

Securing the Built Environment

- Introductory Thoughts



The Jodhpur Initiative

1. Background

The city of Jodhpur is no exception to the national practice of unregulated development. The current techno-legal regime does not examine the structural safety of the buildings and structures proposed; only architectural plans are examined and building permits are issued by the municipal corporations and development authorities. This practice needs to be altered for the good of the people. The threats of urban floods, cyclonic winds (or tornadoes) and earthquake shaking are real, and need to be considered in the design, even though the recurrence of some of these incidents is rare. Even if the municipal corporations and development authorities agree to examine structural safety of the proposed constructions, there is no competence available within these bodies to examine structural safety.

2. Immediate Actions

The Jodhpur Initiative has resolved to work with the *Jodhpur Development Authority* and *Jodhpur Municipal Corporation* to:

- (1) Review current Bye-Laws;
- (2) Prepare New Bye-Laws for new Jodhpur city (hereinafter called as the NEW City) in the green field areas of new development. Also, it is proposed to provide critical inputs for:
 - (a) Preparing separate Bye-Laws for existing Jodhpur city INSIDE the walled area (hereinafter called as the WALLED City); and
 - (b) Revising Bye-Laws for existing Jodhpur city OUTSIDE the walled area (hereinafter called as the OLD City); and
- (3) Propose Third Party Structural Safety Inspection System for the NEW City.

3. Resources

To undertake the stated actions, TJI will garner the following resources:

- (1) Engineers and Architects of the *Jodhpur Development Authority* and *Jodhpur Municipal Corporation*;
- (2) Academics from the Colleges of Engineering and Architecture in the city; and
- (3) Architects and Engineers practising in the city.

TJI will bring in subject specialists from across the country to advise these documents and help initiate the process of self-regulation in the city with regard to structural safety.