



Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
Government of India



# GANGTOK

# Streets for People

## CHALLENGE

**Design competition brief**  
GANGTOK





About

# Streets for People

CHALLENGE

The ***Streets for People Challenge*** is an initiative of the Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, to inspire cities to create walking-friendly streets through quick measures, in response to COVID-19.

The Challenge aims to create flagship walking initiatives in cities, which focus on placemaking and liveability. 113 cities have registered for this Challenge to reimagine their streets as public spaces through the lens of economic regeneration, safety, and child-friendly interventions, in order to ensure a green recovery from COVID-19.

**The city-led design competition aims to crowdsource innovative ideas for designing and testing the pilot interventions through quick, low-cost solutions.**





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## City overview

# Gangtok

Gangtok, capital of Sikkim, is located in the East District of the state. Gangtok's population is 1,00,286 (Census:2011) with a population density of 53 pph.

The total area under Gangtok Municipal Corporation is about 19 Sq.Km. and constitutes of 17 Municipal Wards. The Literacy rate of the male population is about 85.3%, while that of female population is about 78.7%.

Located in the eastern Himalayan range (5,410 ft), Gangtok offers a unique charm to the tourists from all parts of the country and as well as from overseas. It experiences a mild temperate climate throughout the year..







## Call for ideas

The competition is an important step in the ***Streets for People Challenge***. It aims to crowdsource innovative ideas from professionals and students from architecture, urban planning, and other relevant fields to design streets for people in their cities.

Following the **test-learn-scale approach**, the competition is looking for economical solutions that are quick, innovative, and easy to test.

The winning designs will be tested on ground using cost-effective tools, in collaboration with the local community.

[Register here for the competition](#)



A woman in a blue long-sleeved shirt and jeans is holding a young child in a plaid shirt. They are both laughing and smiling. The woman has a patterned bag slung over her shoulder. They are standing on a city sidewalk at night. In the background, there are trees, a parking sign, and a brightly lit restaurant with a sign that says "RESTAURANT". Other people are walking around, including a woman in a pink sari. The scene is lively and urban.

The goal of the competition is to reimagine streets as **safe, healthy, and happy public spaces for all!**



# Design principles

## 01 Fair distribution of space

Streets for people ensure **efficient mobility** by offering multiple modes of travel, especially **high quality facilities for public and non-motorised transport**.



## 02 Safety & Security

Streets for people are **safe for all user groups** by providing segregated spaces for each and incorporating **traffic calming measures**. Personal safety is also ensured, with **good lighting** and 'eyes on the street' through **active street edges and vending**.



Source: Bangalore mirror



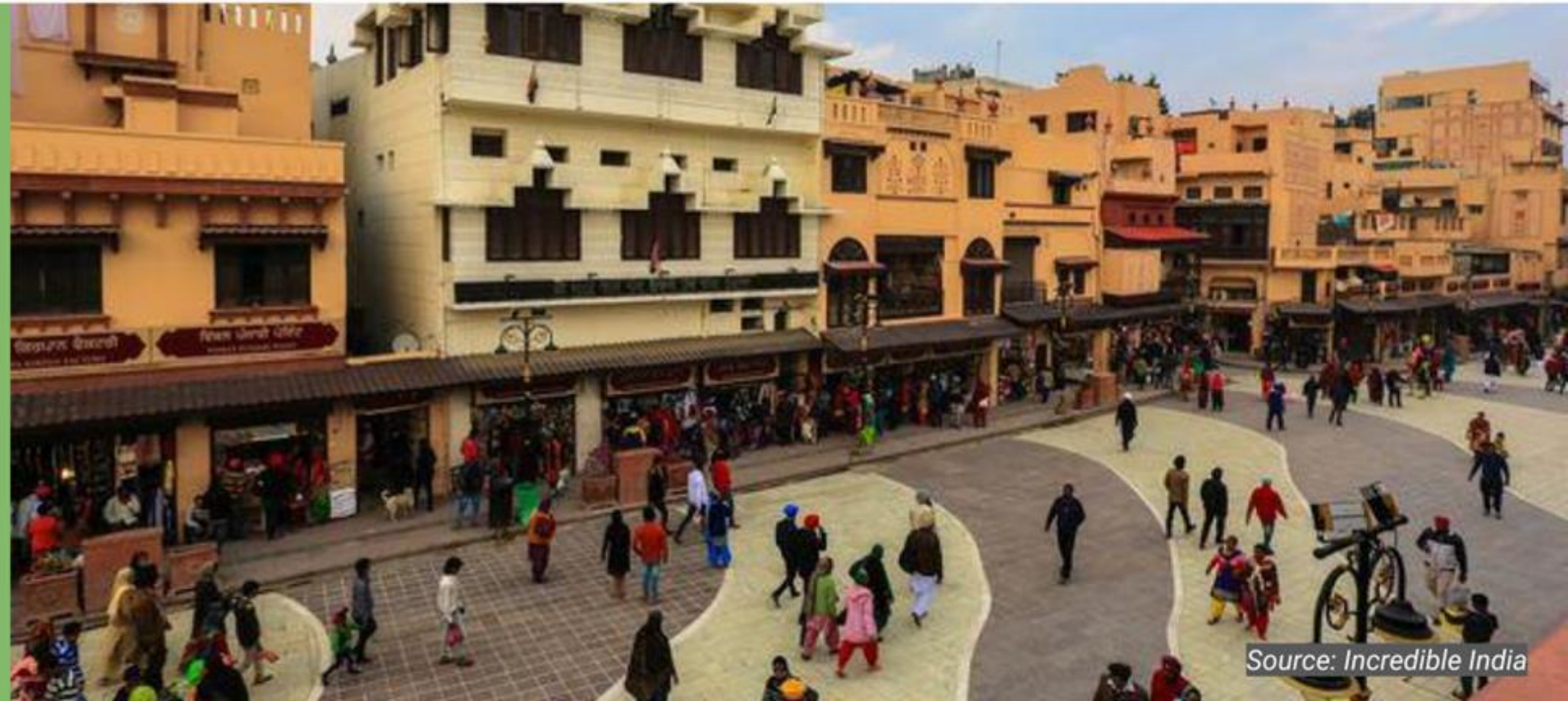
## 03 Comfort

Streets for people are **accessible by all, including the differently-abled. Continuous and even-surfaced footpaths, table-top crossings, ramps, and tactile pavers, wherever level differences occur, seating and trees** are some measures to ensure universal accessibility and better comfort for all users.



## 04 Sensitivity to local context

Streets for people are **designed to suit the local context, factoring in street activities, patterns of pedestrian movement, nearby land uses, and the needs of the people.** Design interventions can range from contextual street elements to street-level interventions like shared or pedestrianised streets.





## 05 Liveability

Streets for people are full of life, with **elements that enhance the liveability of the space**. These elements improve conditions for existing users, attract more users, increase retail activity, and **transform the street into a vital public space**.



## 06 Environmental sustainability

Streets for people promote sustainable modes of transport and **improve local climatic conditions**. Trees and plants help absorb pollutants and improve micro-climatic conditions.



Source: Townshend Landscape Architects





Source: codatu.org



Source: WRI India



Source: Flickr



Source: Oasis Designs

# Design tools

Tactical Urbanism is an approach that uses short-term, low-cost, easy to build, and scalable interventions to catalyze long term change.

Following this approach, we're looking for design and policy solutions that activate spaces to make it **safe, healthy, and happy**, by:

- Using placemaking elements
- Reorganising existing activities
- Introducing new activities



# Importance of community

The *Streets for People Challenge* places the **community at the heart** of all design interventions. Emphasising on a bottom-up approach, all design solutions must be in alignment with the **needs of the community** for whom the design is implemented.

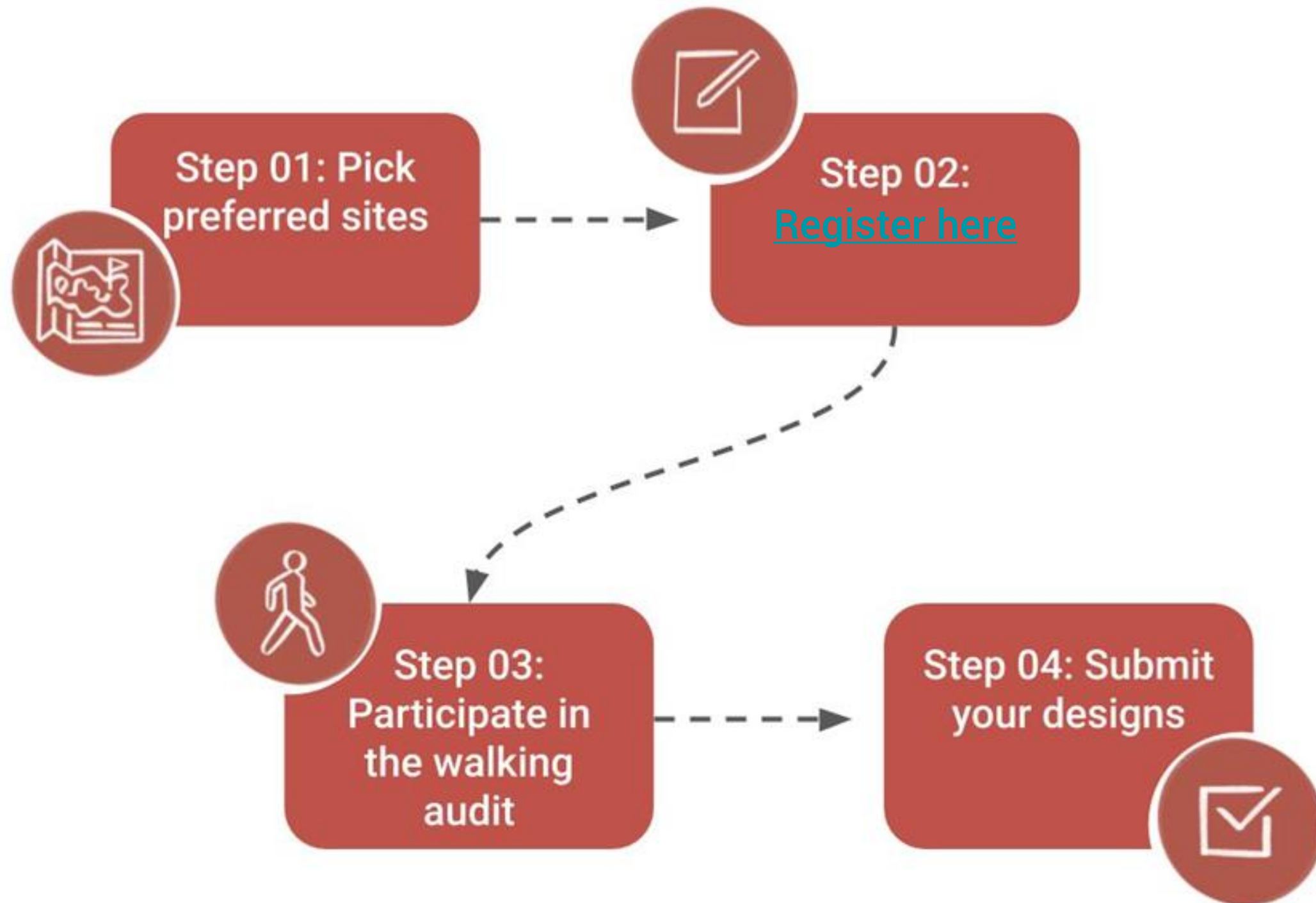
Designers must **study and understand the local context** thoroughly and incorporate the findings in the suggested design solutions. Response to local context is a key criteria for final assessments.

The Challenge includes various activities to strengthen the citizen-led approach such as open streets campaigns, walking audits with participants, and perception surveys.





# Participation procedure



Here are four steps towards the submission!

- 1 | **Select the sites** for which you wish to develop the design solutions. The information about the sites is provided in the following pages.
- 2 | Next, please **register** through the given link and let us know!
- 3 | Join us for the **walking audit** at the pilot sites.
- 4 | Using the insights from the walking audit, to **develop the design** and **submit them before the deadline!**

**We look forward to seeing your awesome design solutions!**



# Proposal for pilot

Under the **Streets for People Challenge**, the cities will test at least one pilot; comprising of a flagship public space project and a liveable neighbourhood. Hence, this 'call for ideas' include sites for both components. Participants can select either or both of the sites to provide design solutions.

The sites fall under any of the typologies listed below:

## **Flagship public space:**

- 1 | Market / Retail areas
- 2 | Transit hubs

## **Liveable neighbourhood:**

- 1 | Mixed-income neighbourhoods
- 2 | Resettlement colonies
- 3 | Unplanned low-income neighbourhoods

## Designing the pilot



### **Flagship public space**

- Understand the local context and city's aspirations
- Demonstrate implementable design concepts through complete or partial pedestrianisation strategies
- The design should respond to the vision of the challenge, to create city-level impact



### **Liveable neighbourhood**

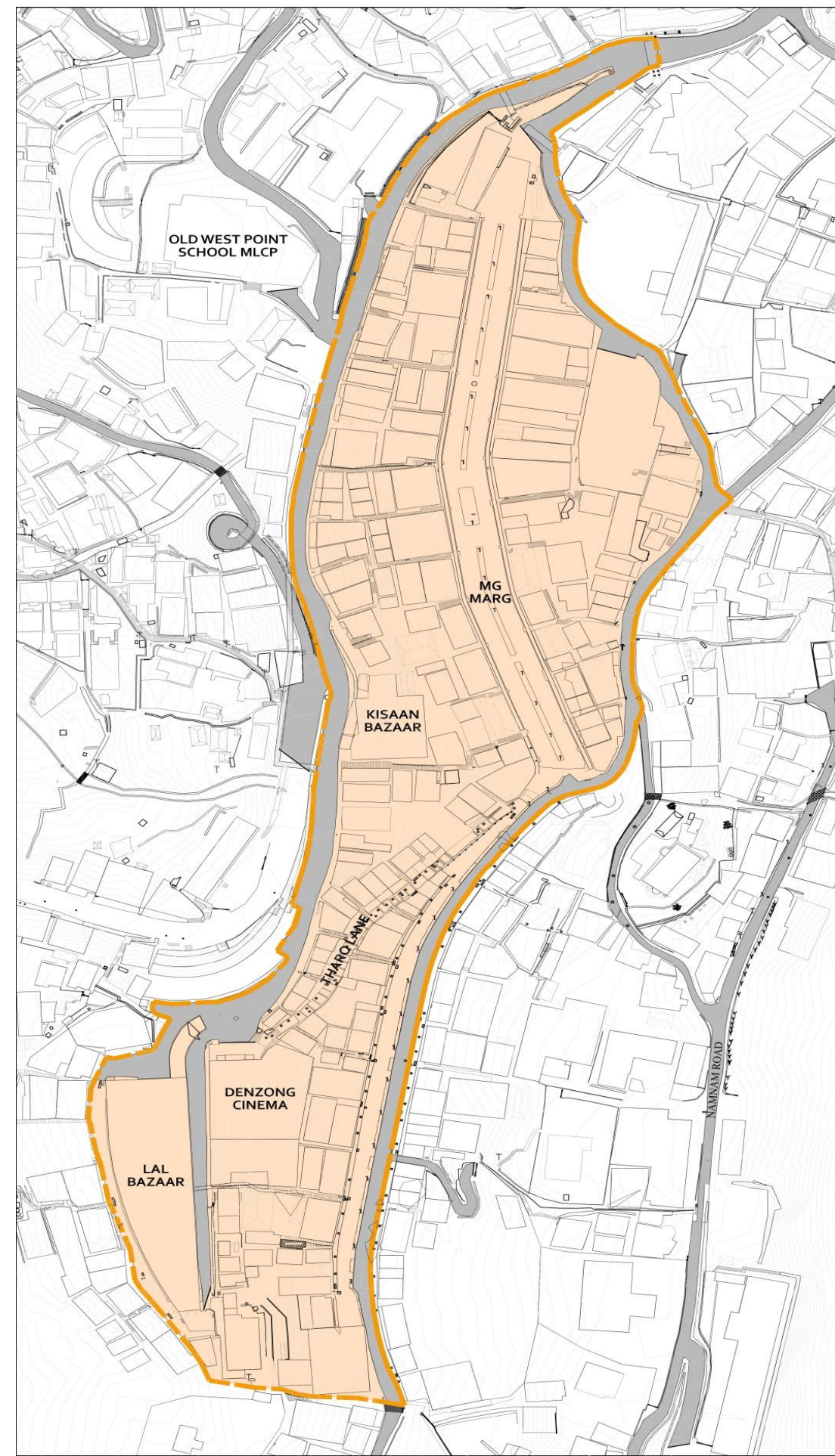
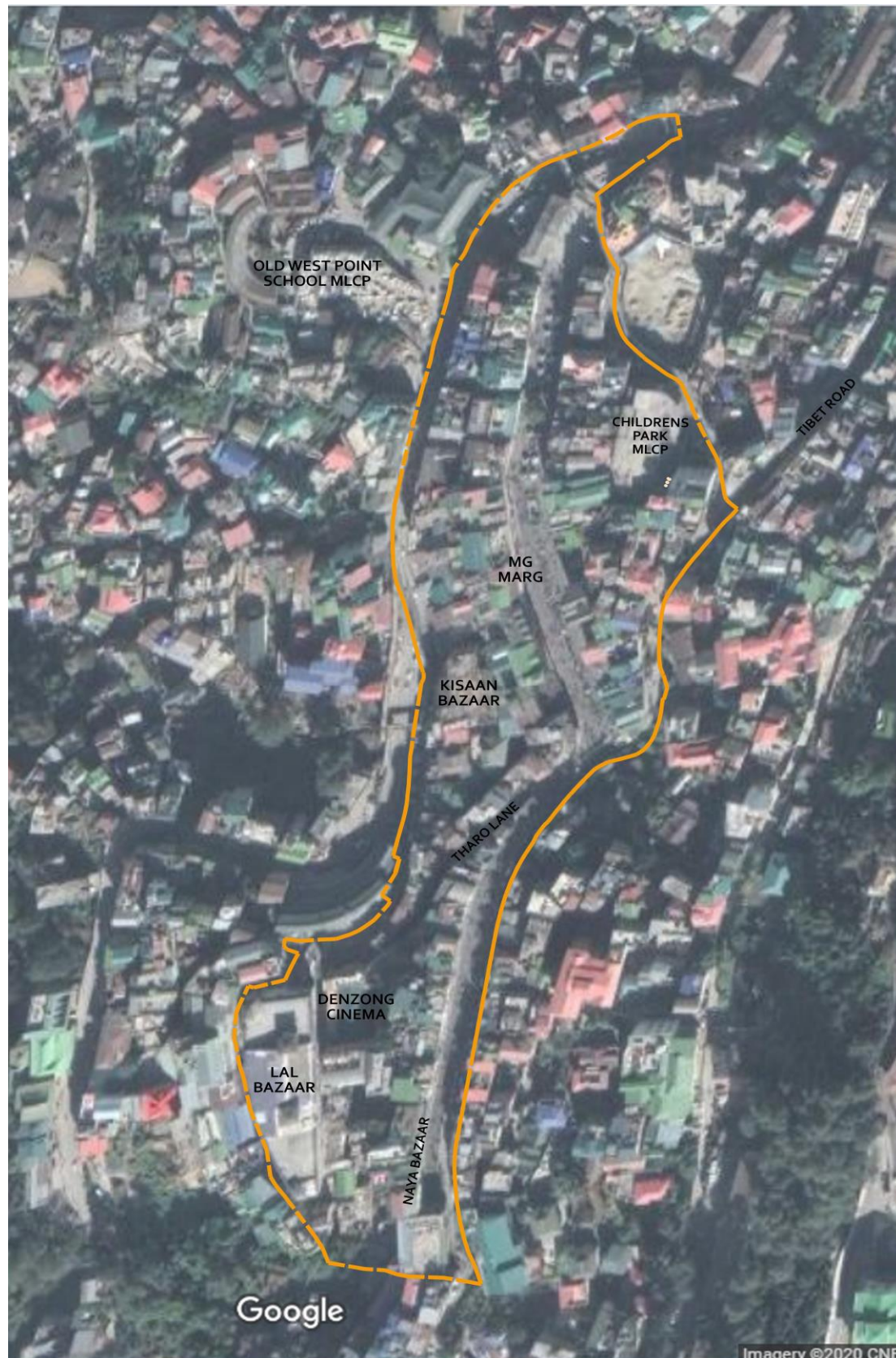
- Understand the local context
- Demonstrate implementable design concepts for creating walkable and liveable neighbourhood in holistic manner.
- The design should respond to the needs of local community and ensure safe, inclusive, and comfortable access to amenities and services.

To know more about the typologies, please check out the [Online Workshop 01 presentation](#)



## M.G Marg-lalbazar

This stretch can be accessed from:  
Right diversion from the main highway  
Tibet Road and  
Namnang Road.



## Flagship pilot site

*Site A: M.G Marg –Lal bazaar.  
Area of pilot: 59534sqm.*

*M G Marg , also known as Mahatma Gandhi Road or Mg Road, is a street which is one of the focal points for tourists in Gangtok. It's more like an extension of open shopping center or lane square where local people and visitors take leisurely strolls or simply sit and unwind on one of the numerous seats laid along the center and both sides of the street to absorb the vibe. The whole area is just a person on foot zone and vehicles are not permitted on this 1km stretch of the street.*



[Click here for site details](#)



## Arithang-Byepass, Gangtok

This stretch can be accessed from:

- Bypass road diversion.
- Rai Cottage Road and
- Left diversion from the main highway

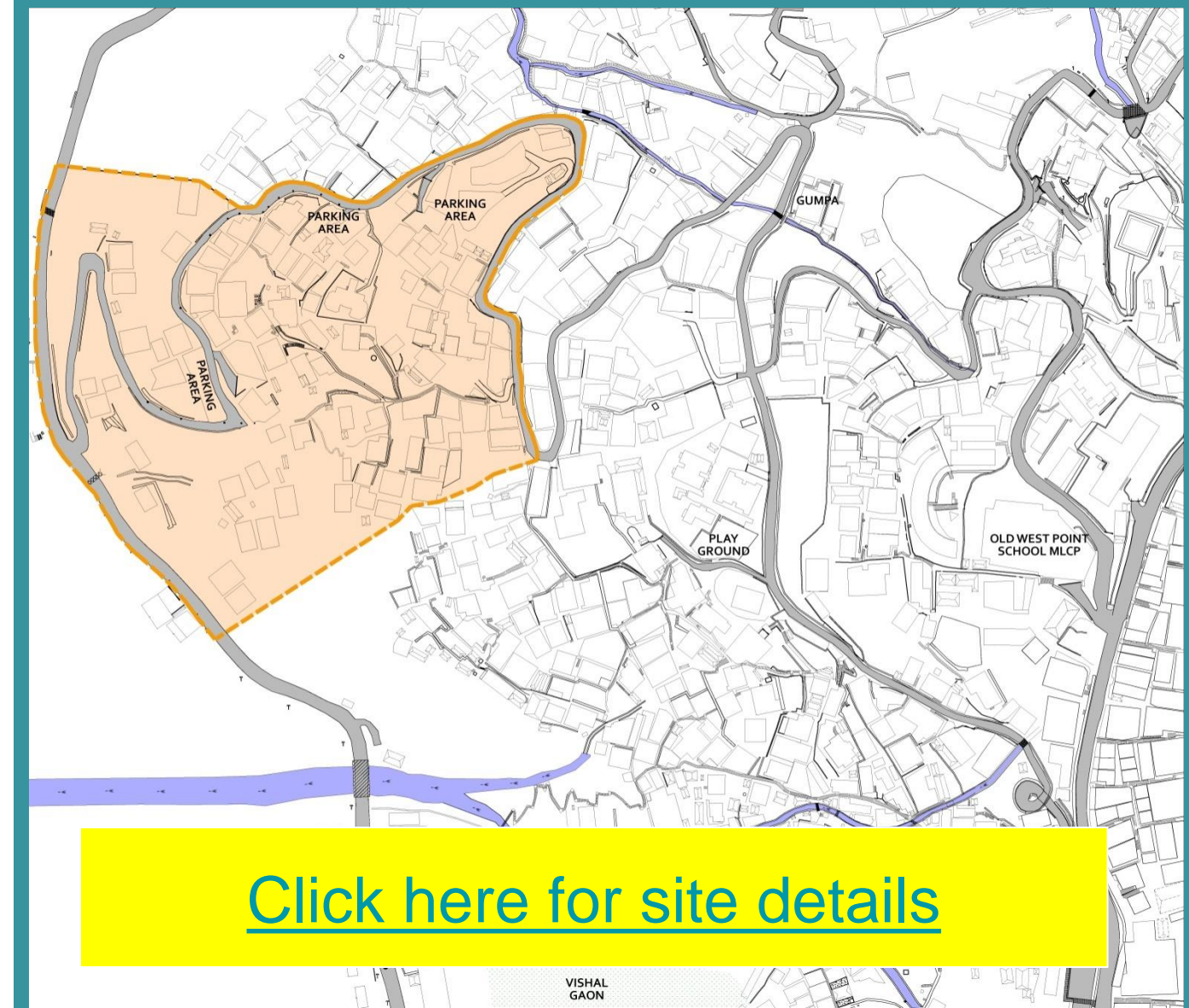


## Neighbourhood site

*Site B: Arithang-Byepass*

*Area of pilot: 46597 sqm.*

Lower Arithang is a typical residential zone with a neighbourhood pattern. Design Interventions can be sought for improvement of the area.

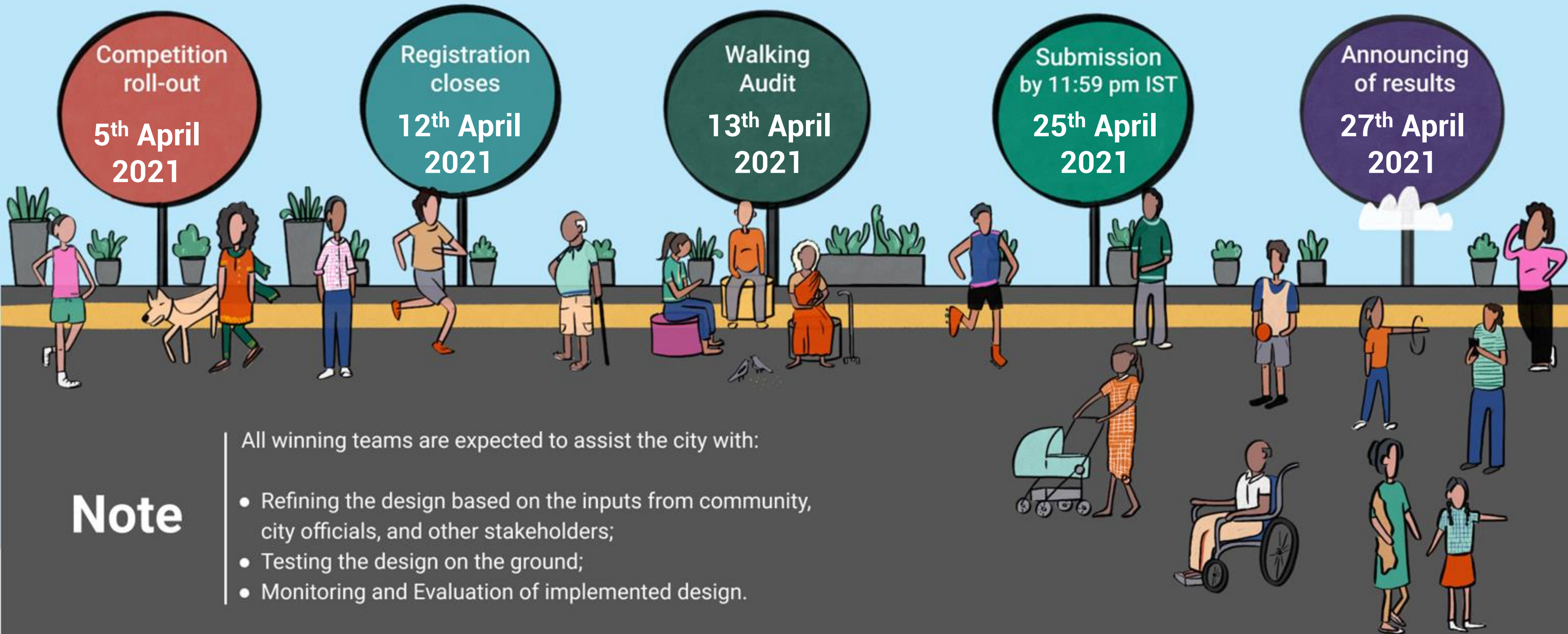


[Click here for site details](#)



# Timeline

Any changes to the timeline will be notified to the participants in advance.





## Eligibility criteria



**Professionals**



**Students**



**Multi-disciplinary  
collaborations**

- Professionals and students in the fields of architecture, urban design, planning & other relevant fields are eligible.
- At least 1 team member should be a local resident of the city, who will serve as the representative.
- Multi-disciplinary collaboration is highly encouraged.
- There is no restriction on the number of members per team.

## Evaluation criteria

All submitted design proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Originality of idea
- Understanding of the local context
- Inclusivity of the design solutions
- Feasibility of implementation
- Fulfilment of submission requirements in the prescribed format

**The entries will be evaluated by local officials, citizens, experts, and other stakeholders.**



# Participation guidelines

- Participants are free to submit multiple entries per team.
- Participants are free to submit entries for multiple cities and for multiple sites per city.
- Any team assisted by a competition organiser or jury member will be disqualified.

Plagiarism of any ideas or images will be disqualified with a notice.



[Register here for the competition](#)

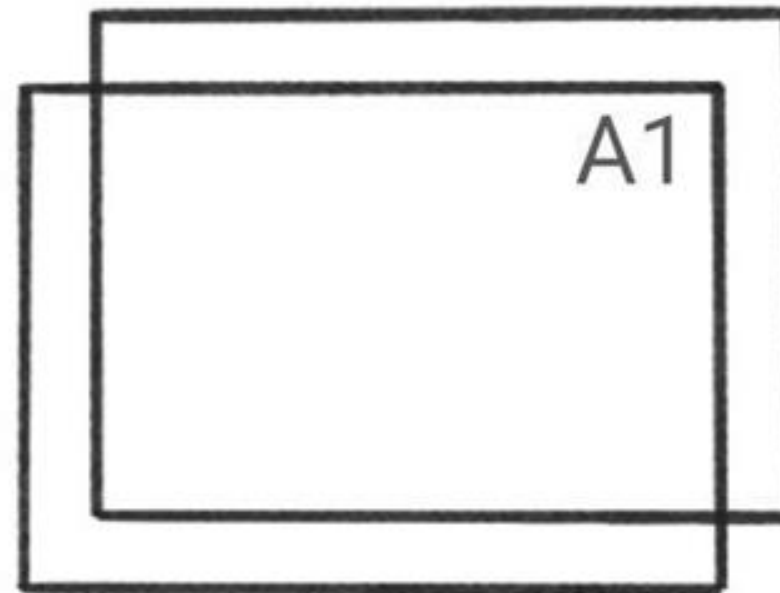
Any change in the timeline will be updated on the competition page in the [Streets for People Challenge website](#)



# Submission guidelines

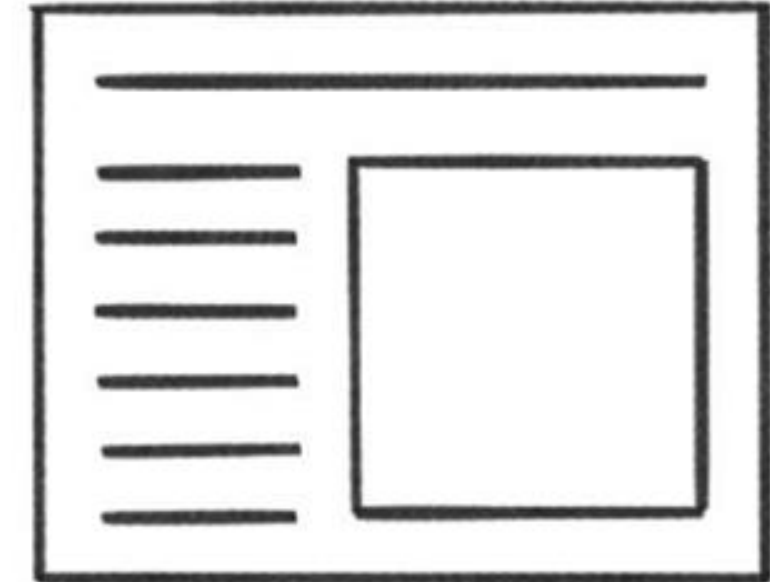
- 1 | Participants should create a shared folder (to be renamed with the competition ID), which must contain the **2 A1 sheets and the slide deck (20 slides)**. **Maximum folder size : 25MB**
- 2 | Team registration ID and sheet number should be mentioned at the right bottom corner of every sheet. Team names, logos or organisation names **should not be mentioned** on the sheets.
3. Participants should share the drive link to the shared folder at ([gangtoksmartcity@gmail.com](mailto:gangtoksmartcity@gmail.com)).

For any queries, email us at ([gangtoksmartcity@gmail.com](mailto:gangtoksmartcity@gmail.com))



**2 A1 Sheets must be submitted in .pdf/.jpeg format**

+



**Slide deck of maximum 20 slides**

The submission should cover the following :

- Key plan
- Design concept & diagrams
- Detailed plan and sections of the design intervention
- Implementation strategy addressing parking, vending and other on-site challenges
- Rough budget estimate and phasing
- At least 3 renders / views of the design intervention
- 200-300 word write-up about the design intervention





# Awards

## Shortlisted Entries

Shortlisted entries will be displayed at the *Gangtok Streets for People Exhibition*, and circulated via the city's social media platforms.

## Winning Entries

All winning teams will get the opportunity to present, discuss, and develop their ideas with city officials, experts, and the community.

The winning designs will be tested on ground using quick, innovative, and cost-effective tools.

<p>Site 1- Mg marg &amp; Lal bazar site</p>	<p><u>1st prize</u> Rs 10,000 &amp; Certificate</p>	<p><u>2nd prize</u> Rs 7500 &amp; Certificate</p>	<p><u>3rd prize</u> Rs 5000 &amp; Certificate</p>
<p>Site 2- Arithang-Byepass Area</p>	<p><u>1st prize</u> Rs 10,000 &amp; Certificate</p>	<p><u>2nd prize</u> Rs 7500 &amp; Certificate</p>	<p><u>3rd prize</u> Rs 5000 &amp; Certificate</p>



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A programme of



[smartnet.niua.org/indiastreetchallenge/competition/](https://smartnet.niua.org/indiastreetchallenge/competition/)