**A Tribute to Nobel Laureate Prof. Elinor Ostrom**

**"Retakes to Self-Organise towards Saving the Thaltej Lakes of Ahmedabad:**

**A case of Polycentric Urban Lake Governance in India"**

The talk focuses on my journey with the Thaltej Lakes over two decades. Not many people even who live in the Thaltej neighbourhood realise that there is a cluster of 3 little ponds that make the thaltej lakes that were 5 in numbers during my Master Urban Design Thesis in 1999 at CEPT. I live in the thaltej neighbourhood since I've migrated to the city in 1997, therefore I've an association with the place and the lakes. While advancing in my career with forte in urban lake management and studies and influenced by the philosophy of Nobel Laureate, from time to time I made some efforts to self-organise to save the lakes such as, walkathon with the locals, signature campaign, children awareness, puja-path, etc. Today, one of the ponds is left to a size of swimming pool but not as clean as it. The remaining two are extremely stressed with the one speculated to be reclaimed for the Thaltej Metro Station. In the talk, I'll share the complexities of the urban lake governance in India using the Thaltej experience over time where polycentricity is crucial as well as a challenge given the fact that self-organisation in the urban occupation and lifestyle is altogether a different dynamics.