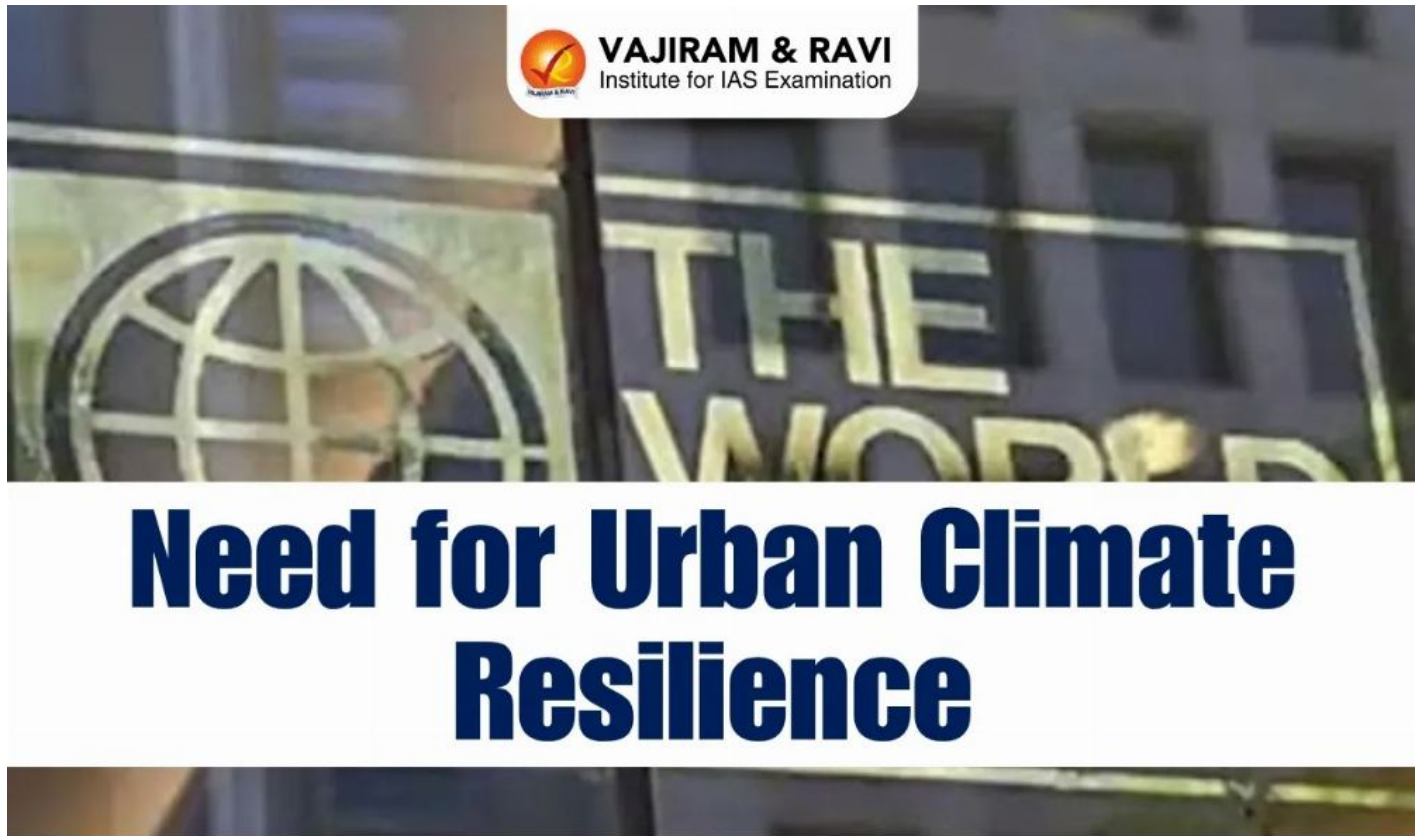


Empowering Urban India for Climate Resilience

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Need for Urban Climate Resilience

Need for Urban Climate Resilience Latest News

- **India's urban landscape** is rapidly expanding, posing significant challenges in adapting to **climate change**.
- **A World Bank report** ("Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India"), in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), highlights the urgent need for urban climate resilience.
- It advocates for **greater autonomy** for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and suggests a \$2.4 trillion investment requirement by 2050.

Key Highlights from the Report

- **Need for urban autonomy in climate governance:**
 - World Bank India Country Director Auguste Tano Kouame emphasized that cities with decision-making autonomy perform better in climate resilience.
 - Advocated for the implementation of the **74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, based on local conditions.

- **Decentralization** leads to better **resource mobilization**, asset monetization, revenue generation, and accountability.
- **Urban climate risks and economic costs:**
 - Urban India will experience **two major shocks** –
 - Pluvial flooding (urban flooding due to poor drainage and excessive concretization).
 - Extreme heat stress, worsened by the urban heat island effect.
 - **Estimated annual flood-related losses** are \$5 billion by 2030 and \$30 billion by 2070.
 - **Heat-related fatalities** could double to over 3 lakh per year by 2050.

Financial and Population Projections

- **Investment needs:**
 - \$2.4 trillion required by 2050 for building resilient infrastructure and services.
 - At least \$150 billion needed to build flood resilience in 60% of high-risk cities over the next 15 years.
- **Urban growth trajectory:**
 - Urban population to nearly double to 951 million by 2050.
 - By 2030, cities will generate 70% of new employment in India.

Best Practices Cited in India

- **Ahmedabad** has developed a Heat Action Plan model which aims to strengthen early warning systems, improve healthcare readiness, increase green cover and shift work schedules for outdoor laborers.
- **Kolkata** has adopted a city-level flood forecasting and warning system.
- **Indore** has invested in a modern solid waste management system, improving cleanliness and supporting green jobs.
- **Chennai** has adopted a climate action plan based on thorough risk assessment and targeting both adaptation and low-carbon growth.

Recommendations of the Report

- **For national and state governments:**
 - Create a financing roadmap.
 - Set standards and frameworks to boost municipal capacity.
 - Engage the private sector in climate-resilient infrastructure.
- **For cities and ULBs:**
 - Evaluate climate risks at the local level.
 - Mobilise capital (including private investments) for adaptation and mitigation.
 - Adopt strategies such as –
 - **Cool roofs, early warning systems**, urban greening, and shifted working hours to mitigate heat stress.
 - **Urban planning** that reduces impervious surfaces and improves stormwater management.

Conclusion

The World Bank-MoHUA report highlights that empowering cities through greater autonomy, targeted investments, and institutional reforms is crucial for making India's urban future climate-resilient, economically productive, and socially inclusive.

Source: TH | IE

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