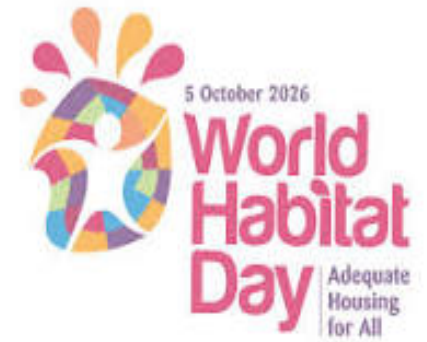




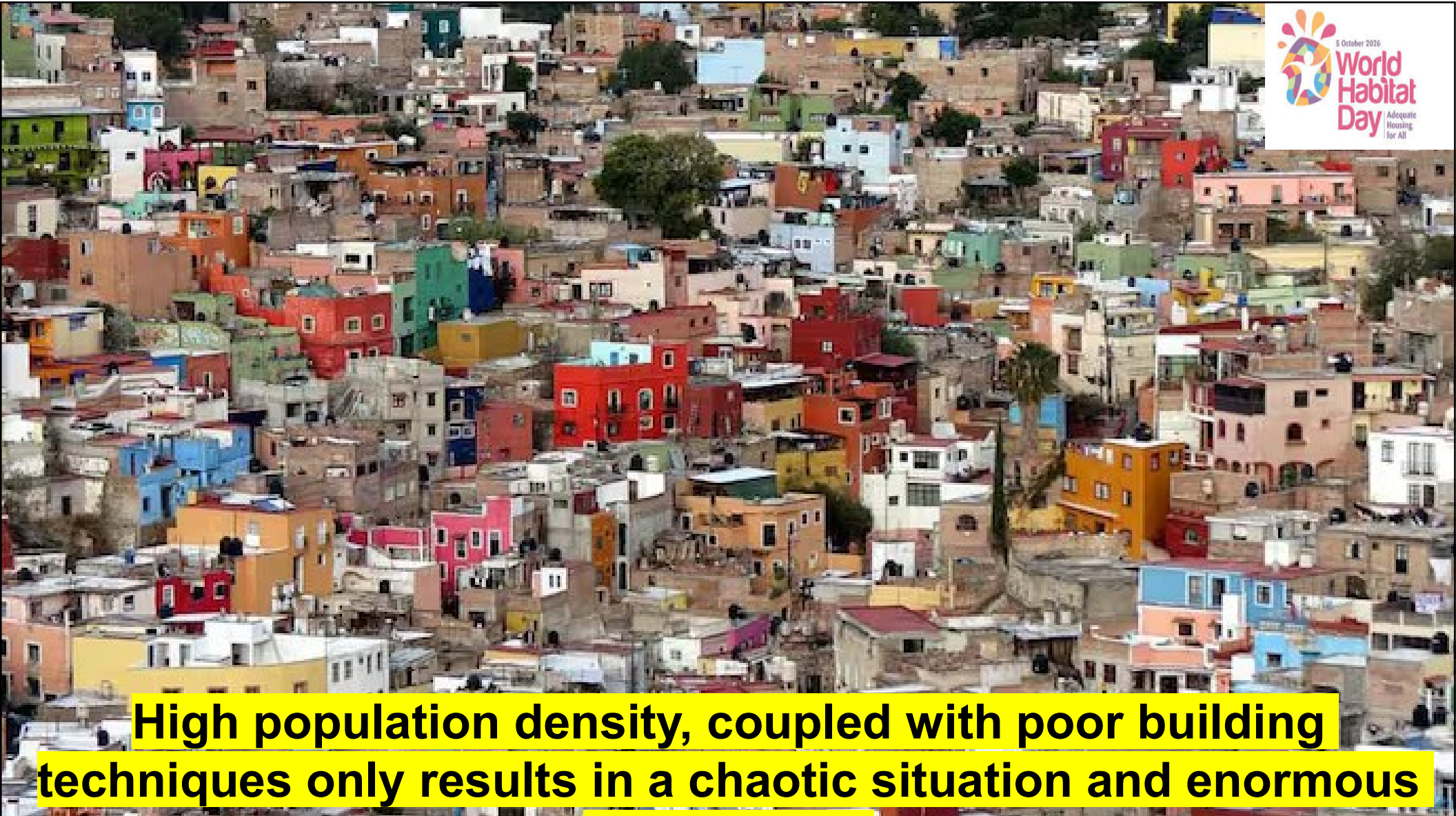
WORLD HABITAT DAY 2026

ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL

An Overview By: Er. J. B. Singh

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High population density, coupled with poor building techniques only results in a chaotic situation and enormous

WHAT IS WORLD HABITAT DAY?



The First Monday of October was designated as World Habitat Day by the United Nations to reflect on the state of our cities and towns. The first World Habitat Day was observed in 1986, after the United Nations General Assembly established it in 1985.

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The first observance was held in **Nairobi, Kenya, with the theme **"Shelter is My Right,"** focusing on the fundamental human right to adequate housing. Since then it is celebrated every year.**



WHY AN OBSERVANCE REQUIRED

An increasing number of people are driven from their homes by crises such as conflict , political instability ,climate change and economic hardship . A record 122 million people are forcibly displaced.

So by observance of an International days for a human cause are occasions to educate the general public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.



KEY FACTS ABOUT WORLD HABITAT DAY'S ORIGIN

Established: 1985 by the UN General Assembly.

First Celebration: 1986.

Host City: Nairobi, Kenya.

First Theme: "Shelter is My Right".

**Purpose: To focus on the state of towns and cities,
and the basic right to adequate shelter for all.**

**Responsibility: The day reminds the world of its
responsibility to shape and protect future human
habitats.**



THEMES SINCE 1986

- 1986: Shelter is My Right**
- 1987: Shelter for the Homeless**
- 1988: Shelter and Community**
- 1989: Shelter, Health and the Family**
- 1990: Shelter and Urbanization**
- 1991: Shelter and the Living Environment**
- 1992: Shelter and Sustainable Development**
- 1993: Women and Shelter Development**
- 1994: Home and the Family**
- 1995: Our Neighbourhood**
- 1996: Urbanization, Citizenship and Human Solidarity**
- 1997: Future Cities**
- 1998: Safer Cities**
- 1999: Cities for All.**



THEMES SINCE 2000

2000s

- 2000:** Women in Urban Governance
- 2001:** Cities without Slums
- 2002:** City-to-City Cooperation
- 2003:** Water and Sanitation for Cities
- 2004:** Cities – Engines of Rural Development
- 2005:** The Millennium Development Goals and the City
- 2006:** Cities, magnets of hope
- 2007:** A safe city is a just city
- 2008:** Harmonious Cities
- 2009:** Planning Our Urban Future
- 2010:** Better City, Better Life
- 2011:** Cities and Climate Change
- 2012:** Changing Cities, Building Opportunities
- 2013:** Urban Mobility
- 2014:** Voices from Slums
- 2015:** Public Spaces for All



- **CONTD.**
- **2016: Housing at the centre**
- **2017: Housing Policies: Affordable Homes**
- **2018: Municipal Solid Waste Management**
- **2019: Frontier Technologies**
- **2020: Housing For All: A Better Urban Future**
- **2021: Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world**
- **2022: Mind the Gap. Leave No One and No Place Behind**
- **2023: Resilient urban economies: Cities as drivers of growth and recovery**
- **2024: Engaging Youth to Create a Better Urban Future**
- **2025: Urban Crisis Response (*Alternatively framed as "Urban Solutions to Crisis"*)**
- **2026: Adequate Housing for All (*Observed on Monday, 5 October 2026, with the Global Observance hosted in Muscat, Oman*)**
- **2027: A billion lives: transforming informal settlements and slums (*Declared theme for the upcoming global call*)**

URBAN CRISIS REPOSE



This makes urban crisis response and urban displacement a timely focus for World Habitat Day. The day will highlight sustainable, scalable, and transformative solutions to urban displacement that help stabilize populations while promoting prosperity and fostering social cohesion for all.

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ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES



It will put the spotlight on the importance of urban and territorial planning, inclusive urban governance and the role of local governments in sustainable solutions for displacement.

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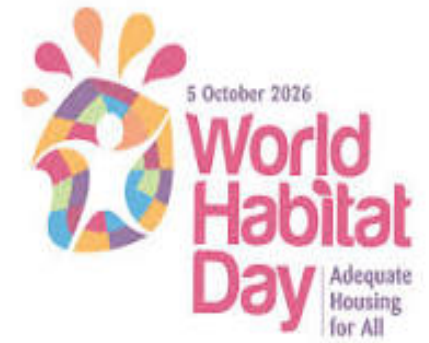
IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Sustainable urban development is important for creating cities that are environmentally responsible, socially equitable, and economically viable for both present and future generations. As urban populations expand, sustainable planning becomes critical for mitigating the negative impacts of urbanization, such as pollution and resource depletion.

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IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT



- ❖ **Reducing carbon footprint**
- ❖ **Providing adequate housing**
- ❖ **Promoting sustainable transportation**
- ❖ **Improving public spaces**

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The Increase in Carbon Footprint

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What is adequate housing?



Habitability

The housing must provide adequate space and protection from natural elements, threats to health, and structural hazards.

Affordability

Costs associated with housing should not compromise the occupants' ability to afford other basic needs such as food, healthcare, and education.

Accessibility

Housing should cater to the needs of all individuals, including vulnerable groups like people with disabilities, the elderly, and low-income households.

Security of tenure

Occupants should have legal protection against forced evictions and harassment.

Access to basic services

Adequate housing must include access to clean water, sanitation, electricity, transportation, and other essential urban services

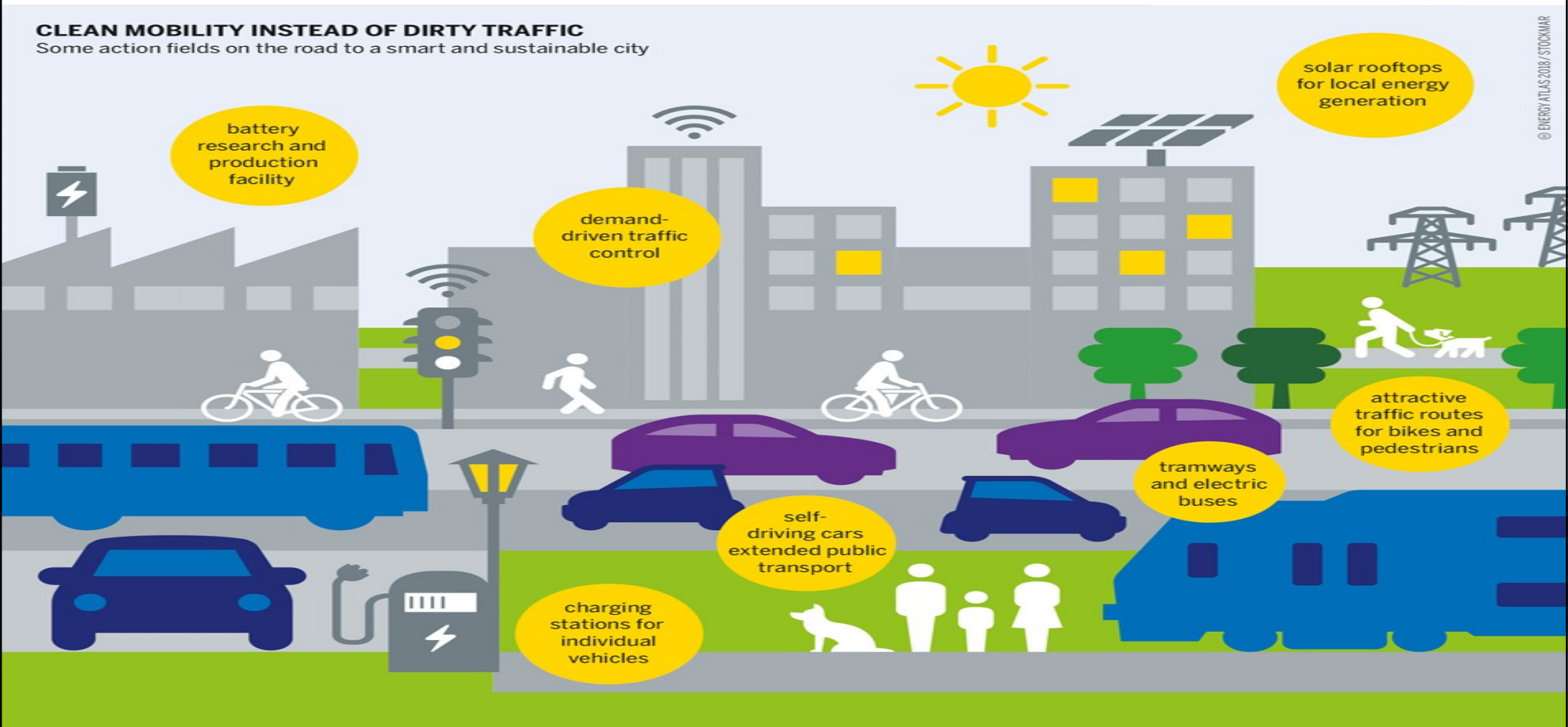
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CLEAN MOBILITY INSTEAD OF DIRTY TRAFFIC



CLEAN MOBILITY INSTEAD OF DIRTY TRAFFIC

Some action fields on the road to a smart and sustainable city





IMPROVING PUBLIC SPACES

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CHALLENGES

- ❖ **Urban poverty**
- ❖ **Inadequate housing**
- ❖ **Climate change**
- ❖ **Urban sprawl**



URBAN POVERTY

URBAN SPRAWL



CLIMATE CHANGE



**Effects of Climate Change on the Environment:
A Global Crisis**

WHAT CAN BE DO ?

- ❖ **We can promote Sustainable building practices**
- ❖ **Green infrastructure**
- ❖ **Use Public transportation**
- ❖ **Get involved in local community initiatives**
- ❖ **Green infrastructure**
- ❖ **Reduce energy consumption**



GREEN PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN INDIA



ELECTRIC BUSES

METRO RAIL



EV PUBLIC TRANSPORT

BIKE SHARING

MOVING FROM ACUTE CRISIS



A humanitarian response that fails to integrate development approaches early, risks prolonging the crisis and aid dependency. There is an urgent need to pivot earlier towards development and government-led solutions in dealing with displacement situations for more durable outcomes.

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RESPONSE TO SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



To effectively transition to sustainable urban solutions and promote self-reliance, three approaches are key:

First, inclusive approaches to urban and territorial development with social cohesion at the center are key to addressing the needs of both host communities and the displaced. In line with SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda, inclusive urban planning and urban governance are essential tools to facilitate social cohesion and integration of displacement of affected communities.

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Second, sustainable solutions also need to ensure access to adequate housing, land, and basic services. Displaced populations and host communities, particularly the urban poor, often face acute challenges in access to adequate housing, basic services, and economic opportunities. The ever-worsening global housing crisis exacerbates these challenges, as it strains already limited resources.

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Third, Mayors and local governments have demonstrated over and over again that they can drive solutions, working closely with the displacement of affected communities in all their diversity. Their leadership is key to ensure social cohesion as a prerequisite for inclusive growth and stability. Enhancing multi-level governance, building local governments' capacity, and ensuring enabling legal and policy instruments, along with comprehensive financing solutions, are critical in achieving long-term solutions for both host and displaced communities and provides them with access to adequate housing.

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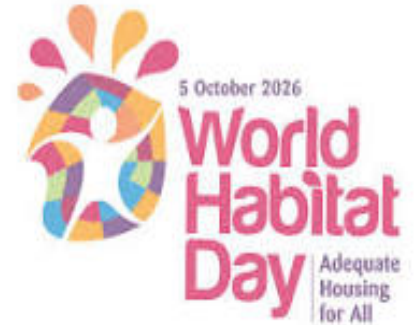
OBJECTIVES



In line with UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, World Habitat Day will:

- ❖ **Share urban and territorial development strategies for durable solutions to displacement.**
- ❖ **Recognize the central role of local governments in championing solutions and the need for multi-level governance.**

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- ❖ **Highlight social cohesion and inclusive governance as key enablers of urban integration of displaced populations.**
- ❖ **Consider the critical role of housing, land and basic services for sustainable solutions for displacement.**
- ❖ **Showcase urban practices that have successfully achieved social cohesion, recovery and integration for displacement of affected communities.**

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CONCLUSION



- ❖ **World Habitat Day 2026 reminds us that cities must be more than shelters—they must be resilient, inclusive, and sustainable ecosystems that empower all citizens.**
- ❖ **The global urban crisis, driven by displacement, poverty, and climate change, demands integrated urban planning and people-centered solutions.**

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By aligning humanitarian responses with long-term development, strengthening local governance, and ensuring equitable access to housing and basic services, we can transform challenges into opportunities. Together, through collaboration, innovation, and sustainable urban design, we can build cities that not only withstand crises but thrive beyond them—creating a secure, equitable, and prosperous urban future for all.

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Key Focus Areas in India

- **Rental Housing Potential:** Technical sessions examine structural challenges and enabling measures to unlock rental housing opportunities.
- **Demand-Supply Gap:** Discussions focus on regulatory measures needed to bridge housing shortages.
- **Resilient & Affordable Construction:** Experts are deliberating on low-cost indigenous technologies and innovative financing instruments to scale affordable housing, heavily tied to initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Urban).



Thank you