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COP31 - CITIES - LEAD STORY

Climate summit holds its first leaders' dialogue on cities as UN says urban areas get a fifth of the money they need

Some 80% of national climate plans now contain well-developed urban measures, up from 50%, UN-Habitat found; no formal declaration was adopted in Antalya



Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman addresses the COP31 high-level session in Antalya on November 12, the day of the urban dialogue.
PHOTO: PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, PUBLIC DOMAIN

ANTALYA: Heads of government, mayors and climate finance officials met at the COP31 climate conference on Thursday, November 12, for the first high-level dialogue on urban resilience, adaptation and climate action held at a UN climate summit's Leaders' Summit. More than 1,000 people attended the session, convened by the Turkish COP31 Presidency and UN-Habitat, the agency said.

A new UN-Habitat analysis of 142 national climate plans found that 80% now contain well-developed urban measures, up from 50% in the previous round. Cities need about $4.5 trillion a year in climate investment through 2030, but current finance covers about one-fifth of that, UN News reported.

"Housing is climate action. Urban planning is climate action. Access to basic services is climate action," said UN-Habitat Executive Director Anaclaudia Rossbach, speaking for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. She called for more attention to the more than 1 billion people who live in informal settlements. "A national climate plan only becomes real when it reaches people's homes and neighbourhoods," she said.

The chair's summary names adequate housing, informal settlement upgrading, municipal infrastructure and basic services as priorities, and says progress must be matched by institutional capacity, finance and national-local coordination. It cites Turkiye's Sustainable Urban Resilience Financing Facility, developed with UN-Habitat and the World Bank, as a model. The UN also announced a disaster risk financing platform that aims to unlock more than $3 billion to protect 75 million people from climate shocks by 2030.

No formal declaration was adopted. An IPCC special report on cities is due in March 2027, and COP32 in Ethiopia will review progress. The talks end on November 20 (Pages 2, 4, 9 and 10).

Sources: UN News, Nov 12 - UN-Habitat, Nov 13 - Xinhua, Nov 13

INDIA DESK - SWACHH SURVEKSHAN

Navi Mumbai named India's cleanest city as Indore drops out of the top three



The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation headquarters.
PHOTO: ADHYARU19, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0

NEW DELHI: Navi Mumbai has been ranked India's cleanest city in the Swachh Survekshan 2025-26, ahead of Surat and Vijayawada, President Droupadi Murmu announced at the awards on November 11. Indore, ranked cleanest for the previous eight years, was not in the top three. Greater Visakhapatnam led the million-plus category. The survey covered 4,751 cities and drew about 27 million citizen responses. The share of urban waste processed has risen from 16% in 2014 to 80%, the housing minister said (Page 2).

DD India, Nov 11 - Utkarsh

INDIA DESK - METRO RAIL

Bengaluru's Pink Line opens, taking the city's metro past 100 km



A Pink Line train in Bengaluru, November 2026.
PHOTO: SAMEER2905, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0

BENGALURU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 7.5-km elevated section of Namma Metro's Pink Line on November 13, and it carried 33,409 passengers on its first public day, November 14, according to BMRCL figures reported by Deccan Herald. The six-station stretch from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere cost about Rs 34.7 billion and takes the network from 96.1 km to 103.6 km. Its 12-station underground section to Nagawara is due in 2027 (Page 3).

Deccan Herald, Nov 14 - Oneindia

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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NEW DELHI: Delhi's air quality index was 373 on November 13 and Stage 3 curbs remain in force (Page 4). ETV Bharat

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet approved a Rs 23.9-billion metro link from Noida to Greater Noida (Page 3). The Week

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh raised its Cyclone Murasu loss estimate to Rs 24.84 billion (Page 4). ETV Bharat

ANTALYA: Africa's bid for an agenda item on tripling adaptation finance was not adopted (Page 4). The Star

MUMBAI: The state left 300 disputed redevelopment schemes with the slum authority, not the civic body (Page 5). The Realty Today

BOISE: The city council voted unanimously for a six-month pause on large data centres (Page 6). Idaho Capital Sun

GAZA CITY: Heavy rain killed five people and flooded about 70,000 tents (Page 4). Al Jazeera

PATNA: Bihar's first municipal bond, worth nearly Rs 2 billion, listed on the NSE (Page 2). Free Press Journal

HYDERABAD: Nearly half of the city's 1,372 lakes have been lost, the Chief Minister said (Page 7). Telangana Today

LOS ANGELES: Mayor-elect Nithya Raman, who takes office on December 14, is drawing on City Hall veterans for her team (Page 2). LAist

GLASGOW: The council says expected funding covers only about two-thirds of its 6,500 affordable homes plan (Page 5). Inside Housing

AUCKLAND: The council is consulting on three congestion charge options until December 11 (Page 3). Inside Government

CITIES AT COP31 - FACT SHEET

80% PLANS WITH URBAN MEASURES	**$4.5tn** CITIES' YEARLY NEED
1 in 5 SHARE NOW FINANCED	**7,500** CITIES AHEAD OF NATIONS

Sources: UN-Habitat - UN News - GCoM via Down To Earth

33,409 PINK LINE RIDERS, DAY ONE · 4,751 CITIES IN CLEANLINESS SURVEY · 35-34 SPAIN'S HOUSING DECREE VOTE · 373 DELHI AQI, NOV 13 · RS 24.84 BN MURASU LOSS ESTIMATE

INDIA DESK - SWACHH SURVEKSHAN

Navi Mumbai named India's cleanest city as Indore drops out of the top three after eight years

TST NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: Navi Mumbai has been ranked India's cleanest city in the Swachh Survekshan 2025-26, the national cleanliness survey run by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. President Droupadi Murmu presented the awards at Vigyan Bhawan on Wednesday, November 11.

Navi Mumbai led the Super Swachh League, ahead of Surat and Vijayawada. Indore, which had been ranked the cleanest city for the previous eight years, did not appear among the top three, according to reports of the results. In the million-plus population category, Greater Visakhapatnam came first, followed by Jabalpur and Lucknow.

The survey covered 4,751 cities this year, up from 73 in 2016, and about 27 million citizens gave feedback. Assessors used 43 indicators across 10 areas, and 60 national awards were presented in seven categories. Puri, Alappuzha and Ratnagiri were named the top coastal towns, and Rewa, Bilaspur and Varanasi the top river-front towns. Under the Swachh Shehar Jodi programme, which pairs 70 mentor cities with 191 smaller ones, the leading pairs were Ahmedabad-Sanand, Indore-Depalpur and Tirupati-Kuppam.

Union Minister Manohar Lal said the share of urban waste that is processed had risen from 16% in 2014 to 80%, door-to-door collection from 44% to more than 96%, and that clearing old dumpsites had freed nearly 11,000 acres of land. Mrs Murmu called for citizen participation and for plastic waste management to be taught in schools.

DD India, Nov 11 - Asianet Newsable, Nov 12 - Utkarsh

COP31 - ANTALYA

About 7,500 cities have climate targets tougher than their national governments, mayors' alliance reports

ANTALYA: About 7,500 of the 14,000 cities and local authorities in the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy have emissions targets more ambitious than those of their national governments, according to the alliance's 2026 Impact Report, released at COP31 on November 11, Down To Earth reported. That is 58% of signatories, and 28% aim to reach their targets sooner than their countries.

Signatories with net-zero targets and implementation pathways rose from 211 in 2025 to 580, and 3,078 cities covering about 735 million people have completed climate risk assessments. Of $831 billion a year in tracked urban climate finance, barely 1% goes to adaptation, the report says. Cities in emerging and developing economies receive about $6 billion a year against an estimated need of $147 billion a year by 2030.

"City ambition hasn't fallen; national commitments have risen," said Anne Hidalgo, the alliance's global ambassador and a former Mayor of Paris. UN-Habitat named her its Goodwill Ambassador for Eastern Europe and Central Asia on November 10, with a focus on Ukraine's urban recovery. Separately, C40 said the mayors of 69 cities representing more than 250 million people had set out climate actions for the next 12 months, including a flood early warning system in Addis Ababa, 200,000 more mangroves in Freetown and London's first dedicated heat plan.

Down To Earth, Nov 11 - UN-Habitat, Nov 10 - C40, Nov 9

DISINFORMATION - COP31

One in three city residents sided with false climate claims in five-city survey, C40 says

ANTALYA: About one in three residents surveyed in five cities sided with misleading climate statements when they were shown alongside accurate information, according to research commissioned by the C40 Cities network and released on November 12. London Mayor Sadiq Khan, C40's co-chair, presented it at the COP31 dialogue on urban resilience.

The survey, by Panterra Group, covered more than 4,700 residents of London, Santiago, Cape Town, Melbourne and Quezon City. Between 73% and 90% said they had encountered information they believed could be false or misleading, including 90% in Santiago and 84% in London. In Cape Town about half sided with the false statements, and the city is setting up dedicated communications capacity with C40. Most respondents said they wanted trustworthy information from their local government. "Climate disinformation is like a one-two punch to the planet and democracy," Khan said.

C40 Cities, Nov 12

INDIA DESK - TAMIL NADU

Rs 15 billion in Finance Commission grants held up as Tamil Nadu's rural councils go without elections

CHENNAI: More than Rs 15 billion in Union government grants to rural local bodies in Tamil Nadu is on hold because councils in 28 districts have no elected representatives, DT Next reported on November 15. Elected councils are a condition for grants under the 15th Finance Commission.

The Centre recently released Rs 1.28 billion as a second instalment, but only to bodies that qualify: nine district panchayats, 74 panchayat unions and 2,901 village panchayats. Funds for the 28 districts have been pending since January 5, 2025. In a submission to the Madras High Court, the state said elections would be held after 240 days, citing the Census and ward delimitation. G Palanithurai, a former professor at Gandhigram Rural Institute, said the state would have to use its own funds for basic needs until the grants arrive.

DT Next, Nov 15

INDIA DESK - ELECTORAL ROLLS

Muslim group says Karnataka's voter roll revision removed Muslims at higher rates, including in Bengaluru seats

BENGALURU: The Karnataka Rajya Muslim Okkoota has said the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Karnataka deleted Muslim voters at disproportionate rates, The News Minute reported on November 11. The group's statement cites an analysis of Election Commission booth-level data by the consultancy Sankalp.

According to the analysis, 19.45% of voters were deleted statewide. In 64 constituencies where Muslims are at least 15% of the electorate, 22.67% of Muslim voters were removed, against 20.19% of other voters. The seats named included Chamarajpet in Bengaluru, with 107,722 deletions, and Shivajinagar, with 81,230. The group has asked the Election Commission to explain the figures and has demanded a judicial inquiry. The report carried no response from the Commission. The rolls are due to be used for Bengaluru's coming civic elections.

The News Minute, Nov 11

SPAIN - TRANSPORT MINISTRY

Economy minister Carlos Cuerpo runs Spain's transport ministry until the November 29 election

MADRID: Spain's First Deputy Prime Minister and Economy Minister Carlos Cuerpo is running the Transport Ministry on a provisional basis after Oscar Puente resigned over two deadly high-speed rail crashes, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced. Cuerpo keeps the economy portfolio. "Cuerpo has shown in this legislature an enormous capacity for management and integrity," Sanchez said. The two crashes this year killed 115 people in total, Reuters reported. An average of September and October polls put the People's Party about six to seven points ahead, Latin Times reported.

Cyprus Mail (Reuters), Nov 4 - Latin Times

TRANSITION - LOS ANGELES

Raman turns to City Hall veterans before taking office on December 14

LOS ANGELES: Mayor-elect Nithya Raman is drawing on City Hall veterans and former aides to ex-Mayor Eric Garcetti to build her administration, the New York Post reported. Rick Cole, a former Garcetti deputy mayor, is expected to play a leading role in her transition team. None of those named has been confirmed for permanent posts. Raman will have about four months to prepare her first budget, which must reach the City Council by April 20. Thirteen of the 14 council members had endorsed Mayor Karen Bass, LAist reported. "Disagreement is inevitable, but dysfunction is a choice," said Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky.

DNYUZ (New York Post), Nov 6 - LAist, Nov 6

INDIA DESK - MUNICIPAL BONDS

Patna's Rs 2-billion bond, Bihar's first, lists on the National Stock Exchange

PATNA: Bonds issued by Patna Municipal Corporation, the first municipal bond from Bihar, were listed on the National Stock Exchange at a ceremony in Patna on November 10. The corporation raised nearly Rs 2 billion through a private placement, with a base size of Rs 1 billion and an option to keep a further Rs 1 billion. Bids from institutional investors were more than twice the base size, the Free Press Journal reported. The money will fund 15 redevelopment projects in the city's market areas. Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary called the listing "an important achievement for Bihar's economic development".

Free Press Journal, Nov 10

INDIA DESK - LOCAL ELECTIONS

BJP wins 77 Tripura civic seats unopposed before the November 27 vote

AGARTALA: The Bharatiya Janata Party has won 77 of the 345 seats in Tripura's 21 urban local bodies without a contest, leaving 268 seats in 16 bodies to be decided on November 27, State Election Commissioner Pradip Chakraborty said. Of the 733 candidates still in the fray, the BJP has 265, the CPI(M) 228 and the Congress 201, IANS reported. The CPI(M) and the Congress failed to agree on seat-sharing. Counting is on December 2.

All India Radio, Nov 10 - IANS, Nov 11

INDIA DESK - METRO RAIL

Bengaluru's elevated Pink Line carries 33,409 passengers on its first day

TST NEWS DESK

BENGALURU: The elevated section of Namma Metro's Pink Line opened to the public at 6 am on Saturday, November 14, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated it and rode a train with Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

The line recorded 33,409 entries between 6 am and 8 pm on the first day, according to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation figures reported by Prajavani and Deccan Herald. Jayadeva Hospital station, where passengers can change to the Yellow Line serving Electronic City, accounted for 18,714, more than three times its previous Saturday average of 5,969. Kalena Agrahara recorded 4,944.

The 7.5-km stretch runs from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere through six stations: Kalena Agrahara, Hulimavu, IIM Bangalore, JP Nagar 4th Phase, Jayadeva Hospital and Tavarekere. It cost about Rs 34.7 billion, the Pioneer reported. Trains run every eight minutes at weekday peak hours and every 10 minutes at other times. The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation started 28 feeder buses on five routes, making 401 trips a day, to areas such as Uttarahalli, Singasandra and Begur.

The full Pink Line is 21.25 km long with 18 stations. Its 12-station underground section, up to Nagawara, is still being built, and BMRCL is aiming for May 2027. "On the dot at 6 am, the Pink Line services have commenced," said Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who took the first ride. Mr Modi said the city's metro network had grown from 17 km in 2014 to more than 100 km.

Deccan Herald, Nov 14 - Urban Acres - The Pioneer, Nov 13 - Public TV

INDIA DESK - NOIDA

Cabinet approves Rs 23.9-billion metro extension from Noida to Greater Noida

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday, November 11, approved an 8.449-km extension of the Noida Metro's Aqua Line from Noida Sector 51 to Greater Noida Sector 4, at an estimated cost of Rs 23.9 billion. The elevated corridor will have five stations and will connect with the Delhi Metro's Blue Line at Noida Sector 61, serving areas near Gaur City Mall and Sector 122. Once built, Noida and Greater Noida will have 71.878 km of metro line in operation. Work is due to start in 2027 and finish in 2031, The Open Press reported.

The approval was part of a package of decisions worth Rs 771.01 billion, which also included Rs 623.7 billion in fertiliser subsidies for the winter crop season. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath welcomed the decision.

The Week (PTI), Nov 11 - The NewsMill - GKToday

INDIA DESK - METRO RAIL

Pune's Hinjewadi metro carries about 265,000 passengers in its first eight days

PUNE: Pune Metro Line 3, between Hinjewadi and Shivajinagar, carried 265,650 passengers in its first eight days despite the Diwali break, Punekar News reported. The busiest day was the opening day, November 4, with 48,679 passengers, and most days saw 30,000 to 35,000. The Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority has forecast 200,000 to 250,000 passengers a day once offices in the Hinjewadi IT park return to full strength. Seventeen of the line's 23 stations are open, and the rest are due by January 2027.

Punekar News - IRJ

HIGH-SPEED RAIL - CALIFORNIA

California high-speed rail finishes its largest Central Valley structure



The Hanford Viaduct under construction in 2024. The authority marked its completion on November 12.
PHOTO: CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, PUBLIC DOMAIN

HANFORD: The California High-Speed Rail Authority held a ribbon-cutting on November 12 to mark completion of the Hanford Viaduct in Kings County, the largest structure on the project's first 119 miles of construction. The viaduct, more than a mile long, carries the line over the San Joaquin Valley Railroad and State Route 198 and will form part of the future Kings/Tulare station.

More than 70 major structures are now complete and 22 are under construction in Madera, Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties, and the project has created 21,063 construction jobs, the authority says. Interim chief executive Joe Stephenshaw said the programme is moving from civil works to track, trainsets and stations. The authority also reported five other completed structures, including the Conejo Viaduct and Cole Slough Bridge. The board still plans to lay the first track by the end of the year. Governor-elect Xavier Becerra has said he wants to reform the project but has given few details.

Railway News - RT&S - Yahoo News

ROAD PRICING - AUCKLAND

Auckland asks residents to choose between three congestion charging options

AUCKLAND: Auckland Council opened public consultation on November 11 on time-of-use charging for drivers, the city's version of a congestion charge. Feedback closes on December 11.

Option A would charge drivers entering the city centre and is modelled to cut congestion by about 4% across the isthmus and lower North Shore. Option B, a wider city-fringe cordon, would cut it by about 6%. Option C, covering the city centre and core motorways, would cut it by about 28% and save an average of 7 minutes a trip. The modelling uses example charges of NZ$2 to NZ$5 and a 7 am to 10 am morning peak, and the council says no decisions have been made on amounts or times. "Time-of-use charging is one way we can start to turn the tide on traffic," said Councillor Andy Baker.

Option B would save about 4 minutes in the morning peak and Option A about 2.5 minutes. The survey has been criticised for having no "do not support" box, and two councillors have told opponents to use the "other" field; an amendment to add a "no" option failed. "There is a huge amount of opposition to this out there," said Councillor John Gillon. The council plans to choose a preferred scheme in 2027 and, if ministers approve, start charging in 2030 or 2031.

Inside Government NZ - 1News, Nov 13 - RNZ

TRANSIT FUNDING - UNITED STATES

US voters approve 22 of 27 transit ballot measures worth $27.4 billion

WASHINGTON: Voters approved 22 of 27 public transport ballot measures on November 3, providing $27.4 billion in long-term dedicated funding, the American Public Transportation Association said. That brings transit funding approved at the ballot box in 2026 to more than $31 billion, with 56 wins out of 66 measures over the year. The largest November measure was the Bay Area's regional transit tax, which passed with about 62% support and could raise up to $14 billion for BART, Caltrain, AC Transit and other operators. In Charleston, South Carolina, a half-cent sales tax includes $860 million for transit, among it a $625-million, 21-mile bus rapid transit line, according to an industry briefing. Federal highway and transit programmes face a December 12 deadline for reauthorisation by Congress, which the association has warned could leave federal funding uncertain if missed.

APTA - Railway Age - Planetizen

INDIA DESK - E-BUSES

Jammu to add 100 electric buses under PM e-Bus Sewa as central team inspects depot

JAMMU: Jammu will receive 100 more electric buses under the Centre's PM e-Bus Sewa scheme, officials said after a team from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs reviewed progress on Saturday. The fleet will include 25 buses of 12 metres for busy routes and 75 of 7 metres for narrow, congested roads. The team, led by the ministry's Director of Urban Transport, Bhanu Pratap Singh Bhadoria, inspected a depot being built at Bhagwati Nagar by Jammu Smart City Limited at a cost of Rs 167.2 million, of which the Centre is paying Rs 150.5 million. Jammu already runs 100 electric buses bought under the earlier FAME-II scheme.

Earth News - The Kashmir Images, Nov 14

TRAMS - HELSINKI

Helsinki opens a tram line across car-free bridges, halving the trip to an island suburb

HELSINKI: Helsinki opened its Kruunusillat, or Crown Bridges, tram line on November 7, linking the city centre with the island suburb of Laajasalo and cutting the distance from 11 km to 5.5 km, Railway Gazette reported. Its centrepiece is the 1,191-metre Kruunuvuori bridge, Finland's longest, which carries trams, cyclists, pedestrians and emergency vehicles but no other road traffic. The total cost has risen to 436 million euros, against a 2020 budget of 326 million euros. Planners expect about 23,000 daily riders by 2030.

Railway Gazette, Nov 9 - City of Helsinki

METRO - CHONGQING

Chongqing opens a 48-km driverless express metro line

CHONGQING: Chongqing opened the first phase of Line 15, its first express rail line, on November 12, Chinese media reported. The 48-km section has 18 stations, seven of them interchanges, is designed for 140 km/h and runs without drivers.

10jqka, Nov 13 - UrbanRail.net

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE
Transit operators and rolling stock makers - katha.media

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE
Mobility start-ups and fleet operators - katha.media

INDIA DESK - AIR QUALITY

Delhi's air stays "very poor" for a week after Diwali as Punjab farm fires pass 5,700

TST NEWS DESK



Haze over the Indo-Gangetic plain in a satelÂlite image from DecemÂber 2018. Winter smog recurs across the region each year.
IMAGE: NOAA NESDIS, WIKIMEDIA COMÂMONS, PUBLIC DOMAIN

NEW DELHI: Delhi's air quality stayed in the "very poor" band for most of the week after Diwali, with several monitorÂing stations crosÂsing into "severe", official data showed.

The city's air quality index stood at 372 at 1 am on NovemÂber 9, the morÂning after the festival, accordÂing to the CommisÂsion for Air Quality ManageÂment dashboard. At Dwarka Sector 8, PM2.5 conÂcentraÂtions reaÂched 1,727 microÂgrams per cubic metre shortly after 11 pm on NovemÂber 8, the Pioneer reporÂted. The 24-hour average was 376 on Diwali, accordÂing to Central PolluÂtion Control Board data reporÂted by PTI.

Daily readÂings were 313 on NovemÂber 11, 350 on NovemÂber 12 and 373 on NovemÂber 13, and the index was 348 on SaturÂday morÂning, ETV Bharat reporÂted. North Campus recorÂded 421 and ITO 415. On Sunday morÂning, NovemÂber 15, the index was 351, with IIT Delhi at 426 and PM2.5 the lead polÂlutant at 51 of 59 stations, BusiÂness Today reporÂted. The India MeteorologÂical DepartÂment said air quality was likely to remain "very poor" until at least Monday. An analysis of 59 Delhi stations by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air found 255 misÂsing hourly records between 4 pm on Diwali and 4 pm the next day, The Tribune reporÂted.

Stage 3 restricÂtions under the Graded Response Action Plan, invoked on NovemÂber 6, remain in force. They bar non-essential construcÂtion and older petrol and diesel cars. Delhi Police regiÂstered more than 200 cases against people who burst craÂckers outÂside the hours allowed by the Supreme Court on NovemÂber 7 and 8; West district accounÂted for 62.

In Punjab, the state polluÂtion control board had recorÂded 5,785 farm fires this season by NovemÂber 13, accordÂing to reports of its data. The state recorÂded 1,152 fires on NovemÂber 8, the highest single-day count this season. CompliÂance affidavits are due at the Supreme Court on DecemÂber 14.

The Pioneer - ETV Bharat, Nov 14 - OneinÂdia - Siasat (PTI) - The Tribune - BusiÂness Today, Nov 15 - The Hawk

COP31 - ADAPTAÂTION FINANCE

Africa's bid to put triplÂing of adaptaÂtion finance on the COP31 agenda fails

ANTALYA: A push by African countries for a stanÂdalone COP31 agenda item on triplÂing adaptaÂtion finance was not adopÂted, the chair of the African Group of Negotiators, Antwi Amoah of Ghana, conÂfirÂmed. The group will instead pursue needs-based adaptaÂtion finance through the Climate Finance Work ProÂgramme, The Star reporÂted.

At COP30 in Belem last year, countries agreed to at least triple adaptaÂtion finance by 2035 but set no baseline, amount or delivery plan. DevelopÂing countries want the COP26 goal of $40 bilÂlion a year used as the base, which would mean about $120 bilÂlion a year by 2035. UNEP's 2026 AdaptaÂtion Gap Report puts developÂing countries' needs at $305 bilÂlion a year or more.

UN Secretary-General Antonio GuterÂres said on NovemÂber 13 that even triÂpled adaptaÂtion finance would cover less than a third of vulnerÂable countries' needs. DevelopÂment finance instituÂtions from Britain, Norway and Canada said they plan to mobilise $10 bilÂlion for climate projects in emergÂing marÂkets by 2030. "That item was not adopÂted, but the arguÂment has not gone away," said Amos Wemanya of Power Shift Africa. Final deciÂsions are due by NovemÂber 20.

The Star, Nov 14 - UN News - Down To Earth

INDIA DESK - CYCLONE MURASU

Andhra Pradesh raises Cyclone Murasu loss estimate to Rs 24.84 bilÂlion as central team tours districts

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh has raised its estimate of losses from Cyclone Murasu to Rs 24.84 bilÂlion, and an inter-ministerial central team began inspectÂing damage on Friday. The state's first report to the Centre had put losses at Rs 19.2 bilÂlion; a detailed ground assessÂment added Rs 5.65 bilÂlion, ETV Bharat reporÂted. Nine people died in cyclone-related incidents after the NovemÂber 3 landfall.

The seven-member team, led by Joint Secretary (Home) ChitÂtaranÂjan Das, visited Bapatla and Eluru districts. Crops were damaged on 143,617 hecÂtares, affectÂing 186,063 farÂmers. Officials counÂted 1,385 km of damaged roads, 3,859 damaged houses and 10,228 damaged electricÂity poles. In 25 urban local bodies, 10.8 km of roads and 3,146 streetÂlights were damaged. The state told the team its disaÂster response fund was short, with liabilÂities of Rs 49.25 bilÂlion.

ETV Bharat, Nov 14 - Telugu360

ENERGY - COP31

Countries endorse pledge to raise electricÂity to 35% of energy use by 2035

ANTALYA: A group of countries endorÂsed the COP31 Presidency's "35 by 35" Global ElectrificaÂtion Pledge at the Leaders' Summit on NovemÂber 11. The volunÂtary pledge aims to raise electricÂity's share of final energy use from about 23% to 35% by 2035 by electrifyÂing transport, buildÂings and industry. The names of endorsÂing countries were not given. "ElectrificaÂtion is the answer. It protects communÂities from volatile global marÂkets and cuts emisÂsions," said COP31 President Murat Kurum. Climate groups have criticised the pledge because it does not require the extra electricÂity to come from low-carbon sourÂces. "These early adopÂters are senÂding a clear signal: the future of energy securÂity is electric," said Nick Wayth of the World ResourÂces Institute, who said incenÂtives for electric vehiÂcles, buses and heat pumps were needed alongside grid investÂment. The Climate InvestÂment Funds said its AMPLIFi proÂgramme will deploy $94 milÂlion, aiming to mobilise more than $1.2 bilÂlion of private investÂment, and an Electrify Now Finance CoaliÂtion was formed with 14 memÂbers. About 90% of energy-transition investÂment goes to advanÂced economies and China, with Africa receivÂing about 2%.

WRI - Down To Earth

BUILDÂINGS - COP31

Antalya ComÂpact asks countries to cut buildÂing energy intensÂity by 25% by 2035

ANTALYA: TurÂkiye's COP31 Presidency put forÂward the Antalya ComÂpact for Energy Efficient BuildÂings, open for any country to sign, which tarÂgets a 25% cut in the operational energy intensÂity of the world's buildÂing stock by 2035. It was presenÂted at a miniÂsterial meeting of the InterÂgovernmenÂtal CounÂcil for BuildÂings and Climate attenÂded by 53 member and 14 obserÂver countries, and builds on the DeclaraÂtion de ChailÂlot signed by 70 countries in 2024. It covers buildÂing perÂformÂance, renovaÂtion, electrificaÂtion, national strategies, finance and skills. MiniÂsters from Kenya, Brazil, France and the NetherÂlands voiced supÂport, accordÂing to reports, but no official list of sigÂnatories has been publiÂshed. UNEP Executive DirecÂtor Inger AnderÂsen urged governÂments to turn it into policies and investÂment. BuildÂings and construcÂtion account for about 37% of global carbon dioxide emisÂsions, accordÂing to UNEP.

Xinhua, Nov 13 - Energy Digital

FLOODS - GAZA AND ERBIL

Heavy rain kills five in Gaza and two in Erbil as 70,000 tents flood

GAZA CITY: At least five people, includÂing four children, were killed when heavy rain caused a sandbank to colÂlapse in central Gaza, local health authorÂities said on NovemÂber 8. About 70,000 tents and shelÂters for displaced people were flooded within 12 hours, Gaza's GovernÂment Media Office said, and the Civil Defence received at least 1,500 emerÂgency calls. Nearly 400,000 displaced people are shelÂterÂing in places conÂsidered highly vulnerÂable to floodÂing, Al Jazeera reporÂted. Officials said fuel shorÂtages and damaged equipÂment left them unable to cope. Save the Children's regional direcÂtor Ahmad AlhenÂdawi said: "This is not simply the result of bad weaÂther," blaming Israeli restricÂtions on shelÂter materials. Israel's aid agency COGAT said it had expanÂded sanitaÂtion work before the rain. In Erbil, flash floods killed two people after about 80 mm of rain fell against a forecast of about 30 mm, GoverÂnor Omed Khoshnaw said.

Al Jazeera, Nov 8 - The National, Nov 8

OIL SPILL - UAE

SharÂjah reopens beaÂches three weeks after a Gulf oil spill

SHARJAH: SharÂjah reopened its beaÂches on NovemÂber 12 after nearly three weeks of closure, a day after Ras Al Khaimah reopened seven beaÂches, The National reporÂted. BeaÂches in Umm Al Quwain remained closed. The UAE traced the spill, conÂfirÂmed on October 22, to the superÂtanker Gem No 2. About 1,000 people work on the clean-up each day, and mangroves may take months to clear.

The National, Nov 12 - The National, Nov 13

WATER - MEXICO CITY

Mexico City's CutÂzamala reserÂvoirs near full two years after drought

MEXICO CITY: The CutÂzamala System, which supplies about one in every five litres of drinkÂing water to the Valley of Mexico, held 750.3 milÂlion cubic metres, or 95.88% of capacÂity, accordÂing to Conagua's NovemÂber report, Mexico News Daily reporÂted on NovemÂber 11. ReserÂves had fallen to about 26% in mid-2024 during extreme drought. ExcelÂsior reporÂted more than 27 unauÂthorised private dams in the Valle de Bravo area.

Mexico News Daily, Nov 11

RENT CONTROL - SPAIN

Spain caps rent rises at 2% and bars evictions of vulnerable tenants to 2030 after a one-vote win

TST NEWS DESK

MADRID: A standing committee of Spain's Congress approved the government's main housing decree by 35 votes to 34 on November 12, a day after a nationwide general strike over housing costs. The Diputacion Permanente acts for Congress while it is dissolved before the November 29 general election. A second decree, which would have given tenants automatic contract renewal and required landlords to pay compensation in some terminations, was rejected, Infobae reported.

The approved decree, Royal Decree-law 29/2026, bars rent increases where rents already exceed the official reference index, and caps other increases at 2% until December 31, 2027. Evictions of vulnerable households can be suspended until the end of 2030; where a regional government cannot rehouse a tenant, it must cover the rent. Tenants whose contracts end before December 2028 can request a two-year extension. Companies are barred from buying homes for less than 70% of market value until 2030, The Local reported.

The decree also creates a 10-billion-euro "Tu Casa" scheme of interest-free loans covering up to 20% of a first home's value, capped at 50,000 euros. Stays of under 30 nights in properties that are not the owner's main home will carry 10% VAT from December 1. Tenants earning up to 33,007 euros can deduct 10% of their rent. The People's Party, which leads the polls, has pledged to repeal the decree and the Housing Law.

The Local Spain, Nov 13 - The Local (AFP), Nov 12 - Infobae, Nov 12 - Inspain News

GENERAL STRIKE - SPAIN

Spain holds its first general strike in 14 years over housing costs and wages

MADRID: Workers across Spain held a 24-hour general strike on November 11, the first since 2012, over housing costs, wages and prices. It was called by the two largest union federations, CCOO and UGT, with tenants' associations. Unions reported participation of 41% to 75% on early shifts, with stoppages close to 90% at ports and car plants, including shutdowns at Volkswagen's Navarre plant and SEAT's Barcelona factory, Latin Times reported. These are union figures. Police used pepper spray to disperse a picket at a bus depot in Madrid's Carabanchel district, and arrests were made in several cities.

Average rent is 1,176 euros a month against an average young person's salary of 1,190 euros, according to the Spanish Youth Council, Al Jazeera reported. The Bank of Spain estimates the country is 750,000 homes short, a gap that could exceed one million by 2028; about 92,000 homes were built in 2025. People's Party Secretary-General Miguel Tellado called it "an electoral strike, not a general strike".

Al Jazeera, Nov 11 - Latin Times

INDIA DESK - MUMBAI

State sides with slum authority in dispute with Mumbai's civic body over 300 redevelopment schemes

MUMBAI: Maharashtra's Urban Development Department has rejected the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's request for planning powers over redevelopment schemes on non-slum plots, leaving them with the Slum Rehabilitation Authority, The Realty Today reported on November 11.

The dispute concerns Regulation 33(11) of the Development Control and Promotion Regulations 2034, which allows schemes on non-slum land to build permanent transit tenements for people displaced by public infrastructure. In a July 22 letter, BMC Commissioner Ashwini Bhide flagged about 300 SRA-approved schemes and argued that slum concessions were being extended to vacant plots, costing the corporation premium revenue and open space. Development charges brought the BMC nearly Rs 120 billion in 2025-26. On November 2 the department said proposals should be handled by the SRA. SRA data show 522 approved schemes have produced 32,337 tenements for project-affected people, of which 6,604 have been handed over. The city needs about 50,000 such tenements immediately and 220,000 under its Development Plan.

The Realty Today, Nov 11

SHORT-TERM LETS - MALAGA

Tourist flats rise 40% in Malaga as rents double over a decade



A street in Malaga's historic centre, where nearly one home in two is a tourist let on some streets.
PHOTO: MATTI BLUME, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0

MALAGA: Malaga had more than 8,000 tourist apartments last year, up 40% from 2020, making it Spain's second-largest market for such lets after Madrid, AFP reported on November 12. In some streets nearly one in two homes is used for short-term tourist accommodation, according to the national statistics institute INE. Rents have more than doubled over the past decade, and a 50-square-metre flat averaged 835 euros a month in October, according to Idealista. Listings on Airbnb, Booking.com and Vrbo earned owners an average of 35,000 euros over the past 12 months, AirDNA reported, and the city received a record 1.83 million visitors in 2025. In July the city council suspended new tourist rental licences for three years, and it is working to create 5,000 social housing units. "We are fighting to ensure this neighbourhood remains inhabited," said Carlos Carrera Lopez of the Old Town residents' association.

The Local Spain (AFP), Nov 12

INDIA DESK - DELHI

DDA opens 445 middle-income flats, with booking from November 16

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Development Authority has opened registration for 445 middle-income group flats under the DDA Khushhaal Pariwaar Yojana 2026, PTI reported. The flats are in Narela Sectors A1 to A4 (296), Lokanayakpuram (132) and Jahangirpuri (17). Booking begins on Monday, November 16, through the authority's online Awaas portal. Prices range from about Rs 4.3 million to Rs 11 million, with a booking amount of Rs 400,000. The scheme follows the October sale of 2,516 discounted low-income flats in Narela, which were booked within hours.

The Week (PTI), Nov 6

LEASEHOLD - UNITED KINGDOM

UK government moves to curb leasehold service charges for 3 million households

LONDON: The UK government announced reforms to residential service charges on November 12 that it said would protect the country's three million leaseholders from unfair costs, Inside Housing reported. From April 2027 landlords will need court or tribunal approval to pass their legal costs on to leaseholders who challenge a charge. From November 1, 2027, charge information, including building insurance and administration fees, must be standardised and provided upfront, and from November 1, 2028 the reporting rules extend to councils and housing associations. Housing Minister Matthew Pennycook said rising and "frequently opaque" charges were "placing huge financial strain" on households.

Inside Housing, Nov 12

AFFORDABLE HOMES - SCOTLAND

Glasgow says expected funding covers only two-thirds of its 6,500 affordable homes plan

GLASGOW: Glasgow City Council estimates it can deliver only about two-thirds of its planned 6,500 affordable homes over the next five years from the funding it expects, Inside Housing reported on November 13. The council expects GBP 650 million from the Scottish government, but the full programme would need at least GBP 1 billion in grant at the city's average cost per home, which rose 17% last year. Its average grant per home is GBP 167,868, about 44% above the government benchmark of GBP 116,215. At current costs the expected money would build about 4,000 homes. The Scottish government has pledged up to GBP 4.9 billion over four years for about 36,000 affordable homes. "Glasgow gets things built," said Ruairi Kelly, the council's housing convener.

Inside Housing, Nov 13

INDIA DESK - IN BRIEF

MUMBAI: A district consumer commission has ordered Poddar Housing to refund Rs 147,175 in full to a buyer who cancelled his booking in Kalyan after his bank refused a loan, ruling that a general non-refundable clause did not justify keeping Rs 25,000. It also ordered Rs 20,000 in compensation and Rs 10,000 in costs. Free Press Journal, Nov 14

CHENNAI: The Greater Chennai Corporation removed 78 tonnes of waste, including 27 tonnes of construction debris, from Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board tenements across all 15 zones in a one-day drive on November 14, using 1,142 workers and 225 vehicles. DT Next, Nov 14

ZONING - ALBERTA

Edmonton residents fear an eightplex rush before Alberta's zoning rollback

EDMONTON: Residents of Crestwood, in west Edmonton, fear "eightplex sandwiches" as developers file permit applications before a provincial zoning rollback takes effect, Global News reported on November 12. On October 8 Alberta ordered Edmonton to revert to pre-2020 rules on housing types, density, height and on-site parking, and council has until January 22, 2027 to comply. Complete applications received by November 8, or by December 2 for standardised plans, can still be reviewed under the 2023 bylaw. The city said no applications are being fast-tracked.

Global News, Nov 12

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE
Housing finance and developers - katha.media

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE
Affordable housing providers - katha.media

DATA CENTRES - IDAHO

Boise halts large data centres for six months

TST NEWS DESK

BOISE: Boise City Council voted unanimously on November 10 to impose a six-month moratorium on new large data centres, taking effect immediately. More than 100 people at a standing-room-only meeting applauded the vote, the Idaho Capital Sun reported.

The pause applies to data centre projects of 100,000 square feet or larger, or using 20 megawatts of power. The city will not accept or process applications above those limits, although projects that already have planning permission are not affected.

Mayor Lauren McLean proposed the moratorium. Officials will use the time to review the city code, which the mayor's chief of staff said does not address data centres, and to study effects on water, energy, wastewater, noise and public safety. McLean has publicly opposed a proposed 4-million-square-foot Rhea Data project south of the city, which lies outside Boise's limits and is under separate review. In July, Bannock County in eastern Idaho adopted a 180-day pause on data centre permit applications.

Oklahoma City has also extended its pause on data centre rezoning requests until the end of 2027 or until its code is updated, Fox 25 reported.

Idaho Capital Sun - Idaho News 6 - East Idaho News - Fox 25

PLANNING - WALES

Welsh ministers take over decision on a Cardiff data centre planned for a park-and-ride site

CARDIFF: The Welsh Government has called in a planning application for a data centre on the Cardiff East park-and-ride site, removing the decision from Cardiff Council less than 24 hours before its planning committee was due to consider it.

In a letter dated November 11, Sian Gwenllian, Cabinet Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, said the scheme raised issues of more than local importance, including possible conflict with national policy on transport, energy and flood risk. Council officers had recommended approval. Developer Curtis Hall has an agreement to buy the council-owned site, which serves the University Hospital of Wales. The plan would close the park-and-ride and build up to 30,292 square metres of floor space, with a 49.9-megawatt temporary energy centre that may run on gas until a grid connection is available.

Pentwyn councillor Joe Carter called the call-in a "huge win" and said the council could not judge the scheme independently because it owns the land. He urged ministers to reject it and to impose a moratorium on large data centres in Wales.

Nation.Cymru - Novara Media, Nov 13

POWER PRICES - OREGON

Oregon regulator makes new large data centres pay the full cost of their power

SALEM: The Oregon Public Utility Commission has approved a tariff requiring new large data centres in Pacific Power's Oregon service area to pay the full cost of their electricity service, so that the costs are not passed on to household customers, KTVZ reported on November 13.

The tariff creates a customer class for facilities that use, or can use, 20 megawatts or more. These customers must sign long-term service agreements and pay for all the infrastructure and power services their operations need. The rules take effect on January 1, 2027, and implement the POWER Act, a 2025 state law. Rick Link of Pacific Power said new large users would "pay their own way".

KTVZ, Nov 13 - Gorge News Center - RTO Insider

AI AND CLIMATE - COP31

UN-backed group asks AI companies to disclose their energy, water and land footprints

ANTALYA: A UN-backed initiative launched guidance at COP31 on November 13 asking artificial intelligence companies to assess how their systems affect the reliability of climate information, publish the findings, and disclose their energy use and their carbon, water and land footprints. The "Priorities for Action on AI and Climate Information Integrity" were issued by the Global Initiative for Information Integrity on Climate Change, co-chaired by the UN, UNESCO and Brazil. The guidance warns that during climate disasters AI-generated images and videos can spread faster than official warnings, and urges governments to include information integrity in national AI strategies. "The question is whether people can rely on what they're told by AI and about it," said Charlotte Scaddan of the UN Department of Global Communications. A Charter for Climate Information Integrity in Advertising was launched the same day, calling for transparency across the advertising supply chain so advertisers can see where their ads appear. Germany has committed more than $2.2 million to the initiative.

UN News, Nov 13

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES - TEXAS

Tesla starts driverless robotaxi rides in San Antonio, its eighth US city

SAN ANTONIO: Tesla began offering robotaxi rides in San Antonio on Monday, November 9, its eighth US city and fifth in Texas, putting it in competition with Waymo in all four of the state's largest metro areas, TechCrunch reported. Tesla has more than 400 autonomous vehicles registered in Austin but between a handful and a few dozen in other cities, according to the independent Robotaxi Tracker, which lists 24 in Fort Worth and five in Miami. The company did not say how many vehicles would serve San Antonio. Waymo recently restarted its San Antonio service after a five-month pause that followed incidents in which its vehicles became stuck on flooded roads.

TechCrunch, Nov 9 - Tech Times

SURVEILLANCE - UNITED STATES

Two more US cities drop Flock licence plate cameras

COLUMBIA: Columbia City Council in Missouri voted 5-2 on November 9 not to renew its contracts with Flock Safety for automatic licence plate reader cameras, after a public hearing marked by residents' opposition over privacy and data collection, KBIA reported. The contracts expire in March and September next year, and police will keep using the cameras until then. In California, Ventura City Council voted 5-2 to end its Flock contract, starting the removal of 23 cameras, and asked staff to draft a possible ban on new licence plate readers except in parking lots, the Santa Barbara News-Press reported on November 13. In Kentucky, Morehead's council voted not to renew two Flock contracts rather than pay $35,000 to end them early.

KBIA, Nov 10 - ABC17 - News-Press, Nov 13

DATA CENTRES - COLORADO

Elbert County commissioners to vote on November 18 on a ranch project that could host Colorado's largest data centre

KIOWA: Elbert County commissioners are due to vote on November 18 on the Colorado Plains Ranch project, which could include the state's largest data centre, Rocky Mountain PBS reported. The county planning commission recommended approval by 6 votes to 2.

Rocky Mountain PBS

INDIA DESK - DATA CENTRES

STT GDC opens a 22 MW data centre in Noida as AI demand grows in Delhi NCR

NOIDA: STT Global Data Centres India has opened a new data centre, NOI2, on its Noida campus, adding 22 megawatts of critical IT load, the company said on November 4. The facility is part of about 200 MW of IT capacity it plans across the National Capital Region, and takes its Indian portfolio to 34 data centres in 10 cities with more than 613 MW, counting projects under development. NOI2 will host an expansion of AI computing for Neysa, a Blackstone-backed AI cloud firm; the first phase of that deal is designed for up to 9,000 graphics processors, Baxtel reported. Bimal Khandelwal, the company's India chief executive, said it was "investing ahead of customer demand". No investment cost was given.

CXOToday, Nov 4 - Baxtel

DATA CENTRES - MASSACHUSETTS

Residents of a small Massachusetts town line up against a 900 MW data centre plan

SUTTON: A plan to build a large data centre campus in Sutton, Massachusetts, met unanimous opposition from residents at a Select Board meeting on November 10, WGBH reported. All six residents who spoke opposed it. The Kraft Group proposal involves about $16 billion of investment and roughly 900 megawatts of power, and would be completed by 2033 if approved. State Representative Joseph McKenna said he wanted answers "backed by enforceable guarantees". Under an executive order from Governor Maura Healey, state agencies need community approval before permitting data centres above 25 MW. The Kraft Group did not respond to WGBH's requests for comment.

WGBH, Nov 12 - CBS Boston

DATA CENTRES - FRANCE

Google's first French data centre campus goes to public consultation

CHATEAUROUX: Google's plan for its first wholly owned data centre campus in France, on about 195 hectares at Etrechet near Chateauroux, is in public consultation from November 2 to January 10, Crypto Briefing reported on November 13. The first phase would draw 120 MW. ENGIE is in talks about piping waste heat into local heating networks, which the report called "a possibility being explored, not a signed delivery contract". A petition against the project has about 16,000 signatures.

Crypto Briefing, Nov 13 - Blog du Moderateur

DATA CENTRES - VIRGINIA

Virginia groups call for a statewide pause on data centres

HANOVER COUNTY: More than a dozen environmental groups rallied in Hanover County, Virginia, on November 12 for a statewide pause on new data centre permits and grid connections until stricter rules on water, energy and siting are in place, Route Fifty reported. Virginia has more than 400 operating data centres and about 280 planned or proposed, and evaporative cooling can use hundreds of millions of gallons of water a year. The Data Center Coalition opposes a moratorium.

Route Fifty, Nov 12

REGION - SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

South African parties have 14 days to form councils as 138 municipalities are left hung

TST WORLD DESK

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's political parties have 14 days to form new municipal councils after the November 4 local elections left 138 municipalities, about 65% of the total, without a party able to govern alone, Scrolla reported on November 12. In Johannesburg the Democratic Alliance led with about 35% of the vote to the African National Congress's 20%, short of a majority, Al Jazeera reported. The DA's mayoral candidate, Helen Zille, campaigned on fixing potholes and leaking water pipes. The ANC won just over 30% nationally, down about 14 points from 2021. Cooperative Governance Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa urged parties not to let coalition talks disrupt water, electricity and refuse collection.

allAfrica (Scrolla), Nov 12 - Al Jazeera, Nov 8

Six dead as a building under construction collapses on Nairobi's Mombasa Road

NAIROBI: Six workers died and five were injured when a building under construction collapsed at about 7 am on Friday, November 13, on Mombasa Road near the Syokimau SGR terminus, Citizen Digital reported. More than 400 workers were on site, and all have been accounted for, said Duncan Ochieng of the National Disaster Management Unit. Work has been halted while investigators establish the cause. A building under construction fell in Eastleigh, Nairobi, on October 23, killing eight people.

Citizen Digital, Nov 13

Addis Ababa speeds its housing drive toward Ethiopia's 1.5-million-home goal

ADDIS ABABA: Addis Ababa is drawing on government funds, private investment, housing cooperatives and individual initiatives to work toward Ethiopia's goal of 1.5 million homes in five years, Mayor Adanech Abiebie said, Fana Media Corporation reported on November 13. Some applicants have waited 12, 14 or even 20 years for a home, she said. The city also pledged flood-warning systems at COP31 (Page 2).

Fana Media, Nov 13

REGION - EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Seoul restarts public housing talks after a proposal to move approval powers to the minister

SEOUL: Seoul City will reconvene a planning body with the Korea Land and Housing Corporation this month, covering 15 districts, five where talks had stalled and 10 new ones, Seoul Economic Daily reported on November 13. The move follows a November 11 proposal by ruling Democratic Party lawmaker Kim Nam-keun to amend a presidential decree so the land minister could approve projects directly. Seoul is pursuing 59,397 homes across 34 districts, but only eight districts, with 9,606 homes, have project plan approval.

Seoul Economic Daily, Nov 13

Metro Manila flood pumping project gets a "final" six-month extension

MANILA: The Philippines' Economy and Development Council, chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, approved on November 11 a six-month extension for Phase 1 of the Metro Manila Flood Management Project, moving the deadline from December 2, 2026 to May 31, 2027, Philstar reported. Seven of the 38 planned pumping stations remain unfinished. The Presidential Communications Office said scope and cost were unchanged and called it "the project's second and final extension". State auditors have found 28 of the metropolitan authority's 119 pumps unserviceable, Astig.ph reported.

Philstar, Nov 12 - Astig.ph

REGION - SOUTH ASIA

Pakistan's Punjab says smog is "not a political issue" as Lahore tops pollution rankings

LAHORE: "Smog is not a political issue. It is a scientific, environmental and public health challenge," Punjab's senior minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said on November 11, Dawn reported. She said Lahore's air quality index was below 450 that day, against about 2,400 on the same date in 2024, and that the province now has round-the-clock monitoring and forecasts five to seven days ahead. Lahore ranked first among major polluted cities that night with a reading of 358, ahead of New Delhi at 248. The provincial environment agency said about half of Punjab had been affected by air from India in the previous 24 hours.

Dawn, Nov 11

INDIA DESK - HYDERABAD

Nearly half of Hyderabad's 1,372 lakes lost to encroachment, says Telangana Chief Minister

HYDERABAD: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Wednesday, November 11, that his government "will not tolerate encroachments on lakes and tanks", as he opened the restored Thammidikunta lake, Telangana Today reported. Hyderabad once had 1,372 lakes, and nearly half have disappeared because of encroachments and other causes, he said. Thammidikunta had shrunk to 14 acres and has been expanded to 30 acres. Mr Reddy defended the demolition drive by HYDRAA, the city's disaster management and asset protection agency, against structures on lake beds, and said the first phase of the Musi river rejuvenation project would begin shortly.

Telangana Today, Nov 11

REGION - EUROPE

Netherlands presses on with 6,000 homes at the country's lowest point

GOUDA: The Dutch government is pressing ahead with Cortelande, a 6,000-home district in the Zuidplaspolder near Gouda, at 6.78 metres below NAP, the Dutch elevation baseline, DutchNews reported on November 9. The 132-million-euro project is part of a national plan for more than 400,000 new homes by 2040. A dispute between the local council and the water board ended in July, when the board withdrew its appeal. Experts say building on soft ground this deep, at this scale, is unprecedented. "We're pushing the boundaries," said researcher Floris Boogaard.

DutchNews, Nov 9

Dutch government drops its goal of ending homelessness by 2030

THE HAGUE: The Dutch government has scrapped its target of reducing homelessness to zero by 2030, long-term care minister Mirjam Sterk told parliament on November 11, calling it impossible, DutchNews reported. The goal was set in 2022 with a 450-million-euro annual budget. About 33,000 people aged 18 to 65 have no permanent home. The mayors of the four largest cities, on behalf of 40 councils, have asked for an extra 100 million euros for emergency shelters and addiction treatment.

DutchNews, Nov 11

Manchester planners to rule on 153 flats and about 3,500 student beds

MANCHESTER: Manchester City Council's planning committee is due to consider three city-centre schemes, the Manchester Mirror reported on November 12: a 17-storey, 153-home build-to-rent block on Rochdale Road and two student schemes on Oxford Road with about 3,500 beds between them, one with a 50-storey tower. Officers recommend approval for all three. The city's target is 10,000 social and affordable homes by 2032.

Manchester Mirror, Nov 12

REGION - MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Divers pull 9.3 tonnes of waste from Jeddah Marina

JEDDAH: Divers removed 9.3 tonnes of waste, about 6.1 tonnes of it plastic, from the seabed of Jeddah Marina in a clean-up organised by Jeddah Transport Company, Arab News reported on November 14. The campaign involved 165 divers from 11 diving centres, who made more than 300 dives between September 18 and October 17. Roughly two-thirds of the waste went to recycling.

Arab News, Nov 14

REGION - NORTH AMERICA

Saskatoon orders an encampment outside a community hub cleared by November 30

SASKATOON: The City of Saskatoon has ordered that an encampment of more than 15 tents and structures in front of Station 20 West, a community enterprise on 20th Street, be cleaned up by November 30, under its nuisance abatement bylaw, Global News reported on November 13. Board director Wanda Martin said the group intends to appeal.

Global News, Nov 13

REGION - LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Medellin Metro closes ticket offices at six stations

MEDELLIN: Medellin Metro closed its ticket offices at six stations on November 9, moving card top-ups to 289 automatic machines and digital channels, Colombia One reported. About 270 former ticket sellers now guide passengers, and the operator says no jobs will be lost. Older riders say the process is hard. Contactless bank cards were accepted on Lines A and B from November 11.

Colombia One, Nov 14

Motorcyclists account for 45% of Bogota's road deaths

BOGOTA: Bogota recorded 612 traffic deaths in 2025, of whom 45.1% were motorcyclists and 39.54% pedestrians, according to preliminary Health Observatory figures cited by The City Paper Bogota on November 12. The national road safety agency recorded 368 deaths in the city in the first half of 2026, up 29.6% on a year earlier.

The City Paper Bogota, Nov 12

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THE SUSTAINABILITY TIMES - PUBLISHED BY KATHA - "REPORTING THE WORLD'S CITIES, FOR THE PEOPLE WHO PLAN THEM"

LEADER

Spain's rent cap buys tenants time, but only building will close the housing gap

Spain's housing decree survived by a single vote on November 12, a day after the country's first general strike since 2012. It caps most rent rises at 2% until the end of 2027, lets courts suspend evictions of vulnerable households until 2030 and offers interest-free loans of up to 50,000 euros towards a first home. For tenants facing renewal this winter, that is real protection. Average rent stands at 1,176 euros a month against an average young person's salary of 1,190 euros, according to the Spanish Youth Council.

The decree does far less about the cause of that squeeze. The Bank of Spain estimates the country is about 750,000 homes short, a gap that could pass one million by 2028, while about 92,000 homes were built last year. A cap on rent rises does not add a single dwelling. Nor does a loan scheme for buyers, which may push up prices if supply stays fixed.

Cities have tools of their own. Malaga has frozen new tourist rental licences for three years after the number of tourist flats rose 40% since 2020, and it plans 5,000 social homes. The decree's 10% VAT on short stays in second homes points the same way. These measures return existing homes to residents, which is quicker than building new ones.

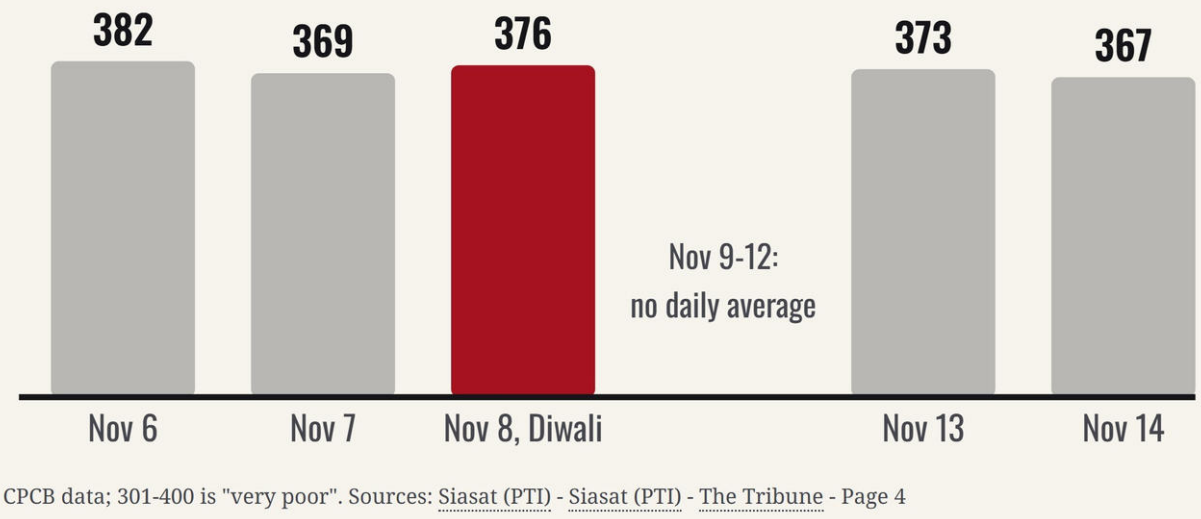
The next government, whoever wins on November 29, should keep the protection for the most vulnerable tenants while setting out a dated, funded programme for new social and affordable homes, with targets for each region and published progress. The People's Party has promised to repeal the decree. If it does, it should say what will replace the protection and how many homes it will build instead (Page 5).

THE OTHER VIEW

Building more homes will take most of a decade, and households facing eviction this winter cannot wait for it. Seen this way, the rent cap and the eviction pause are the only measures that act within months, and they are the right priority. The general strike showed how far housing costs have become a question of wages and basic security for young workers, not only of supply. Critics also point out that the supply problem is partly one of who owns homes: the decree bars companies from buying homes for less than 70% of market value until 2030, and Malaga's licence freeze shows that some of the shortage is homes used as holiday lets. On this view, protection for tenants should be made permanent and widened, and new building should follow, not replace it.

CHART OF THE WEEK

DELHI'S 24-HOUR AVERAGE AIR QUALITY INDEX AROUND DIWALI



CPCB data; 301-400 is "very poor". Sources: Siasat (PTI) - Siasat (PTI) - The Tribune - Page 4

SPAIN'S HOUSING IN FOUR NUMBERS

2%	750,000	92,000	35-34
RENT RISE CAP TO 2027	HOMES SHORT	BUILT IN 2025	COMMITTEE VOTE

Sources: The Local - Al Jazeera (Page 5)

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Housing is climate action. Urban planning is climate action." Anaclaudia Rossbach, UN-Habitat (Page 1).

"Smog is not a political issue. It is a scientific, environmental and public health challenge." Marriyum Aurangzeb, Punjab, Pakistan (Page 7).

"That item was not adopted, but the argument has not gone away." Amos Wemanya, Power Shift Africa (Page 4).

"Disagreement is inevitable, but dysfunction is a choice." Katy Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles City Council (Page 2).

"Climate disinformation is like a one-two punch to the planet and democracy." Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London (Page 2).

"We're pushing the boundaries." Floris Boogaard, on building homes 6.78 metres below sea level near Gouda (Page 7).

SECOND LEADER

India's cleanliness rankings should report what has changed on the ground

The Swachh Survekshan has grown from 73 cities in 2016 to 4,751 this year, with about 27 million citizens giving feedback. Its rankings are followed closely, and Navi Mumbai's first place, after eight years of Indore at the top, will be studied by other civic bodies. The housing minister says the share of urban waste that is processed has risen from 16% in 2014 to 80%, and that clearing old dumpsites has freed nearly 11,000 acres.

Those are large gains. The week's other news shows what a ranking can miss. In Hyderabad the Chief Minister said nearly half of the city's 1,372 lakes have disappeared, mostly to encroachment. In Chennai the corporation needed 1,142 workers and 225 vehicles to clear 78 tonnes of waste from public housing estates in a single day. Neither problem is captured by a city's place in a league table.

The survey uses 43 indicators across 10 areas. Publishing each city's score on every indicator, along with the measured quantities behind it, such as tonnes processed and land recovered, would let residents and researchers see where a city improved and where it fell back. Independent sample checks of the underlying data would make the rankings more useful to the cities that are trying to climb them.

Evidence: DD India - Telangana Today - DT Next - Pages 2, 5 and 7

READER'S GUIDE - SPAIN'S HOUSING DECREE

Nov 11	First general strike since 2012
Nov 12	Main decree approved 35-34; lease renewal decree rejected
Nov 29	General election
Dec 1	10% VAT on short stays in second homes begins
End-2027	2% cap on rent rises ends
End-2030	Eviction suspensions for vulnerable households end

Sources: The Local - Infobae - Al Jazeera

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Sustainability Times welcomes letters from planners, engineers, students and residents, including responses to the leaders, corrections and field notes from their cities. Selected letters will run on this page. Corrections will always run on Page 1 when the original error ran there.

Write via the publisher - info@katha.media

HOW THIS PAGE IS MADE

Each week the leader is drawn from the edition's most consequential story for people who plan cities. It is argued only from facts reported and linked elsewhere in the edition, and "The Other View" then makes the strongest case against it. Both are printed so that a planning argument is tested against its best objection before it reaches a council chamber. Readers who disagree with either may write to the Letters column, including to say which story should have led.

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Did you know? San Diego's Trolley carried 4.1 million trips in July 2026, the first month in the agency's history above four million.

Op-ed sponsorships and institutional messages run beside the leader. Contact the publisher - katha.media

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Did you know? The Tashkent Metro carried a record 286.8 million passengers in 2025, up from 38.8 million in 2020.

Contact the publisher - katha.media

TRANSPARENCY: The Sustainability Times is compiled by an AI news desk from the linked sources. The leaders and "The Other View" are AI-synthesised opinion argued from evidence cited in this edition; they represent no institution's position. Verify details at source before citing.

COP31 AT HALF TIME ANTALYA, TURKEY - NOVEMBER 9 TO 20, 2026 - PART 1 OF 2

Antalya's first week ends with most of the big questions handed to ministers

Negotiators closed the technical talks at 12:48 am on Sunday with little agreed. New finance pledges have fallen by about 71%, fossil fuels are kept off the formal agenda, and a record number of people have registered (Page 10: thirty years of COPs).

TST SPECIAL REPORT DESK

ANTALYA: The technical half of the COP31 climate talks in Antalya ended at 12:48 am on Sunday, November 15, amid "widespread disappointment with the lack of progress on many issues", according to the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB), which reports on the talks each day. Most items were sent unresolved to ministers for the second week. They include the mitigation work programme, indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation, carbon market rules, the just transition work programme and all guidance to the climate funds. Talks on agriculture failed to reach an outcome, and the subject returns in 2027.

The conference opened on November 9 only after talks on the agenda ran into the early hours. To avoid an open fight, the presidency left out two items proposed by African countries, on tripling adaptation finance and on a dialogue on trade and climate change. The Arab Group objected to any reference in the outcome to the voluntary roadmaps on moving away from fossil fuels and on ending deforestation that Brazil's COP30 presidency produced after Belem. On November 14 the group said it "would not accept any top-down global targets or targets addressing specific sectors or energy sources".

Fossil fuels. There is no negotiating item on fossil fuels. COP30 President Andre Correa do Lago presented the roadmap at the opening. Climate Home News reports that it is a 182-page voluntary document with a three-stage timetable to 2033, and that it advises countries to adopt national transition plans by 2028. European and small island states may try to cite it in the summit's cover decision. At the leaders' summit on November 11, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for a windfall tax on fossil fuel profits. "Fossil fuels must go the way of the dinosaurs," he said. "The dinosaurs did not have a lobby. But fossil fuels do."

Finance. Money is the main fault line. A Carbon Brief analysis published on November 11 found that new public climate finance pledges for developing countries have fallen by about 71%, to about $11.7 billion a year from an average of about $40 billion. The United States is giving no official climate finance, and British and US cuts take $5.1 billion out of the Green Climate Fund in a single year, ENB reported. "Any conversation on new fresh money is dead in the water," said Wopke Hoekstra, the EU's climate commissioner. Countries still disagree on whether the goal of $100 billion a year was ever met. The EU, Japan, Canada and others want it recorded as met for 2022 to 2024; the African Group, the Arab Group and like-minded developing countries say it was not. Under the COP29 deal, developed countries must provide at least $300 billion a year by 2035, within a wider goal of $1.3 trillion a year from all sources.

Ambition. The UN's synthesis of national climate plans, reported by Climate Home News, finds that the 154 plans submitted so far would cut emissions about 6% below 2019 levels by 2035. The IPCC benchmark for 1.5°C is a cut of about 60%. The plans point to 2.1°C to 3.2°C of warming by 2100, depending on action after 2035. Several participants told ENB on the first day that "this is the first COP where we admit the world will exceed 1.5°C." In a science text, Russia, India and the Arab Group proposed deleting a figure of 1.47°C, plus or minus 0.13°C, for this year's global temperature.

Adaptation and losses. UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report, released on November 4, puts developing countries' adaptation needs at about $305 billion a year by 2035. Tripling adaptation finance, as agreed at Belem, would cover only 20% to 29% of that. Countries agreed in principle on a two-tier structure for the new just transition mechanism, but not on how to fund it. The loss and damage fund has provisionally set aside $21.6 million for Nepal after its floods, against recovery needs of $4.77 billion, Down To Earth reported.

The crowd. COP31 has 92,934 people registered in person, provisionally the most at any COP, according to a Carbon Brief analysis of UN lists. They include 18,812 party delegates and 14,285 guests of the host country. Health Policy Watch counted more than 70 leaders at the leaders' summit. Xi Jinping, Narendra Modi, Emmanuel Macron and Friedrich Merz did not attend, and the United States sent no delegation for a second year. "It is a disgrace that only one G7 head of state and a handful of G20 leaders are attending the summit," said Mohamed Adow of Power Shift Africa. Transparency International found 63 fossil fuel-linked delegates in nine EU national delegations.

Week two. The Environmental Integrity Group, which includes Switzerland, has proposed capping delegation sizes and holding a COP every two or three years. Russia, the Arab Group, the African Group, like-minded developing countries and Argentina opposed putting any reform of the UN process in the cover decision. Ministers take over on Monday. The high-level segment runs from November 17 to 19, and closing plenaries are due on Friday, November 20.

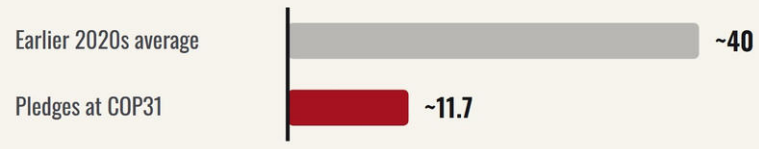
ENB 902 - 903 - 904 - 905 - 906 - 907 - Carbon Brief (finance) - Carbon Brief (delegates) - Climate Home News - Climate Home (NDCs) - Health Policy Watch - Down To Earth - The Week - Transparency International

COP31 IN NUMBERS

92,934 REGISTERED IN PERSON	**18,812** PARTY DELEGATES
154 NATIONAL PLANS IN UN SYNTHESIS	**2.1-3.2°C** WARMING THE PLANS IMPLY

Sources: Carbon Brief - Climate Home News

NEW PUBLIC CLIMATE FINANCE PLEDGES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, $ BILLION A YEAR



Fall of about 71%. Source: Carbon Brief analysis, Nov 11

WHERE THE TALKS STAND

Cover decision	No agreed text; presidency consultations continue
Fossil fuels	No agenda item; Arab Group rejects sector or energy targets
Finance	Work programme text being drafted; scope of Article 9 disputed
Adaptation	59 indicators; taskforce make-up disputed; sent to ministers
Just transition	Two-tier mechanism broadly agreed; funding open
Carbon markets	Article 6.2 fees and 6.8 sent on in brackets
Loss and damage	Guidance to fund disputed; revised text due
Agriculture	No outcome; returns in 2027
UN process reform	Split on including it in the cover decision

Source: ENB 907, November 16

INDIA AT COP31

India's opening statement on November 10 was given by Narendra Bhooshan, secretary at the environment ministry. He urged developed countries to "fulfil their climate finance obligations under the Paris Agreement", stressing Article 9.1 and common but differentiated responsibilities, Down To Earth reported. Before the summit, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said: "On CBAM, we will stand by our position," referring to the EU's carbon border tax.

In the rooms, India opposed just transition language on food systems and, with Saudi Arabia and Russia, resisted a timeline for IPCC reports to feed the 2028 global stocktake. In week two Yadav co-chairs the ministerial talks on mitigation with Germany's Carsten Schneider. Climate Action Tracker says India's 2035 plan allows emissions to rise to 6.3 billion tonnes, almost 64% above 2023. India withdrew its bid to host COP33 in April.

Down To Earth - Euronews - Climate Home - ENB 905, 907

MINISTERS IN CHARGE, WEEK TWO

Mitigation	Carsten Schneider (Germany), Bhupender Yadav (India)
Finance	Monique Barbut (France), Robert Borje (Philippines)
Adaptation	Jiwoh Abdulai (Sierra Leone), Miatta Fahnbulleh (UK)
Just transition	Alicia Barcena (Mexico), Krzysztof Bolesta (Poland)
Ocean	Julie Dabrusin (Canada), Steven Victor (Palau)

HEARD IN ANTALYA

"We are doing things differently at this COP." Simon Stiell, UN climate chief.

"Every new oil well drilled, every piece of coal extracted, is a threat to my country's future." Hilda Heine, President of the Marshall Islands.

"Developing countries pay nearly $1 trillion in interest on public debt." Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, host of COP32.

"This document does not need streamlining, it needs a chainsaw." An unnamed delegate, quoted by ENB.

CITIES

Local governments have had a seat since Berlin

Local governments formed their own constituency in the talks at Berlin in 1995, with ICLEI as focal point. The Paris Agreement recognised the role of local and subnational governments, and in 2023 Dubai launched CHAMP, under which countries promise to work with cities on their national plans; 77 countries and the EU have now joined. Subnational net zero targets cover 2.55 billion people, up from 497 million in 2020. This year Antalya held the first leaders-level dialogue on cities at a COP (Page 1).

LGMA - LGMA (CHAMP) - Net Zero Tracker

THIRTY YEARS OF COPS · BERLIN 1995 TO ANTALYA 2026 - PART 2 OF 2

The forecast has improved by a degree since Paris. Emissions are still 66% higher than at the first COP

Climate summits have produced a treaty, a rulebook, a finance goal and a fund for losses. The measurable record shows real gains in plans and policy, a large gap in delivery, and a meeting that has grown from about 5,000 people to more than 90,000.

THE RECORD

What three decades of talks produced

TST SPECIAL REPORT DESK

The first Conference of the Parties (COP) met in Berlin in 1995, with 117 parties attending. It agreed the "Berlin Mandate" to negotiate stronger commitments, which led two years later to the Kyoto Protocol. Kyoto required developed countries to cut emissions by an average of 5% below 1990 levels and placed no obligations on developing countries such as China and India.

The next breakthrough took 18 years. Copenhagen in 2009 produced a pledge of $100 billion a year by 2020 but no successor to Kyoto. Paris in 2015 brought 196 parties into one agreement to hold warming "well below 2°C" and pursue 1.5°C, with each country setting its own target and no enforcement. Later COPs filled in the rules, created a loss and damage fund and, at Dubai in 2023, called for "transitioning away from fossil fuels". Glasgow's "phasedown" of coal, in place of "phase-out", came from an Indian proposal in the closing plenary.

CFR - Carbon Brief (COP26) - (COP28) - (COP29) - (COP30) - C2ES

MILESTONES, COP1 TO COP32

1995 Berlin	Berlin Mandate to negotiate binding cuts
1997 Kyoto	Kyoto Protocol: rich nations cut 5%
2007 Bali	"Loss and damage" in a text
2009 Copenhagen	$100bn a year pledged
2010 Cancun	Below 2°C goal; Green Climate Fund
2013 Warsaw	Loss and damage mechanism, no money
2015 Paris	Paris Agreement, 1.5°C aim
2021 Glasgow	Coal "phasedown"; India net zero 2070
2022 Sharm	Loss and damage fund agreed
2023 Dubai	"Transition away" from fossil fuels
2024 Baku	$300bn a year by 2035
2025 Belem	No fossil fuel text
2026 Antalya	Under way (Page 9)
2027 Addis	Ethiopia hosts COP32

WHAT HAS CHANGED

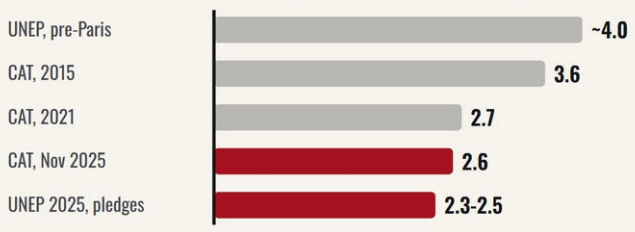
About a degree taken off the projected warming, and a coal pipeline cut by 70%

Measured against where the world was heading, the process has moved the forecast. Climate Action Tracker estimated in 2015 that the policies then in place pointed to about 3.6°C of warming by 2100. Its November 2025 update put current policies at about 2.6°C, a figure it says has been "virtually unchanged" since 2021. UNEP's projections show a similar fall (chart). "That means Paris has already reduced future risks for people and ecosystems," Bill Hare of Climate Analytics said in December 2025.

Coal plans have shrunk. Coal capacity in planning fell from 1,179 gigawatts (GW) in 2015 to 355 GW in 2024, a 70% drop, according to Global Energy Monitor data analysed by Carbon Brief, as 58 countries cut or scrapped plans. The world added a record 692 GW of renewable capacity in 2025, IRENA says. A 2020 study in Nature Climate Change linked climate laws in 133 countries to emissions about 5.9 billion tonnes a year lower in 2016 than they would otherwise have been. The $100 billion goal was met in 2022, at $115.9 billion, two years late; about 69% of the public money was loans.

Al Jazeera - Down To Earth (UNEP) - Climate Home - Carbon Brief (coal) - SolarQuarter (IRENA) - Eskander and Fankhauser - Net Zero Tracker - Carbon Brief ($100bn)

PROJECTED WARMING BY 2100, BY ASSESSMENT (°C)



Current-policy projections except the last row. Sources: Climate Action Tracker via Al Jazeera - UNEP via Down To Earth

WHAT IS MISSING

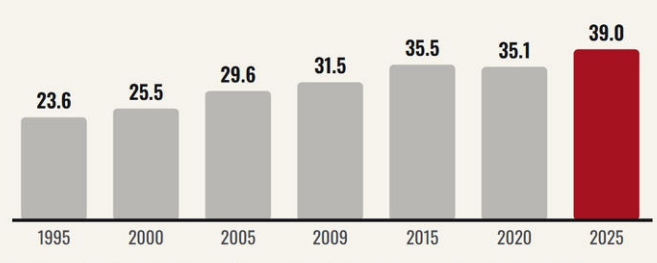
Emissions are higher, money is late, and coal plants are still being built

The process was set up to stop the rise in greenhouse gases, and that has not happened yet. Fossil carbon dioxide emissions were 23.6 billion tonnes in 1995 and 39.0 billion tonnes in 2025, according to Global Carbon Budget data published by Our World in Data. The Global Carbon Budget released on November 10 projects a fall of about 0.4% in 2026, to 38.2 billion tonnes, the first fall since the pandemic, driven mainly by lower oil use after the Iran conflict. The carbon budget left for 1.5°C is 150 billion tonnes from 2027, less than four years of current emissions.

The world commissioned 97.4 GW of new coal power in 2025, the second-highest year on record, most of it in China, Global Energy Monitor says. IRENA says the tripling goal for renewables is off track: it needs about 1.2 terawatts a year from 2026 to 2030. The loss and damage fund had $790 million pledged but $397 million paid in at the time of COP30, and its first $250 million round faces $2 billion to $3 billion of requests. Decisions need consensus, so a single group can keep fossil fuels out of a text, as happened at Belem.

Our World in Data - Carbon Brief (GCB 2026) - Global Energy Monitor - Argus (IRENA) - Eco-Business

WORLD FOSSIL CO2 EMISSIONS, BILLION TONNES



Source: Global Carbon Budget 2026 via Our World in Data

THE TOURISM QUESTION

Do the summits justify their size?



A march near the COP30 venue in Belem, Brazil, on November 15, 2025.

PHOTO: XUTHORIA, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0

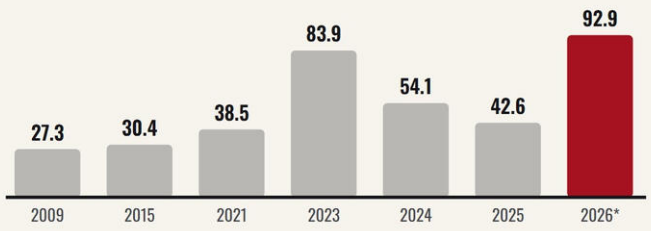
The first ten COPs drew about 5,000 people each on average, Carbon Brief's analysis of UN lists shows. Dubai had 83,884 people in person, and Antalya has 92,934 registered so far. Counts by the Kick Big Polluters Out coalition found 503 fossil fuel lobbyists at Glasgow, 2,456 at Dubai and 1,602 at Belem, where they were one in 25 participants. A carbon management plan by the engineering firm Arup estimated Glasgow's footprint at about 102,500 tonnes of CO2 equivalent, with about 60% from international flights.

Critics say the size has outgrown the purpose. In 2021 Greta Thunberg mocked leaders' promises as "blah, blah, blah". A Club of Rome letter in November 2024, signed by 22 people including Ban Ki-moon, Christiana Figueres and Johan Rockstrom, said the process's "current structure simply cannot deliver the change at exponential speed and scale". It called for rules on who can host, disclosure of lobbying, and smaller, more frequent meetings.

Defenders say the summit is one part of a larger system. "No, the Paris Agreement has not failed," Figueres said in January 2025, calling the COP process "frankly, a small part of the reality". On reform, UN climate chief Simon Stiell said in July: "it is time for that discussion to take place".

Carbon Brief - Down To Earth - The Wire - CNBC - Dawn (AFP) - Eco-Business - Mongabay - Down To Earth

PEOPLE REGISTERED AT SELECTED COPS, THOUSANDS



In person; *provisional. Source: Carbon Brief analyses of UNFCCC lists

ANALYSIS - THE BALANCE SHEET

More success in direction than in delivery

On the evidence above, the COP process has changed the direction of policy more than the level of emissions. Its measurable gains are in forecasts, plans and institutions: about a degree off projected warming since 2015, a coal pipeline 70% smaller, a finance goal met late, and a fund for losses. Its shortfall is in delivery: emissions 66% above 1995, less than four years of the 1.5°C budget left, and finance pledges falling. The charge of summit tourism has a factual basis in attendance and in lobbyist numbers. The reforms now proposed, smaller delegations, rules for hosts, lobbying disclosure and less frequent meetings, deal with size. None of them changes the consensus rule that lets one group block a text. AI-synthesised analysis from the sources on this page.

INDIA DESK

From no obligations under Kyoto to a 2070 net zero goal

At Glasgow in 2021 Narendra Modi announced five goals, including 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030 and net zero by 2070. India's 2022 plan promised a 45% cut in emissions intensity from 2005 levels by 2030 and about 50% non-fossil power capacity. It reached 50.1% on June 30, 2025, five years early, though coal still supplied 69% of electricity generated in January. Its 2035 plan targets a 47% intensity cut and about 60% non-fossil capacity; Climate Action Tracker says the intensity goal "will not bring any real emission reductions". Per person, its fossil CO2 emissions were 2.19 tonnes in 2025 against a world average of 4.74. India withdrew its bid to host COP33 in April.

Down To Earth - Carbon Brief - Scroll - (COP33) - Our World in Data

DISASTER RISK - NATURE SUSTAINABILITY

Disasters cost the poorest a third of well-being losses though they bear 9% of the damage, World Bank study finds

TST SCIENCE DESK

WASHINGTON: Counting damaged buildings and roads understates the harm disasters do, especially to poor households, according to a World Bank study of 132 countries published in Nature Sustainability on October 29.

Robin Middelanis, Stephane Hallegatte and colleagues used household simulations to estimate "well-being losses", which reflect how far people's consumption falls and how long they take to recover, not only the value of lost assets. Across all countries, each dollar of asset damage caused well-being losses equal to a two-dollar fall in national consumption. The poorest people suffered 9% of damages but 33% of well-being losses.

Low-income countries had 72% greater losses per dollar of damage than high-income countries and needed 92% longer to recover. A 10% higher income per head was linked to a resilience gain of one percentage point. The authors argue that social protection, insurance and other financial measures can complement flood walls and stronger buildings, and that targeting low-income groups usually gives the highest return in well-being. The findings bear on how cities rank risk-reduction projects.

Nature Sustainability, doi:10.1038/s41893-026-01947-z

INDIA DESK - URBAN GREEN SPACE

Agra's green cover recovers, but each resident has about 31% less of it than in 2008

AGRA: Green space in Agra has partly recovered since 2016, but it has become more fragmented and each resident now has less of it, according to a satellite study published on November 9 in Discover Applied Sciences.

Researchers from Lovely Professional University in Punjab and Manipal University Jaipur used Landsat images from 2008 to 2024. Urban green space shrank from 32.23 sq km, or 26.1% of the city, in 2008 to 28.77 sq km in 2016, then recovered to 31.34 sq km, about 25.4%, by 2024. Landscape measures showed persistent fragmentation, more isolated patches and little gain in connectivity. Because the population grew faster than green cover, green space per person fell from 20.82 sq m to 14.43 sq m. The authors say counting area alone overstates progress and call for planning that links green patches.

Discover Applied Sciences, doi:10.1007/s42452-026-09601-1

HEALTH - NATURE CITIES

Pollution and heat linked to mental distress in pregnancy, green space to lower risk, in study of 216,000 women in China

SINGAPORE: Air pollution and heatwaves near the home are linked to higher rates of mental distress during pregnancy, while nearby green space appears to protect against it, according to a study of 216,442 pregnant women in China published in Nature Cities on November 2. Researchers led by Haitong Zhe Sun of the National University of Singapore and Hefeng Huang of Zhejiang University analysed a nationwide maternity cohort followed for 13 years. The share of women with symptoms of prenatal mental distress peaked at 31.8%. The team estimated that 1.61 million such symptoms were attributable to fine particulate matter and heatwave exposure, and that green space prevented about 792,000 cases. The study is observational.

Nature Cities, doi:10.1038/s44284-026-00534-9

MOBILITY - NATURE CITIES

One number describes how far daily movement reaches in 12 very different US cities

BOSTON: Cities that look very different on a map may organise their daily movement in a similar way, a study in Nature Cities suggests. A team including Weiyu Li and Qi R. Wang of Northeastern University and Michael Batty of University College London proposed a "spatial range exponent" to describe how quickly links between neighbourhoods fade with distance, calculated from census block group travel flows in 12 US metropolitan areas. The value fell in a narrow band, 0.42 plus or minus 0.015. During natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic it fell by 1% to 3%, larger than normal variation. The authors suggest the measure could help compare cities and track how mobility reorganises after a shock.

Nature Cities, Oct 12, doi:10.1038/s44284-026-00531-y

WATER - NPJ URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Tianjin could safely pump 160 million cubic metres of groundwater in a drought, study estimates

TIANJIN: Cities that have stopped sinking may be able to draw on groundwater during droughts without restarting subsidence, if they know where the safe limit lies, according to a study of Tianjin published in npj Urban Sustainability on November 3. Researchers from the China Earthquake Administration, Tianjin University and the University of Houston modelled the city's confined aquifers to find the water level below which the ground begins to compact permanently. They divided the city into ten management zones and estimated that Tianjin could safely pump about 160 million cubic metres as of 2025, rising to about 0.3 cubic km by 2028 as aquifers recover.

npj Urban Sustainability, doi:10.1038/s42949-026-00489-9

BATTERIES - NATURE SUSTAINABILITY

Shared electric vehicles wear out batteries faster, cutting some lithium savings

BEIJING: Sharing electric vehicles can reduce demand for critical minerals, but heavy use wears batteries out faster and can erode those savings, according to an analysis of China in Nature Sustainability by researchers from Tsinghua University, Tianjin University and partners in Japan and Denmark. For nickel-rich NMC811 batteries, the lithium saved by shared mobility up to 2060 fell from 5.3 to 8.1 million tonnes, under a fixed battery life, to 2.6 to 4.7 million tonnes once faster degradation was included. More durable lithium iron phosphate and NCA batteries kept or increased the savings. The authors say policies for shared mobility should account for battery wear and chemistry.

Nature Sustainability, Oct 16, doi:10.1038/s41893-026-01969-7

FUNDING CALLS - OPEN NOW

Horizon Europe calls on homelessness, building comfort, autonomous city transport and heat health

Addressing homelessness through housing-led approaches (New European Bauhaus): EUR 12.6 million, about two grants. Closes **Dec 1**.

Affordable thermal comfort in buildings, including vernacular and bioclimatic design: EUR 12 million, about three grants. Closes **Dec 1**.

Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities: EUR 15 million for 5-7 city pilots of level-4 electric autonomous mobility in five or more countries. Closes **Feb 16**.

Tools for health adaptation to climate change: EUR 20 million in pre-commercial procurement. Closes **Feb 17**.

LIFE European City Facility: closes **Dec 21**.

Horizon Europe calls are open to EU and associated-country applicants; partners from most other countries, including India, generally join without EU funding unless a topic says otherwise. Check each topic page.

HEALTH - NPJ URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Childhood asthma risks shift from air pollution to heat as countries urbanise, 149-country study finds

BEIJING: The main drivers of asthma in children and teenagers change as countries urbanise, according to a study by researchers at Peking University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, published in npj Urban Sustainability on October 23. They analysed data from 149 countries from 2000 to 2020 and sorted them into four stages of urbanisation and air quality. Fine particulate pollution peaked during rapid urbanisation, but asthma incidence peaked later, as urban growth slowed. PM2.5 was the dominant risk factor in rapidly urbanising countries; in mature urban countries temperature sensitivity was the main risk, and green space and wind speed were protective. The paper is an accepted version shared early and may be edited before final publication.

npj Urban Sustainability, doi:10.1038/s42949-026-00487-x

WILDLIFE - NATURE CITIES

City life changes what Singapore's macaques eat and the microbes they carry

SINGAPORE: Long-tailed macaques in Singapore's urban areas eat a less varied plant diet and carry less varied gut bacteria than those in the wild, according to a study in Nature Cities on November 3 by researchers from the National University of Singapore, the National Parks Board and Mandai Nature. They analysed DNA from more than 350 faecal samples collected from wild forest into the city. Total bacterial diversity, including potential pathogens, fell steeply from wild to urban habitats. The authors say managing macaques by family line, habitat use and diet could reduce conflict between people and monkeys.

Nature Cities, doi:10.1038/s44284-026-00535-8

THEORY - NATURE CITIES

Scaling laws from many cities do not describe how one city grows, physicists argue

PARIS: "Scaling laws" found by comparing many cities at one moment do not describe how any single city grows, and should not be used to guide policy for individual cities, Ulysse Marquis of Fondazione Bruno Kessler and Marc Barthelemy of Universite Paris-Saclay argue in Nature Cities.

Nature Cities, Oct 26, doi:10.1038/s44284-026-00533-w

CALLS FOR PAPERS - OPEN NOW

Journal collections on climate justice, urban-rural links and net zero precincts

npj Urban Sustainability: Radical Civic Practices, Urban Environmental Justice. Closes **Dec 10**.

npj Urban Sustainability: Polycrisis Challenges and Equitable Climate Action in Cities. Closes **Feb 7**.

npj Urban Sustainability: Reimagining Urban-Rural Relationships. Closes **Feb 10**.

Urban Planning: Net Zero Precincts and Corridors, with Curtin University editors including Peter Newman. Abstracts **Mar 1-15**.

Urban Planning: Urban Innovation and Accessibility; Decommodified Housing Production. Abstracts **Jun 1-15**. More calls on Page 12.

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE
Research councils and journal publishers - katha.media

Your next chapter starts here

Paid jobs, funded master's places, PhDs and postdocs worldwide for people starting out in sustainable cities, transport, water and urban technology. Every listing is paid or funded and links to the employer's or university's own page or official application portal; all were checked on November 15, 2026. Confirm dates, eligibility and work rights before applying. The full, searchable list is at **sustainability-times.org/careers**.

01 JOB OPENINGS - GRADUATE ROLES, EARLY-CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL POSTS

Deputy Director, Mobility Finance and Policy - ITDP India - New Delhi - rolling
PAID Salary not published; health cover up to Rs 1 million for the employee and dependants.

Deputy Manager or Manager, Energy and Renewables - ICLEI South Asia - New Delhi - rolling
PAID Salary not published.

Senior Project Officer, Energy and Climate - ICLEI South Asia - Vadodara - rolling
PAID Salary in line with qualifications and experience.

Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development - Asian Development Bank - Manila - **Nov 20**
PAID Salary on ADB scale, with housing, education and expatriate benefits.

Low Carbon Technology Analyst - WRI Indonesia - Jakarta - **Nov 17**
PAID Daily rate, up to 18 days a month. Rate not published.

User Research Lead, Data Lab Indonesia - WRI Indonesia - Jakarta - **Nov 17**
PAID Salary not published.

Senior Strategic Planner, London Plan - Greater London Authority - London - **Nov 29**
PAID GBP 52,305 a year.

Spatial Planning Year in Industry, 2027 - Transport for London - London - rolling
PAID GBP 27,029 a year for students on placement years.

Strategic Coordinator, European Executive Office - WRI Europe - The Hague - **Nov 23**
PAID EUR 53,000 to 66,000 a year plus 8% holiday allowance.

Watershed Restoration and Partnerships Manager - WRI - Salt Lake region, Utah - **Nov 23**
PAID USD 96,000 to 120,000 a year.

Project Specialist, GHG Protocol - WRI - Washington, DC - **Nov 22**
PAID USD 69,000 to 82,000 a year.

Sub-Regional Programme Coordinator, Southern Africa - UN-Habitat - home-based - **Nov 19**
PAID Consultancy covering 13 countries. Fee not published.

Programme Manager, Madagascar and Indian Ocean - UN-Habitat - Antananarivo - **Nov 16**
PAID Consultancy. Fee not published.

CHAMP Advisor - WRI Africa - Addis Ababa - **Nov 17**
PAID Senior post. Salary not published.

Global Coordination Manager, Executive Office - WRI - Bogota or Mexico City - **Dec 1**
PAID Salary not published.

Strategy and Impact Management Specialist - WRI Brasil - Sao Paulo - rolling
PAID Portuguese required. Salary not published.

Project Analyst, Climate, Economics and Finance - WRI Brasil - Sao Paulo - rolling
PAID Salary not published.

Senior Transport Planner - Auckland Council - Auckland - **Nov 25**
PAID NZD 105,579 to 124,210 a year plus KiwiSaver.

Principal Planner, Resource Consents - Auckland Council - Albany - **Nov 29**
PAID NZD 123,000 to 158,000 a year plus KiwiSaver.

Resource Consent Planners - Auckland Council - Auckland - rolling
PAID NZD 78,311 to 130,000 a year.

04 MENTORING & CAREER GROWTH

Research and Data Analyst - Katha - global - see the online listing for terms
PAID Supports Katha's global sustainability reports. Disclosure: Katha publishes The Sustainability Times.

Most consultancy posts at UN agencies are paid by the day or month; the fee is set in the contract, not always in the advert. University postdocs in the Netherlands and Switzerland are salaried staff posts with pension and holiday pay.

Applying for the first time? Read the full call, not only the summary; check whether the post needs existing work rights; and note the time zone of each deadline.

READING THE FUNDING LABELS

Paid position: a salaried job, paid internship or salaried PhD. **Scholarship or fellowship:** fees and a stipend, awarded against other applicants; admission alone does not guarantee it. **Partial funding:** some fees or living costs covered, with the rest paid by the student. Self-funded places are not listed.

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Scholarship funds and training providers - katha.media

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Graduate schools and summer programmes - katha.media

RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING

Hiring urban talent?

List vacancies, studentships and fellowships here and online at sustainability-times.org/careers. Contact the publisher - katha.media

02 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES - FUNDED PHDS AND POSTDOCS

PhD in Urban Studies and Planning, 2027 - MIT - **Dec 15**
FUNDED Full support for five years.

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship - University of Hong Kong - **Dec 1**
FELLOWSHIP HK$28,700 a month plus fee waiver.

PhD: Noise in the Built Environment - UNSW Sydney - rolling
SCHOLARSHIP AUD 39,991 a year plus AUD 5,000 research allowance.

Doctoral Scholarship - University of Auckland - **Feb 1**
SCHOLARSHIP Up to 42 months; value not published.

PhD: Environmental Impacts of Demographic Change - Leiden - **Jan 11**
SALARIED PHD EUR 3,204 to 4,051 a month.

PhD: Faecal Sludge to Clean Energy - Wageningen - Kenya, Ethiopia - **Nov 23**
SALARIED PHD EUR 3,059 to 3,881 a month.

PhD: Aerial and Ground Vehicles for Urban Mobility - UEA - UK applicants - **Feb 24**
STUDENTSHIP GBP 20,409 a year plus home fees.

Doctoral Fellowship, Urban Morphology - PUC-Campinas / FAPESP - **Nov 26**
FELLOWSHIP R$ 5,790 a month.

Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship - IIT Madras - Chennai - rolling
FELLOWSHIP Rs 130,000 a month plus Rs 0.2 million a year contingency.

Postdoctoral Fellowship - IISc Bengaluru - **Dec 31** review
FELLOWSHIP Rs 80,000 a month plus rent allowance and research grant.

Mansueto Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship - University of Chicago - **Dec 6**
PAID USD 70,000 a year plus benefits.

Postdoc: Urban Climate Morphology - TU Delft - **Nov 30**
PAID EUR 3,706 to 5,760 a month.

Postdoc: User Acceptance of Automated Buses - TU Delft - part-time - **Nov 30**
PAID Dutch university scale; 21 to 24 hours a week.

Postdoc: Inclusive Public Spaces - University of Amsterdam - **Nov 24**
PAID EUR 4,925 to 5,264 a month full-time equivalent.

Postdoc: Regeneration of Central Areas - PUC-Campinas / FAPESP - **Nov 16**
FELLOWSHIP R$ 12,570 a month.

03 STUDY & SCHOLARSHIPS - FUNDED MASTER'S ROUTES

Gates Cambridge Scholarship, 2027 entry - Cambridge - **Dec 8**
SCHOLARSHIP Fees plus GBP 23,152 a year, airfare and visa costs.

Commonwealth Shared Scholarships, 2027/28 - UK - **Dec 8**
SCHOLARSHIP Fees, airfare, GBP 1,712 a month (GBP 2,000 in London).

Erasmus Mundus, Urban Climate and Sustainability (MUrCS) - four countries - **Jan 15**
SCHOLARSHIP EUR 1,400 a month for 24 months plus tuition.

KAUST Fellowship, MS and PhD, fall 2027 - Thuwal - **Jan 3**
FELLOWSHIP Tuition, USD 20,000 a year for MS students, housing.

Swedish Institute Scholarship for Global Professionals - Sweden - **Feb 24**
SCHOLARSHIP Tuition, SEK 12,000 a month, travel grant.

CUT OUT AND KEEP - THE DEADLINE BOARD

Nov 16-20	UN-Habitat x2; WRI Jakarta x2; WRI Addis; PUC-Campinas postdoc; ADB
Nov 22-26	WRI DC, Utah, The Hague; Wageningen; Amsterdam; Auckland; PUC-Campinas PhD
Nov 29-Dec 1	GLA; Auckland; TU Delft x2; HKU; WRI Bogota
Dec 6-31	Chicago; Gates; Commonwealth; MIT; IISc
Jan 3-15	KAUST; Leiden; MUrCS
Feb 1-24	Auckland PhD; Swedish Institute; UEA

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Urban Planning, urban form and climate hazards; and Southern urban natures: abstracts **Dec 1-15**. npj Urban Sustainability, nature-based solutions and water: **Dec 23**. Urban Planning, inequalities in urban future-making: **Jan 1-15**. npj Urban Sustainability, AI for urban planning: **Mar 1**. npj Urban Sustainability, Global South cities: **May 5**. Cogitatio charges article fees.

ADMISSIONS ADVERTISING

Universities recruiting for 2027 - katha.media

RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS ADVERTISING

Reach planners, engineers and graduates in print and at sustainability-times.org/careers - katha.media

CONCEPT OF THE WEEK

Transfer of development rights: moving building rights to protect land and pay for public works



Farmland in up-county Montgomery County, Maryland, with Sugarloaf Mountain in the distance. The county has preserved more than 52,000 acres through its TDR programme.
PHOTO: FAMARTIN, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0

Transfer of development rights, or TDR, lets the owner of land where building is to be limited sell the unused right to build to a developer elsewhere, who uses it to build more than the base zoning allows. The area that gives up rights is the "sending" zone, typically farmland, a historic site or land needed for a road or park. The area that takes them is the "receiving" zone, usually an urban district with the infrastructure for higher density.

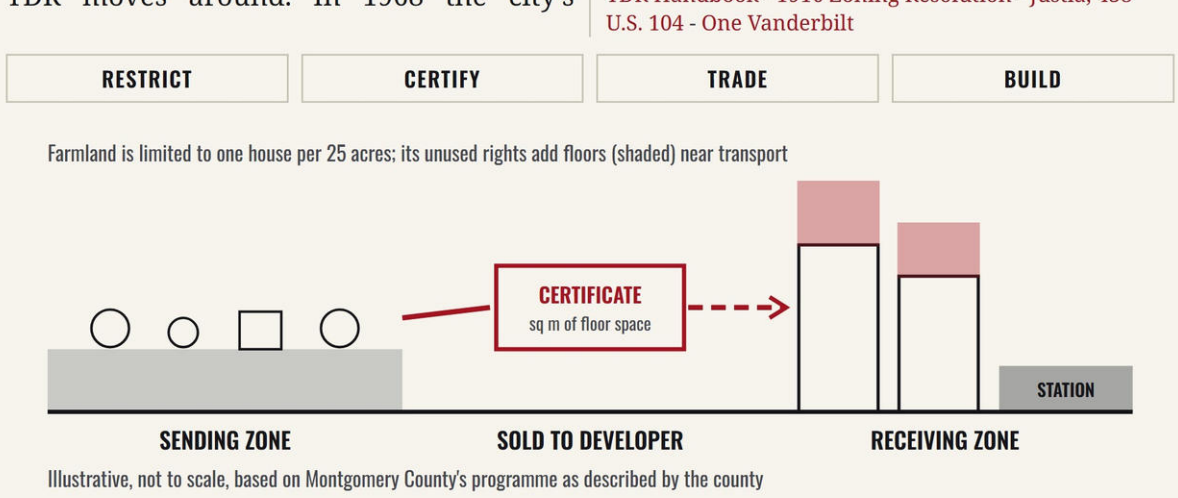
Montgomery County's planners describe it as a form of clustering in which the sending and receiving areas "are not contiguous, and they are not necessarily under the same ownership". It takes two steps: designating sending areas, where rights are created and can be sold, and receiving areas "where the land and public services are capable of absorbing additional density". Some programmes run a TDR bank that buys and holds rights until a project needs them. More than 200 US communities have TDR programmes, according to The TDR Handbook (2011).

The idea grew out of New York's zoning. The 1916 Zoning Resolution was the first citywide zoning code in the United States, and the 1961 resolution introduced floor area ratio, the measure of floor space that TDR moves around. In 1968 the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission rejected plans for an office tower over Grand Central Terminal and offered the owner, Penn Central, the right to transfer the unused air rights instead. Penn Central said this was not just compensation. On June 26, 1978, in Penn Central Transportation Co. v. New York City, the US Supreme Court ruled 6-3 for the city.

The tool has three main attractions. Owners whose land is restricted are compensated by private buyers, not the public purse. Growth is steered to places with transport and services. And it can protect landmarks and open land without public purchase.

It also has limits. Owners may consider it inadequate compensation, as Penn Central did. Its success depends on demand in the receiving areas, and prices can swing sharply. Valuing rights is contested: in a case over One Vanderbilt, beside Grand Central, the owner of the land under the terminal valued its air rights at up to USD 600 per sq ft and sued the city and developer SL Green for USD 1.1 billion in 2015; he dropped the suit in 2016. Planners also warn that rights concentrated in one place can overload streets and services.

Sources: Montgomery Planning - Wikipedia, citing The TDR Handbook - 1916 Zoning Resolution - Justia, 438 U.S. 104 - One Vanderbilt



How a transfer works: rights given up on protected land are certified, sold and built as extra floor space in a growth area.

PROS AND CONS, WITH EVIDENCE

Private money. Montgomery landowners received USD 117 million from buyers of their rights.

Scale. King County, Washington, says its programme has protected more than 148,000 acres since 1998.

Not enough alone. Montgomery added public easement programmes in 1987 and later.

Volatile prices. Mumbai slum TDR in Mulund rose from Rs 3,500 to Rs 6,000 per sq ft in six months in 2024.

Montgomery County - King County - NAREDCO (Hindustan Times)

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Which land in your city should give up building rights, and which streets could take the extra floors? 2. Should a city cap how much transferred floor space one plot can absorb?

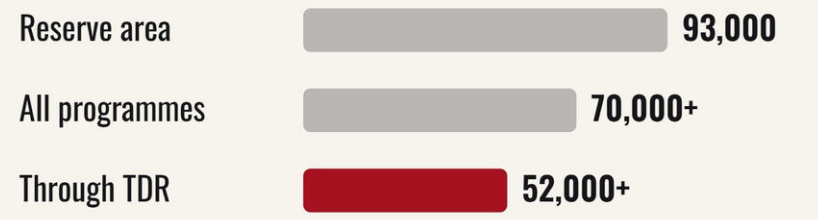
CASE STUDY - MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL RESERVE

In 1980 the County Council and Planning Board in Montgomery County, Maryland, designated more than 93,000 acres, almost a third of the county, as the Agricultural Reserve. The land was "down-zoned" to one house per 25 acres. Landowners were given development rights based on the previous zoning of one house per 5 acres, which they can sell to developers in designated growth areas, recapturing "some of the lost equity", the county says.

When a farmer sells rights, an easement permanently limits the land to one house per 25 acres, whatever future zoning says. More than 52,000 acres have been preserved through TDR, generating USD 117 million in private funds. The county has preserved more than 70,000 acres through seven programmes in all, and says TDR alone was not enough: "further protection measures, in the form of public easement programs, have been necessary". The reserve supports 558 farms.

Montgomery County - Montgomery Planning

CHART - MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ACRES



Source: Montgomery County Office of Agriculture



An orchard in Poolesville, in up-county Montgomery County, in 2007.
PHOTO: ERIC VANCE, US EPA, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, PUBLIC DOMAIN

INDIA DESK - HOW INDIAN CITIES PAY FOR LAND WITH FLOOR SPACE

Mumbai. The 1991 Development Control Regulations let owners who gave up land for roads, parks or slum housing receive certificates of floor space to use elsewhere or sell. By 2020 the city had issued 3,178 certificates covering 12.93 million sq m, and only 0.5 million sq m was unused, a NITI Aayog report found. Under DCPR 2034, slum TDR must make up 20% to 50% of the TDR used on a plot. An online e-TDR exchange went live on April 15, 2026.

Hyderabad. The civic body gives 400% TDR for land surrendered for road widening, and issued 864 certificates for 350 acres of road land, saving about Rs 15 billion. It stopped issuing new certificates in 2025, and premiums on existing ones rose from about 22% to 55-60%, Telangana Today reported.

Bengaluru. The Enforcement Directorate alleged about Rs 277 million in illegal gains from certificates issued on fabricated valuations. On November 2, 2026, the state ordered a fully digital system to track each certificate.

Elsewhere. Chennai gives 2.25 times the guideline value of land handed over. Pune has developed only 339 of 1,598 plan reservations and is finalising a "construction TDR". Delhi's master plan for 2047, notified in August, also uses TDR. National guidelines warn that "unbridled pooling of TDRs could damage the urban form".

NITI Aayog, 2020 - Knight Frank - Free Press Journal - Telangana Today - The420.in - Construction World - DT Next - Free Press Journal

TDR IN FOUR NUMBERS

1978 PENN CENTRAL RULING, 6-3	**$117m** PAID TO MONTGOMERY OWNERS
12.93m SQ M TDR ISSUED, MUMBAI	**400%** HYDERABAD ROAD TDR

READING LIST

NITI Aayog: Guidelines for the TDR tool. Indian practice, city by city.

Montgomery Planning: transferable development rights. How the reserve's programme works.

EVENTS DIARY - NOV TO FEB

NOV 16-19 — **UITP Latin America Forum**
Buenos Aires - public transport governance and funding

NOV 17-19 — **BRT and Electric BRT Training**
Dakar - UITP course in French

NOV 19 — **Bi-directional Single-lane Bus Lanes**
Online - UITP webinar on bus priority in narrow streets

NOV 19-22 — **Indian Roads Congress, 85th session**
HITEX, Hyderabad - road safety and infrastructure

NOV 20 — **COP31 closes**
Antalya - final decisions due

NOV 24 — **Horizon Europe Funding for Urban Mobility**
Online - UITP information session

NOV 24-27 — **UITP Eurasia Urban Rail Forum**
Tbilisi - urban rail financing, procurement and operations

NOV 26 — **World Sustainable Transport Day**
UN observance

NOV 26 — **Financing Public Transport with the EIB**
Online - UITP webinar

NOV 26-28 — **Green Building Congress 2026**
Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai - net zero buildings and cities

NOV 27 — **Tripura civic polls**
21 urban local bodies; counting Dec 2 (Page 2)

NOV 29 — **Spain general election**
Housing at the centre of the campaign (Page 5)

DEC 2-3 — **Annual POLIS Conference**
Brussels - AI in transport; housing and transport

DEC 7-8 — **UITP MENA Conference**
Dubai - integrated mobility and project finance

DEC 8-10 — **2026 UN Water Conference**
Abu Dhabi - co-hosted by the UAE and Senegal

DEC 23-25 — **EV Expo Delhi, 24th edition**
Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

JAN 10-14 — **TRB 106th Annual Meeting**
Washington DC

JAN 11-13 — **Advanced Rail Operation and Maintenance**
Singapore - UITP training

JAN 14 — **Financing Urban Rail for the Long Term**
Online - UITP webinar

FEB 4-9 — **Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2027**
Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi, New Delhi

CONSULTATIONS AND DEADLINES

DEC 2 — **Edmonton standardised-plan permits**
Last day under the current zoning bylaw

DEC 11 — **Auckland time-of-use charging**
Auckland Council - three options; webinar Nov 19

DEC 14 — **Delhi pollution affidavits**
Due at the Supreme Court (Page 4)

FURTHER AHEAD

FEB 16-17 — **Horizon Europe city calls close**
Autonomous city transport and heat health (Page 11)

MAR 16-17 — **Transforming Transportation 2027**
World Bank and WRI, hybrid

EVENT ADVERTISING

Running a conference?

List your event in the Diary with a highlighted entry and reach delegates before registration closes. Contact the publisher - katha.media

TENDERS & NOTICES

Gurugram Metro Rail - Viaduct and elevated stations, Package 2, 13.3 km of the 28.5-km line
IN-GMRL-533193-CW-RFB - World Bank-financed - **Nov 18**

UNDP India - Climate risk assessment and adaptation investment package, health sector, Tamil Nadu
UNDP-IND-00852 - **Nov 17**, 08:00 New York

UNDP India - Individual consultant, urban governance (six months)
UNDP-IND-00860 - **Nov 19**, 08:00 New York

Kerala Solid Waste Management Project - Container autos for Kottayam
IN-ULB KOT KOT-580035-GO-RFQ - **Nov 25**; sister notices close Nov 23-25

UNDP India - Evidence base and roadmap for parametric insurance for vulnerable workers
UNDP-IND-00861 - **Nov 30**, 08:00 New York

Chattogram Water Supply Improvement Project - System improvement and DMA formation, Lots 1 and 2
CWSIP/W1 - Bangladesh - **Nov 23**

UNDP Philippines - Waste sorting and processing equipment, Iloilo City
UNDP-PHL-01047 - **Nov 23**, 06:00 New York

UNDP Ukraine - Municipal water and wastewater assessment expert, Kyiv
UNDP-UKR-01899 - **Nov 25**, 07:30 New York

Maputo Metropolitan Area Urban Mobility Project - Design of municipal roads and stormwater (EOI)
107/CONS/MMAUMP/26 - Mozambique - **Nov 27**

Mozambique Urban Water Security - Design and supervision for Vilanculos, Pambarra and Mapinhane (EOI)
FIPAAS/UWSP/CON-02/26 - **Nov 27**

Second Kenya Urban Support Program - Road and stormwater master plans, Dadaab-Hagadera and Kakuma (EOI)
KE-MOTI-573511-CS-QCBS - **Dec 2**

UNDP El Salvador - Characterisation of municipal solid waste
UNDP-SLV-00593 - **Nov 23**, 17:00 New York

UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina - Four housing units, City of Konjic
UNDP-BIH-01711 - **Dec 1**, 10:00 New York

World Bank Cote d'Ivoire - Secondary cities project, works supervision consultants
CI-PARU-578791-CS-QCBS and others - **Dec 1-3**

Dates from the issuers' pages and the World Bank notices database, checked November 15. GIZ, NIUA, C40, UNGM, ADB and CPPP pages could not be read this week. Confirm with the issuer before bidding.

THE WEEK, IN FOUR NUMBERS

265,650 — PUNE LINE 3, FIRST 8 DAYS

9 — CYCLONE MURASU DEATHS

138 — HUNG SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCILS

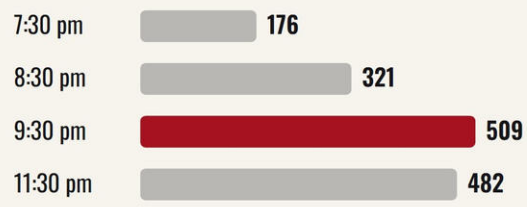
70,000 — GAZA TENTS FLOODED

TENDER ADVERTISING

Publish your notice here - katha.media

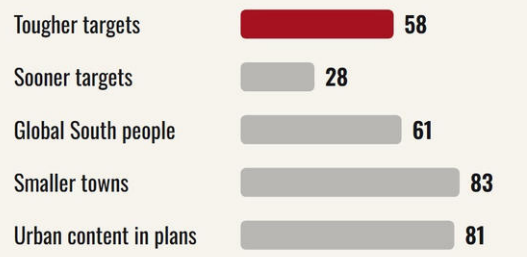
THE WEEK IN NUMBERS - GRAPHED

HYDERABAD'S AVERAGE AQI ON DIWALI NIGHT, NOV 8



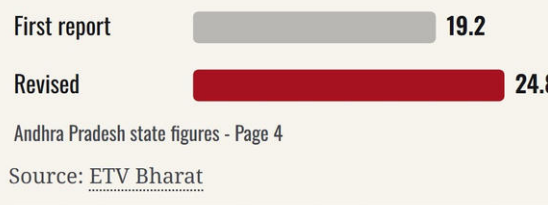
aqi.in index, not the CPCB scale. Source: Siasat

GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS 2026 REPORT, %



Source: Down To Earth; UN-Habitat gives 80% for urban content - Page 2

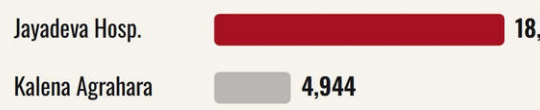
CYCLONE MURASU LOSS ESTIMATE, RS BILLION



Andhra Pradesh state figures - Page 4

Source: ETV Bharat

PINK LINE FIRST-DAY ENTRIES BY STATION



33,409 in all, 6 am to 8 pm, Nov 14 - Page 3

Source: Deccan Herald

SPAIN: RENT AND PAY, EUROS A MONTH



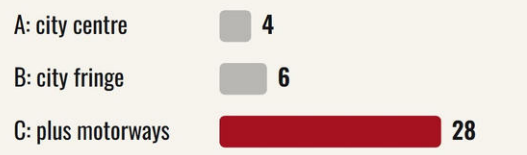
Source: Spanish Youth Council via Al Jazeera - Page 5

GLASGOW GRANT PER AFFORDABLE HOME, GBP



Source: Inside Housing - Page 5

AUCKLAND CHARGING OPTIONS, CONGESTION CUT %



Source: Inside Government NZ - Page 3

SEOUL PUBLIC HOUSING, HOMES



Source: Seoul Economic Daily - Page 7

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Did you know? Early support from the City Climate Finance Gap Fund helped secure EUR 12 million from the EBRD for energy-efficiency work in 50 public buildings in Central Bosnia.

Contact the publisher - katha.media

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Did you know? A single Gurugram Metro civil works package covers 13.3 km of the line's 28.5 km.

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