



The Institute of Town Planners, India

Declaration on The World Cities Day; October 31,2025- Theme- Urbanisation, sustainability and resilience

Housing more than 55% global population, occupying merely 3% of global land and contributing 70% to the global wealth, cities remain crucial, vital and important for the sustainable and rational growth and development of humanity, community, nations and planet earth. As generator of large employment, promoter of economy, provider of best infrastructures, creating spaces for innovations and preferred destination for living cities remain relevant and important for human living.

Consuming 70% of global energy, using majority of natural resources, generating 60% of GHG and 70% of waste, Cities have been globally recognised as the primary agents of creating heat island, promoting global warming, making addition to carbon footprints, ozone depletion, accelerating climate change and global warming. Housing large number of slums, marginalizing humanity, diluting quality of life, flooding cities, polluting air, promoting poverty, promote exclusion widening gap between rich and poor, excluding large number of residents from accessing them basic necessities of life, cities remain embedded with positivity and negativity, dualities and contradictions

Forming integral part of human history, cities have commanded power, authority and played major role in growth and development of every community, state and nation.

In this era of massive and rapid urbanisation, cities have been misused, abused and marginalised in its capacity, capability and ability to provide basic necessities of life and ensure appropriate quality of life to its residents.

For making cities more productive, qualitative, humane and supportive of environment, ecology and bio-diversity, cities need to be empowered by making them socially vibrant, environmentally sustainable and economically productive,

For making urbanisation more rational and environment friendly and making cities more resilient and sustainable,

We the members , office bearers of the chapters and centers, of the apex planning Institute of the country (The Institute of Town Planners, India), do hereby solemnly resolve, commit, affirm and declare as under , on the **World Cities Day, October 31, 2025; that Institute ;**

- **Undertakes to use its expertise, knowledge, experience and skill in urban planning , development and management; to make Indian urbanisation more rational, productive, sustainable and qualitative**
- **Undertakes to usher a new era of planned urban growth and sustainable urban development at the local, regional and national level.**
- **Undertakes to build and transform the existing cities to make them more humane, equitable, qualitative ,sustainable and livable**
- **Undertakes to rationalise and redefine all available planning tools for making urban planning and urban settlements ,more qualitative, equitable and productive.**
- **Undertakes to embed nature and natural resources as integral part of urban planning process to make cities more sustainable, resilient and livable**
- **Undertakes to interact and involve local communities as co-parceners, so as to create local ownership , make urban planning community oriented and community centric**
- **Undertakes to actively involve and engage youth in the art and science of urban planning, development and management for promoting transparency in decision ,creating local leadership, creating ownership and making cities responsive to the needs of the youth.**
- **Undertakes to realistically and effectively involve , engage and make informal sector integral part of urban planning process by appropriately spacing them in the residential and commercial urban spaces.**
- **Undertakes to create appropriate quality of public spaces to make cities socially more vibrant and community oriented .**

- ***Undertakes to make cities safe against all manmade and natural disasters by embedding safety as integral part of urban planning process***
- ***Undertakes to make cities free from floods by treating rainwater as a resource rather than a challenge and retaining rainwater within city rather than draining water outside the city to make cities self-reliant in availability of water***
- ***Undertakes to empower cities by making them net- zero energy, net -zero waste water settlements***
- ***Undertakes to make cities zero waste by embedding circular economy in the planning, development and operation of cities.***
- ***Undertakes to work with urban local bodies to make them financially self-reliant by generating adequate financial resources through leveraging the strength of urban planning ,using land as a resource.***
- ***Undertakes to review , revise and rationalise all urban planning norms and standards to ensure optimum use of available land resource.***
- ***Undertakes to promote research and create a dedicated mechanism for sourcing innovative ideas , options and strategies for making urbanisation more sustainable and the human settlements more inclusive, qualitative and productive.***
- ***Undertakes to work closely with various academic institutions to make teaching-learning in physical planning, more qualitative and focused, to improve the quality of urban settlements .***
- ***Undertakes to work closely with various parastatal agencies, in formulation and implementation of realistic policies, programs and projects, focusing on promoting planned and sustainable development of urban settlements.***
- ***Undertakes to promote equity and equality in urban planning by minimising dualities and contradictions prevailing in the urban settlements.***
- ***Undertakes to empower cities and communities , by holding seminars, workshops and discussions , to make urban planning people/community centric.***

- ***Undertakes to co-operate, collaborate, support and empower all cities in overcoming, the challenges posed by climate change and make cities resilient qualitative and environmentally sustainable,***

Signed by Pradeep Kapoor, President Institute of Town Planners India, on October 31, 2025, for and on behalf of the Community of Town Planners, on the World Cities Day.