

# Reimagining Construction

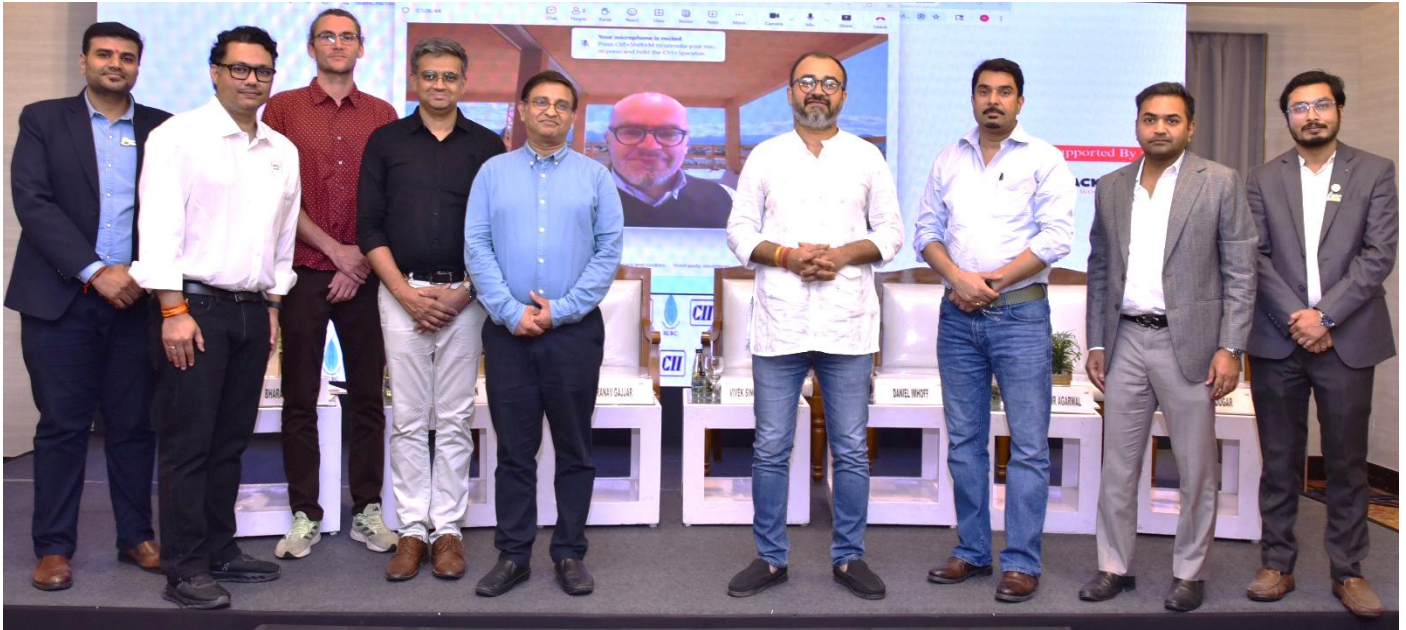
**Timber Takes Centre Stage in Kolkata**

**Knowledge Workshop on Timber Construction  
Technology for a Sustainable Future**

**2 April 2026 | Hyatt Regency, Kolkata**

In an era where the construction sector stands at the crossroads of growth and climate responsibility, a quiet yet powerful shift is underway—one that is redefining how we build, design, and think about materials. On 2 April 2026, this shift took centre stage in Kolkata, as the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), under the aegis of CII, convened a focused Knowledge Workshop on *“Timber Construction Technology for a Sustainable Future.”*

Bringing together a curated mix of architects, engineers, developers, consultants, and industry stakeholders, the workshop was not just another technical session—it was a convergence of ideas, global perspectives, and on-ground realities, all pointing towards one material: timber.



## A Movement Larger Than Materials

The conversation around timber was not in isolation. It was firmly rooted in India's larger sustainability journey—one that IGBC has been actively shaping for over two decades. Today, with India emerging as the **second largest green building footprint globally**, and **West Bengal witnessing a steady rise in green building adoption**, the timing of the workshop could not have been more relevant.

The session set out to answer a critical question: *Can timber move from being an alternative material to becoming a mainstream solution in India's construction ecosystem?*



## Setting the Tone: A Call to Rethink the Built Environment

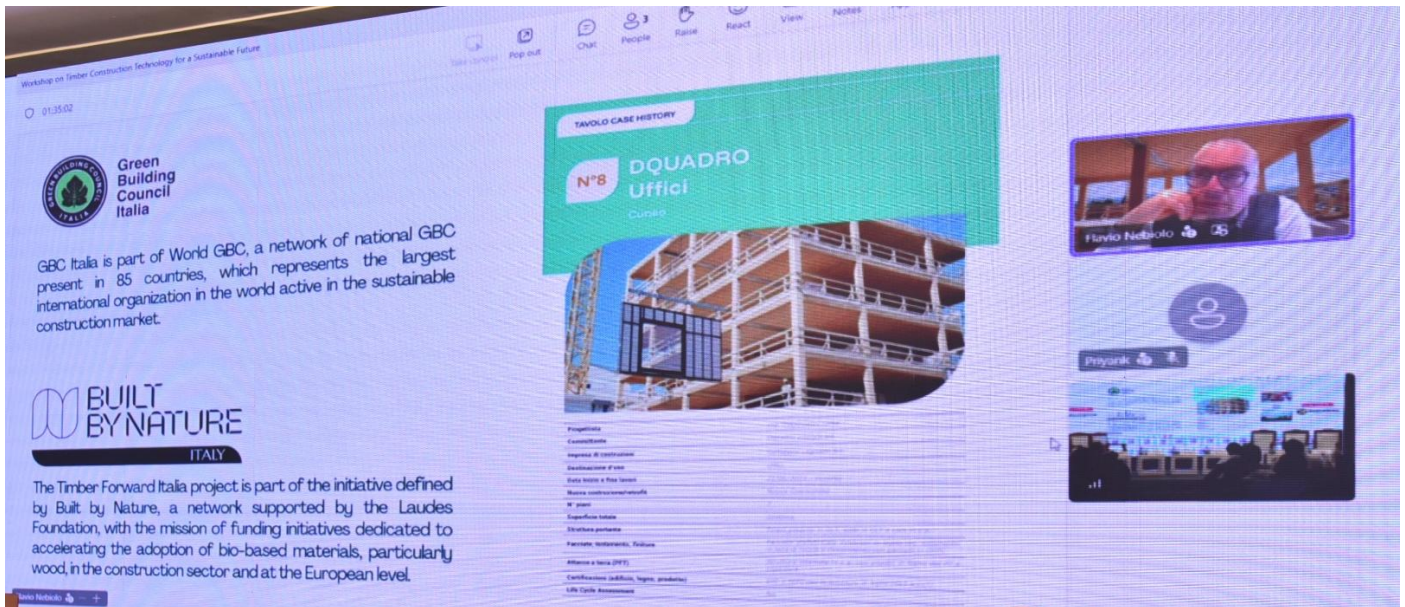
Opening the session, **Ar. Vivek Singh Rathore**, Chairman of the IGBC Kolkata Chapter, framed the discussion with clarity and urgency. He spoke of a construction sector at an inflection point—where choices made today will define environmental outcomes for decades to come.

Timber, he emphasised, is not merely a substitute for conventional materials, but a strategic enabler of **low-carbon, high-performance, and future-ready buildings**. His address set the tone for the evening—encouraging participants to move beyond awareness and begin exploring real, implementable solutions aligned with sustainability goals.

## From Europe to India: Learning from Global Leaders

The global lens came alive through **Flavio Nebiolo** of DQUADRO, Italy, who took participants through international best practices in timber construction. From engineered systems to hybrid structures, his session showcased how timber has already evolved into a material capable of delivering complex, large-scale infrastructure across Europe.

His key message was clear: *when design, engineering, and execution come together early, timber can scale—efficiently and beautifully.*



## Design, Research, and Market—A Complete Ecosystem

The discussions that followed stitched together the entire value chain of timber construction in India:

- **Ar. Pranav Gajjar** highlighted timber's potential as a design-forward, climate-responsive material—one that not only performs but also enhances spatial experience and aesthetics.
- **Dr. Shakti Chauhan** brought in the critical research perspective, underscoring the need for Indian standards, testing frameworks, and institutional backing to build confidence in timber systems.
- **Bharat Mehta** of Rothoblaas connected the dots from a market standpoint—demonstrating how timber is rapidly emerging as a global growth material, supported by strong technical ecosystems and evolving supply chains.



Together, these perspectives painted a clear picture: timber is not just about material innovation—it requires a **system-level transformation**.

### From Factory to Site: Making Timber Real



Bringing the discussion closer to implementation, **Mahabir Agarwal** of Jackhammer India showcased the growing capabilities in engineered timber, particularly Glulam (GLT), highlighting India's readiness to manufacture and deliver high-performance timber systems.

This was complemented by **Daniel Imhoff** of Lumber & Leaf, who grounded the conversation in reality. Sharing hands-on experiences from projects in India, he spoke candidly about the challenges—lack of skilled manpower, supply chain gaps, and absence of codes—but also demonstrated

how these barriers are being overcome through innovation and persistence.

His session served as both a reality check and a call to action: *the ecosystem may be evolving, but early movers will define the future.*



### An Engaged Dialogue

What stood out through the evening was the level of engagement. The open-house discussion saw participants actively exploring questions around cost, feasibility, scalability, and regulatory pathways. The curiosity was evident—and so was the intent to explore timber beyond theory.

## Looking Ahead: From Conversations to Action



Closing the session, **Ravi Dugar**, Co-Chairman of IGBC Kolkata Chapter, brought the discussions full circle. Reflecting on the evening, he noted that timber had clearly emerged not just as an alternative, but as a **forward-looking solution for the next generation of buildings**.

In his first public address as Co-Chairman, he also reinforced IGBC's role as a platform for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and industry transformation. With West Bengal poised for significant growth, he highlighted the opportunity to build not just more—but **better, greener, and more responsibly**.

His message was simple yet powerful: *the time for dialogue is over—the time for action has begun*.

## A Material Whose Time Has Come

As the evening transitioned into networking over dinner, conversations continued—ideas exchanged, connections built, and possibilities explored.

The workshop may have concluded, but it left behind a strong takeaway: timber is no longer on the fringes of India's construction discourse. With the right alignment of design, engineering, policy, and industry participation, it holds the potential to become a **mainstream, scalable, and transformative solution**.

For IGBC and the wider industry, this is not just about adopting a new material—it is about **redefining the future of the built environment**.



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