



WORLD CITIES DAY CONNECT

Building Sustainable and Inclusive Cities for All
October 31, 2023 at Chennai, India

The “WORLD CITIES DAY CONNECT” with the theme of Building Sustainable and Inclusive Cities for All, program is a vital one-day initiative of the Sustainable Development Council Organized in partnership with the UN-Habitat and in the Global Observance of World Cities Day, this program is dedicated to advancing the development of smart cities throughout India with a strong emphasis on two fundamental pillars: sustainability and inclusivity.

In the context of India's rapid urbanization, this program serves as a platform for stakeholders, policymakers, urban planners, youth, and experts to converge and deliberate on crucial urban development issues. It strives to create a blueprint for Indian smart cities that are environmentally sustainable, technologically advanced, and inclusive, ensuring that the benefits of urbanization are accessible to all citizens, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds.

This initiative aligns with India's ambitious Smart Cities Mission and showcases the nation's commitment to addressing urban challenges in a holistic manner. It serves as a testament to India's dedication to shaping its urban future responsibly and harmonizing with global efforts to promote sustainable and inclusive urbanization. Through knowledge sharing, policy dialogues, and collaborative efforts, the program aims to contribute significantly to the realization of this vision, paving the way for a more sustainable, inclusive, and smarter urban India.

Background:

The United Nations General Assembly designated 31 October as World Cities Day, by its resolution 68/239. The Day is expected to greatly promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities addressing challenges of urbanization and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.

Urbanization provides the potential for new forms of social inclusion, including greater equality, access to services and new opportunities, and engagement and mobilization that reflects the diversity of cities, countries and the globe. Yet too often this is not the shape of urban development. Inequality and exclusion abound, often at rates greater than the national average, at the expense of sustainable development that delivers for all.

Urban October was launched by UN-Habitat in 2014 to emphasize the world's urban challenges and engage the international community towards the New Urban Agenda.



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Sustainable Development Goal 11, which formulates the ambition to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable - underlying the relevance of UN-Habitat's mission. Inequalities in cities have grown since 1980. The world's largest cities are also often the most unequal, and this year's theme is embraced by the action and implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which is putting the topic of inclusive cities as one of the main pillars for the urban shift.

In October 2016, the HABITAT III Conference, held in Quito, adopted a new framework, which will set the world on a course toward sustainable urban development by rethinking how cities are planned, managed and inhabited. The New Urban Agenda will set the pace on how to deal with the challenges of urbanization in the next two decades and is seen as an extension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreed on by the 193 Member States of the UN in September 2015.

Objectives:

Raise Awareness: Increase public awareness about the importance of inclusive and sustainable urban development in India.

Policy Dialogue: Facilitate dialogues between government officials, urban planners, civil society, and international experts to share best practices and solutions.

Youth Engagement: Empower and engage young people in discussions and activities related to urban development.

Showcase Innovation: Highlight innovative projects, technologies, and initiatives promoting sustainability and inclusivity in Indian cities.

Partnerships: Strengthen partnerships between Indian cities, UN-Habitat, NGOs, and the private sector for sustainable urban development.

Event Components:

Main Conference: One-day conference with keynotes, panel discussions, and workshops on topics like sustainable transportation, affordable housing, green spaces, and inclusive governance.

Digital Exhibition: Showcase urban development projects and innovations from Indian cities, demonstrating best practices in sustainability and inclusivity.

Youth Engagement: An inclusive youth participation where young people can present their ideas for improving urban environments and participate in workshops.



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Policy Forum: Creating new policy via policymakers and urban experts to discuss policy frameworks, funding mechanisms, and governance structures for sustainable cities.

Local Governance Awards: Recognizing and celebrating the urban local bodies and municipalities that have excelled in implementing inclusive and sustainable policies

Technical Workshops: Conduct technical workshops on urban planning, sustainable infrastructure, and climate resilience.

Global Collaboration: Facilitate partnerships between Indian cities and international organizations for knowledge exchange and technical assistance.

Panel Topic:

Financing a Sustainable Urban Future for all

Description: "Financing a Sustainable Urban Future for All," as we delve into the key strategies for unlocking transformative investments in urban planning. We will explore the crucial topic of fiscal decentralization and its role in ensuring sustainable urban development. Discover innovative financing models and policies that can drive positive change in our cities, paving the way for a brighter, more inclusive, and sustainable urban future.



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