



### **Transformative Urban Resilience: Participative Governance, Design and Development**

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Substantial progress on climate action has been made at the subnational level across different federal and multilevel governance systems, and India is a good example to demonstrate this. With a growing population, India is facing challenges, including urban adaptation concerns, of rising demands for energy, food security, infrastructural limitations, rising informal settlements and the impacts of increasing extreme weather events. Challenged with reconciling its economic growth with the pressing need to address the impacts of climate change, India has found itself increasingly focusing on sustainable development with an emphasis on building adaptation and resilience. While the impetus for climate policy initially came from the central level in a top-down fashion, in recent years, Indian state and local governments have begun formulating and implementing their own climate policies more proactively through initiatives under the National Mission on Sustainable Habitat as well as through State Action Policies on Climate Change. States are now responding to national plans, guidelines and policies in a manner that reflects their own economic and political circumstances and decentralisation reforms have not only increased the powers of state governments, but also municipal governments.

With increasing urbanization and impacts of climate change, many of India's cities contend with unsustainable levels of stress on infrastructure, resources and public services, resulting in compromised lives and livelihoods of residents. Urban resilience as a concept therefore means the ability of cities to survive, adapt, and grow in the face of shocks, such as floods, fires, water scarcity etc., and stresses, such as growing population and ageing infrastructure that aggravate their vulnerabilities. Mainstreaming resilience in the urban discourse has involved active participation of subnational actors like state governments, state and city level development agencies and urban local bodies supported by urban planning institutes as well as urban practitioners. As cities continue to grow, urban governance and planning systems at the subnational level must be further strengthened to ensure sustainable cities that are inclusive and adaptive.

Under the Presidency of the UK, COP26 aims to mobilise international action on adaptation and resilience as a priority. With the launch of the Race to Resilience campaign, the UK presidency has highlighted the role of subnational and non-state actors in fighting climate change on urban, rural and coastal fronts. In this context, this dialogue on Transformative Urban Resilience: Participative Governance, Design and Development 'will be convened jointly by TERI and the British High

Commission to emphasise the importance of subnational actors and flag the challenges they face, especially within the arena of urban governance. The panel will discuss the following questions:

- How can we encourage and enable subnational actors, and in particular non-state actors, to take action for building transformative urban resilience?
- How can we upscale and replicate successful pilots in urban resilience and develop strategies based on them at the subnational level?
- How can we build institutional and human capacities within the urban governance structure to strengthen subnational action?
- How can we strengthen monitoring and reporting at the subnational level to ensure better informed policy making in urban governance?
- How can we finance and leverage adaptation and resilience projects or actions, especially from private actors, to support subnational action within urban governance?