

WORLD URBAN FORUM 12, CAIRO, EGYPT- TOUR REPORT

The World Urban Forum (WUF)- Background

- The World Urban Forum (WUF), the premier global conference on sustainable urbanization, was established in 2001 by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanisation and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies. The World Urban Forum (WUF) is organised by United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) every alternate year in different countries of the world, starting with first WUF in Nairobi, Kenya in 2002. Representatives of national, regional and local governments, academics, business people, community leaders, urban planners and civil society representatives attend the WUF.

World Urban Forum (WUF)-12

- The 12th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12) took place in Cairo, Egypt during 4-8 November 2024. This is the first time in over 20 years, the Forum returned to the African continent and created history with a record-breaking attendance of over 25,000 participants both in Cairo and online from 182 countries. The WUF12 had an extensive programme schedule covering Plenary Sessions, Dialogues, Debates, Networking Sessions, Training Sessions, and Round Table Meetings, where Speakers, Panelists, and Attendees from diverse backgrounds explored the multifaceted dimensions of this year's theme, "It All Starts at Home," and reflected on its significance across various sectors through knowledge sharing, skilling, and networking activities.
- The Closing Ceremony of WUF12 saw the unveiling of the Cairo Call to Action, a document encapsulating key messages and ideas from the discussions. Egypt officially passed the baton to Azerbaijan, host of WUF13 at Baku, marking a momentous transition.
- Previously, AIHDA had organised and coordinated visits delegation of senior officials from various States, Agencies and HUDCO officials for participation in various events of the World Urban Forums. On similar lines, AIHDA is also taking a delegation to WUF12 at Cairo, Egypt, in view of the critical importance and relevance of the event, especially in the context of India's urban transformative Missions currently in place.
- Besides India Pavilion on Urban Expo, HUDCO-AIHDA Networking event on: "*India's Urban Transformative Missions: Mainstreaming Innovations into Practices for Sustainable, Inclusive & Stronger Cities*", to be held on 6th November 2024 at Cairo.

Cairo Call to Action

- The highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of the Cairo Call to Action—a guiding document capturing the Forum’s key messages and proposed solutions to urban challenges. Within the broader context of sustainable urbanization, the participants of WUF12 Call to undertake and promote the following 10 key actions:
 - address the global housing crisis;
 - achieving global goals through local action;
 - sustaining a systemic representation of local actors at all levels;
 - sharing urban spaces and opportunities inclusively;
 - urban planning to deliver better local outcomes;
 - unlocking finance for cities and communities;
 - ensuring equity and justice for sustainable cities;
 - leveraging local and grassroots data for decision-making;
 - harnessing culture and heritage as an asset for sustainability; and
 - building coalitions and alliances to scale local impact
- Thought leaders, representing local government, parliament, and youth, reflected on the Forum’s outcomes and the collective commitment captured in the Call to Action. Their insights underscored that localization is a community-wide effort that requires every member of society to play a role.
- The ceremony concluded with Egypt officially passing the baton to Azerbaijan, host of WUF13 at Baku, symbolizing the continued effort to drive forward the insights and momentum generated at WUF12.

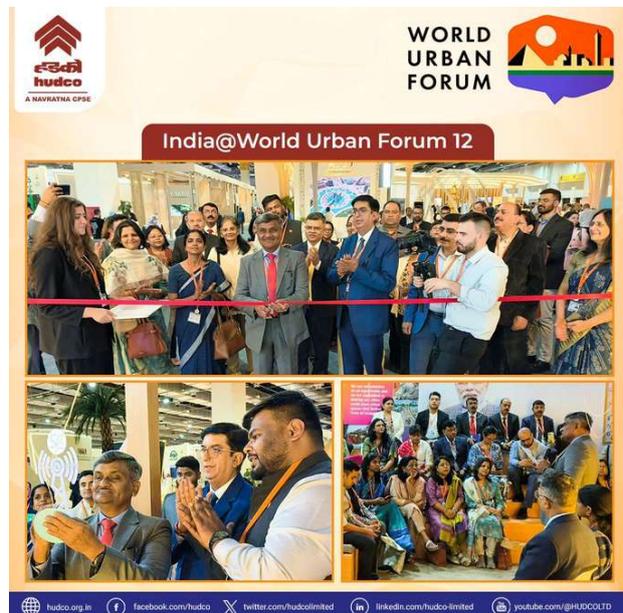
India at World Urban Forum (WUF)-12

- The official delegation from the Govt. of India was led by Shri Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary (HUA), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), GoI. Shri Dinesh Kapila, Economic Advisor, MoHUA and Shri Sanjay Kulshrestha, CMD HUDCO were among the official delegation. Apart from the Ministerial delegation, the All India Housing Development Association (AIHDA) had taken a delegation of 15 senior officials from various States, Agencies and HUDCO officials for participation in various events at the World Urban Forum WUF12 at Cairo, Egypt. The list of Officials is given at Annexure-I. Besides participating in various sessions at WUF12, the delegation actively participated in the following specific events organized by the Govt. of India, HUDCO and AIHDA:

- Urban Expo Exhibition at India Pavillion on the theme “Transforming Urban Landscape in India through Sustainable Housing & Infrastructure Development Initiatives” jointly organized by MoHUA, HUDCO and NIUA;
- HUDCO-AIHDA Networking Event on ‘Urban Transformative Missions of India- Mainstreaming Innovations into Practices for Sustainable, Inclusive & Stronger Cities’ on 6th November 2024 (NE 01-05);
- 6th Bureau meeting of Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing & Urban Development (APMCHUD), 5th November; and
- India Brazil South Africa (IBSA) trilateral meeting on ‘Implementation of the Global Action Plan on Slum Transformation’ on 6th November 2024.

Urban Expo: India Pavillion

- Shri Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary (HUA), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Gol inaugurated the India Pavillion on 4th November at the 12th World Urban Forum in Cairo, Egypt, on the theme of "Transforming Urban Landscape in India through Sustainable Housing & Infrastructure Development Initiatives". The inauguration of the event was in the presence of Shri Dinesh Kapila, Economic Advisor, MoHUA and Shri Sanjay Kulshrestha, Chairman & Managing Director HUDCO, Shri M. Nagaraj, Director Corporate Planning HUDCO, Dr. Balkar Singh, Secretary (Housing & Urban Planning) Govt. of Uttar Pradesh and other MoHUA, NIUA HUDCO and AIHDA delegations. Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary highlighted India's commitment to sustainable urbanization, inclusive growth, and citizen-centric governance. The India Pavilion showcased key urban initiatives underscoring India's transformative urban vision for a ‘Viksit Bharat’.



- A delegation of HUDCO officials led by Shri Sanjay Kulshrestha, Chairman & Managing Director HUDCO, participated in the inauguration of India Pavillion where HUDCO’s indelible impact

across India through its contributions to enhancing the quality of life for its citizens have been showcased through displays and audio-visual content. The Secretary also appreciated HUDCO's effort in organizing the India Pavillion as well as HUDCO's displays and audio-visual contents. The urban expo including HUDCO exhibition drawn a diverse group of international visitors, all engaging with and appreciating India's unprecedented urban transformation initiatives as well as HUDCO's inspiring journey.



HUDCO-AIHDA Networking Event

- The HUDCO-AIHDA Networking Event on 'Urban Transformative Missions of India- Mainstreaming Innovations into Practices for Sustainable, Inclusive & Stronger Cities' was successfully organized by AIHDA which was participated by large number of international participants apart from AIHDA delegation members. The event at WUF12 focuses on instruments and mechanism used in India's Urban Transformative Missions for mainstreaming innovations into Practices for Sustainable, Inclusive & Stronger Cities. Various distinguished speakers showcased India's approaches for transforming urban landscape through Transformative Missions and lessons for the developing world. While welcoming the dignitaries and participants to the networking event, Shri M. Nagaraj, Director Corporate Planning HUDCO, and Secretary General, AIHDA, in his welcome address, stressed that India recognizes the place of cities in the country's transformation and taken a number of steps for managing sustainable urbanisation, particularly with respect of SDG 11, of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

- Ms. Parul Agarwala, Country Manager, UN-Habitat India spoke about the success of India's Housing for All Mission (PMAY-urban), which is world's largest Housing programme in terms of its size, scale and performance and lessons for the developing world to design similar kind of programmes to address housing problems in their countries. Dr. Debolina Kundu, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) gave a detailed presentation of India's Smart Cities Mission: Mainstreaming innovations into practices for creating Sustainable Cities, through which she demonstrated some of the key success stories which can be replicated elsewhere in the world.



- Dr. Balkar Singh, Secretary (Housing & Urban Planning) Govt. of Uttar Pradesh presented a case study of Green Field Township being developed at Ayodhya, Pilgrim City in the State of Uttar Pradesh where around 11 Crore Tourists Visited Ayodhya city in year 2024 so far. The Ayodhya Green Field Township aims to achieve the essence of sustainable planning envisaged as part of the Vision Plan 2047. Mr. Hari Kumar Singh, CEO, Imphal Smart City Limited, Manipur, India presented a case study of Imphal Smart City where an area of 541 acres were taken for retrofitting through various projects.
- Mr. Rajiv Sharma, Executive Director HUDCO gave a detailed presentation on the Role of Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise, in Urban Transformation in India through 360o Partnership for Sustainable Urbanisation by extending affordable finance, consultancy services and capacity building activities. Dr. K.N Narayana Gowda, Director Karnataka State Building Centre (KARNIK) presented on innovative methods being used in Karnataka for scientific disposal of construction and demolition (c & d) waste and reuse to effectively utilize recycled Coarse aggregates for sustainable concrete in construction industry as well as to overcome global warming by protecting the natural resources it includes to reduce the carbon footprint.
- The networking event was moderated by Dr. Maartje Van Eerd, Faculty & Sr. Housing Expert, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), Rotterdam. The presentations

were followed by interventions from the floor by the participants. Dr. Akshaya Kumar Sen, General Manager (Economics), HUDCO and Additional Secretary General, AIHDA coordinated the networking event and proposed the vote of thanks to dignitaries as well as the participants for their active participation.

6th Bureau 4th meeting of the APMCHUD

- Though the 4th meeting of the 6th Bureau of the APMCHUD, could not be conducted in the absence of a quorum, the APMCHUD meeting was held on 5th November, 2024 as scheduled with the H.E. Nga Kor Ming, the Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia who was invited to the Bureau meeting as a special invitee to be an observer. Mr. Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Ms. Kazuko Ishigaki, Regional Representative United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), Mr. Dinesh Kapila, Deputy Chief Coordinator, APMCHUD, Shri Sanjay Kulshrestha, Chairman & Managing Director HUDCO, Shri M. Nagaraj, Director Corporate Planning HUDCO, were present along with officials of the APMCHUD Secretariat and AIHDA delegation.
- The Hon'ble Minister H.E. Nga Kor Ming, offered the commitment of the Government of Malaysia to host the next APMCHUD Bureau Meeting in Penang, Malaysia from 14-15 April 2025. He assured the full and total support of the Government of Malaysia and his Ministry in particular to successfully host the meeting and extended a warm welcome to all APMCHUD members.

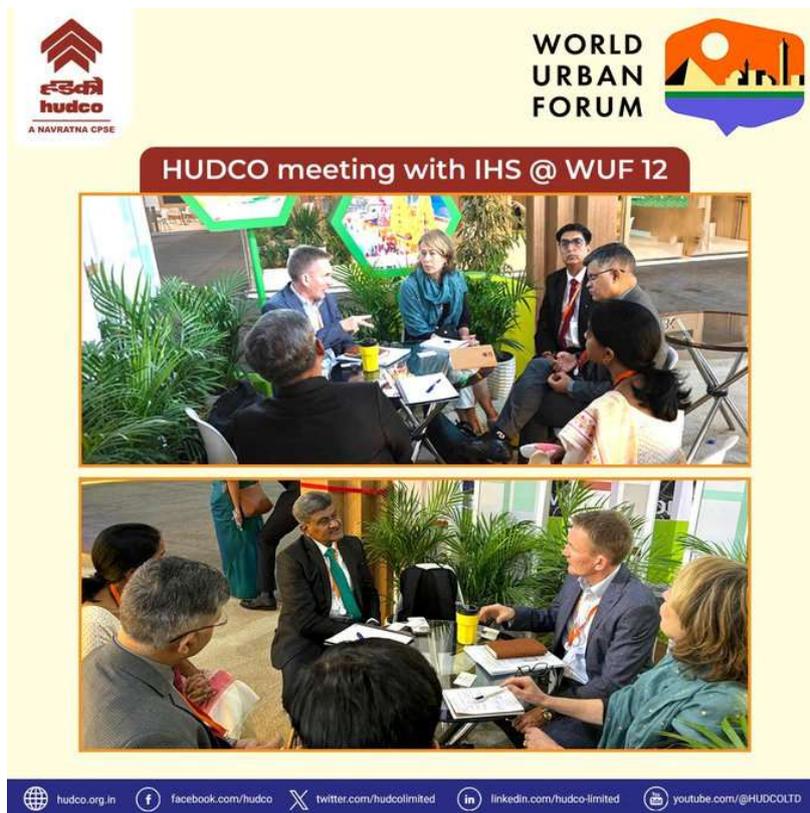


- Mr. Srinivas appreciated the generous offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the next meeting and said that the proposal would be taken up with the Bureau members in the next meeting, proposed to be held in online mode, for ratification by the Bureau.

Other meetings

- There were many other meetings where the delegation
- Meeting with IHS
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, CMD HUDCO, met [@dee_are_dee](#), Director [#IHS](#) Rotterdam, in the presence of [@Secretary_MoHUA](#), to explore the possibility of reviving professional and



[@SrinivasKat](#)

, Secretary

[@MoHUA India](#)

, met H.E. Eng Mohamed Al Mansouri, DG of Sheikh Zayed Housing Program UAE and discussed shared goals in developing resilient urban development

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Bilateral Meeting with UAE Delegation

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Ms. Mmamoloko "Nkhensani" Kubayi, Minister of Human Settlements Republic of South Africa, Mr. Jader Fontenelle Barbalho Filho, Brazilian Minister of Cities, [@Secretary MoHUA](#), India and senior officials of the three countries attended the meeting of the IBSA-HS working group on the sidelines of WUF12 at Cairo. The trilateral group agreed to work together on the Global Action Plan on accelerating slum transformation by setting up an informality task force.



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IBSA-HS working group agrees on agenda for slum transformation



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