06)

Design considerations

❖ Essential public amenities

- Public toilets/ conveniences
- Medical/Police booth
- Affordable and convenient transport and information
- Food kiosks, drinking water

Variety of transport
1) Public transport Rail
LRTS
MRTS
2) NMT

Then few more design consideration like there should be essential public amenities like public toilets conveniences. Now public toilets and conveniences should be designed in such a way that it should not be visible from every corner of the place. But definitely should be accessible from every corner of the place. Then medical and the police booth medical and the police booth is essential for maintaining the essential medical service or the law and order service.

Affordable and convenient and transport and information here basically what you need is variety of transport therefore you have to connect the public space with the first is the public transport it could be suburban rail ,tram or light rail transit or metro. And also it has to be connected with non-motorized transportation so that people from the local areas within the city they can also come.

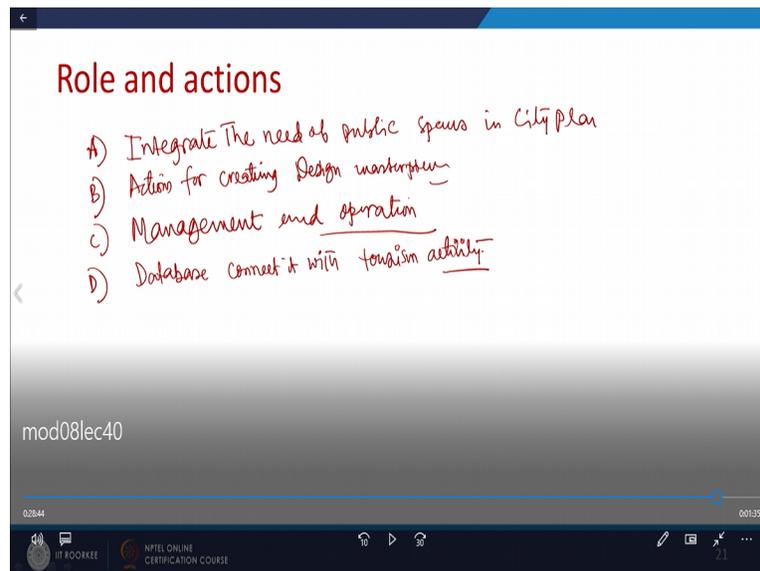
So, while you make the transportation planning and the nonmotorized transportation you keep this in mind that connecting the public places is also important to integrate the public transportation and the destination of the people to the public transport. I have seen in various cases that people from the station they need to walk along to reach the public spaces. So, there has to be some kind of balance so that day no do not need to work more than 300 or 400 meters.

Then food kiosk and the drinking water these are the common essential element which need to be a created at the public open spaces. So, these are common design considerations what are

required now what is your role and what kind of actions could be there in your city. Now frankly telling you that in our city the amount of public open space is very much less whereas in ancient town planning and ancient India there are lots of examples of fantastic public open spaces.

But in current times because most of the urban development are driven by the centralized sponsored scheme or the funding agencies and very few tender less sponsor scheme and funding agencies they used to fund the public open spaces. But as a matter of fact right now the AMRUT mission is giving a lot of encouragement and funding also for the urban public spaces. So, your role should be that to take that opportunity to identify the opportunity of the various public spaces.

(Refer Slide Time: 25:49)



So, first action should be to integrate the need of public spaces in city plan. So, it should clearly give an condition the situational assessment and the future direction of the urban public spaces and make and take all actions for creating design masterpiece. Here I would like to mention that design matters whenever you visit to some other great cities and visit an open space you will see that okay its fine fantastic city and we have enjoyed.

Now why not we create those kinds of spaces in our cities also I showed few photographs earlier in the lectures for the city of (()) (26:58) where within two decades they have completely changed over from earlier situation to a city where city offers fantastic public transportation

system connected with the all the kind of walkable public open spaces. So, that is possible if we can plan and create design masterpieces connecting all the buildings.

Connecting all the transportation terminals and connecting the urban public spaces and next is the management and operation. Now this kind of public open space offers citizens some kind of service which is free of cost differently there is a very rarely rare opportunity to take any entry fee or to take any fees from the visitor for the tourists. Therefore you have to maintain the public open space at the cost of the public exchequer just to create the image of the city.

But definitely it will enhance the image of the city which will attract more investment more new job will be generated in the city. So, this is a value addition to your city what you can do for the citizens and for the tourist also and then another is that you not only manage and operate the public open space you also make a database and connect it with the tourism activity. Okay so this kind of forward.

And backward linkages with the one a particular facility what you are creating will enable you to create many such kind of open spaces. Okay so these are very briefly I have discussed about the public open spaces and some examples I have mentioned category from the public open spaces and fuel design and the planning consideration. So, having said that I would like to conclude today's lecture and the next lecture we are going to discuss internally sponsored schemes.

Because so far whatever we have seen various aspects of the urban development. But without the funding the urban development cannot be done. So, one of the major funding and the guidelines are coming from the centrally sponsored schemes like smart city and the Amrut mission, Swachh Bharat mission etc. So, we are going to discuss all this missions and what is our role on those mission that we are going to discuss in the next lecture. So, thank you very much.