

IRADe- leading South Asian think tank- releases Report on ‘Sustainable and Disaster Resilient Urban Development for 10 Indian Cities’ at UNFCCC COP25

New Delhi/ Madrid, December 06, 2019: Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), a leading South Asian think tank, released its Report on ‘Sustainable and Disaster Resilient Urban Development - A Comparative Study of 10 Indian cities’, at the side-lines of the UNFCCC COP 25 Chile-Madrid. The Report, unveiled by **Shri Rohit Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government Of India**, assesses the state of resilience in 10 Indian cities – Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Dehradun, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Pune, Shillong, Srinagar and Vishakhapatnam – across 10 states in India.



(From L-R: Dr. Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IRADe; Shri Rohit Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government Of India; and Dr. Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe)

Commenting on the relevance of this Report, **Dr. Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe**, said, *“Climate change will result in increased frequency and magnitudes of extreme events. Urban planners will need to give systemic response that include engineering, design and technical solutions to ensure disaster resilient cities. Over the last 30 years, India, with accelerating urbanization and growing vulnerabilities, has been hit by more than 430 disasters, affecting nearly 150 crore people besides causing massive damages to property.”*

Setting the context for the sessions, **Dr. Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IRADe**, said, *“Climate resilience needs to be an integral aspect of smart cities planning and development. Smart cities need to develop disaster resilience at a fast pace as huge economic losses occur even if cities do not function for a week. Disaster Risk Reduction, therefore, must be an integral part of master plans/development plans.”*

Most cities surveyed are unable to meet the MoHUA benchmarks for Urban Infrastructure and hence are highly exposed to multiple climate hazards. The study recommends the following strategies:

- Using local understanding along-side scientific knowledge to reduce community vulnerability
- Database management to provide advance information on flood inundation



- Robust infrastructure, stronger transportation system, water supply, sanitation and power infrastructure with optimum physical resilience
- Improving Socio-economic conditions of urban poor
- Strong Governance and Institutional Framework - disaster resilience, adaptation, environment and sustainability
- Training need assessment and Technical Capacity building by Urban Local Bodies
- Increasing Public-private participation

The guidelines and recommendation of this report were referred by MoHUA for integrating disaster/climate resilience in smart city plans for 10 Indian cities. This Report would be useful for city administration towards realizing smart city plans, and to the Central Government to design National Disaster Resilience Framework.

An IRADe delegation comprising - Dr. Kirit Parikh, Chairman; Dr. Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director and Dr. Probal Ghosh, Head-Modelling, participated at COP 25 Chile- Madrid.

About Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe)

IRADe is an independent non-profit, advanced research institute which aims to conduct research and policy analysis to engage stakeholders such as government, non-governmental organisations, corporations, academic and financial institutions. IRADe focuses on effective action through multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder research, to arrive at implementable solutions for sustainable development and policy research that accounts for the effective governance of techno-economic and socio-cultural issues. IRADe is selected as a Centre of Excellence by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India for [urban development](#) and [climate change](#). For details, visit www.irade.org, or follow us at https://twitter.com/IRADe_Delhi/, <https://www.facebook.com/IRADeNewDelhi/>

About UN Climate Change Conference COP 25

The UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 (2 – 13 December 2019) will take place under the Presidency of the Government of Chile and will be held with logistical support from the Government of Spain. SBSTA 51/ SBI 51 will take place 2-9 December 2019. To know more, visit <https://unfccc.int/cop25>