



Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal inaugurates National Urban Conclave 2025 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi

**Launches key initiatives including Dumpsite Remediation
Accelerator Programme (DRAP) ; Urban Invest Window
(UiWIN)**

**DRAP to prioritize 214 high-impact sites with 80% of
legacy waste**

**“Every city and every state must move forward based on
its unique needs and circumstances... building assets is
important, but their maintenance and management are
more crucial,” reaffirms Shri Manohar Lal**

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Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal, inaugurated the National Urban Conclave 2025 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi today.

The two-day conclave brings over 2500 participant from various domains, including policymakers, urban planners, experts, and stakeholders to deliberate on the theme “Sustainable Urban Development and Governance” through intensive brainstorming sessions across six thematic areas.

[Click here to see details and watch the sessions live](#)

‘Viksit Bharat City’ Exhibition

On the occasion, the Union Minister inaugurated the ‘Viksit Bharat City’ exhibition, which brings to life the vision of a truly developed, vibrant, inclusive, sustainable, and future-ready Indian city. The exhibition showcases innovative urban planning models, smart technologies, and citizen-centric infrastructure being implemented across Indian cities.

Address by Mr Dhar

Exploring India's urban opportunities, Mr Devashish Dhar, Public Policy Expert, highlighted that cities are the spatial engines of prosperity, where people migrate in search of growth, opportunity, and freedom. He described cities as “labour markets” shaped by the constant contest between agglomeration and congestion, and as the original DPI — “Desired Public Infrastructure” on which prosperity is built.

Remarks by Secretary, MoHUA

Secretary, MoHUA Shri Srinivas Katikithala underlined the importance of coordinated governance and institutional learning in realizing sustainable urban development. He said that the Conclave provides a valuable platform for city leaders and experts to share experiences and co-create solutions for the urban future of India.

Shri Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary, MoHUA, in his remarks, also said that this event is the reflection of collective effort for making cities more affordable, secure and sustainable. Marking the launch of Team Urban for Viksit Bharat, under the guidance and leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, he emphasised the power of collaboration and shared accountability in nation-building. The Conclave is the inaugural edition of an annual national urban dialogue, providing a platform to identify clear pathways and actionable plans for achieving the Urban Agenda 2047.



During the inaugural session, the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal launched the following:

1. Launch of Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme (DRAP).

Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal also launched the Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme (DRAP) — a year-long, mission-mode initiative aimed at fast-tracking the remediation of remaining dumpsites across urban India. The programme seeks to reclaim valuable urban land for community and infrastructure development, thereby advancing India’s vision of achieving “Lakshya Zero Dumpsites” by September 2026.

Currently, 1,428 sites are undergoing remediation, and about 80% of the legacy waste is concentrated in 214 sites across 202 ULBs. DRAP will prioritize these high-impact locations, covering approximately 8.8 crore MT of legacy waste.

To support the goal of “Lakshya Zero Dumpsites” , the central government provides financial assistance to cities considering an estimate of ₹550 per tonne for legacy waste remediation. So far, MoHUA has extended CFA of ₹4,181 crore for projects worth ₹10,228 crore, benefiting 2,484 ULBs across 28 States/UTs. Till date, 1,048 out of 2476 dumpsites holding nearly 25 Cr MT of waste have been fully remediated, with several others are in various stages of completion. In total, 14.33 crore metric tons of legacy waste have been processed, and nearly 7,580 acres (50%) of land have been reclaimed.

[Click here for more details of DRAP](#)

[Click here for FAQs related to DRAP](#)

2. Swachh Bharat Mission – Knowledge Management Unit (KMU)

The Minister also launched the Swachh Bharat Mission – Knowledge Management Unit (KMU). The unit is established by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) as a dedicated unit at the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), the KMU will serve as a national platform for capacity building, knowledge creation, and institutional learning under the Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban framework.

[Click here for details elated of KMU](#)

3. Launch of Urban Invest Window (UiWIN)

Another major initiative launched on the occasion was the Urban Invest Window (UiWIN) — an initiative of HUDCO, under the guidance of MoHUA. UiWIN will serve as a one-stop investment facilitation platform for Indian cities, designed to attract private investments and enable access to long-tenor, concessional, and competitive financing from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. The platform will also promote PPP-based urban projects to accelerate sustainable infrastructure growth.

[Click here for more details of UiWIN](#)

4. Launch of Jal Hi Janani

Shri Manohar Lal also launched the AMRUT anthem ‘Jal Hi Janani’ for highlighting the importance of water in day-to-day life and he urges to save water for future.

Address by Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal emphasized that India’s urban transformation must be driven by sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation. He noted that initiatives like DRAP, UiWIN, and KMU will play a crucial role in building cleaner, greener, and more liveable cities, aligning with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. He reaffirmed that planned and coordinated urban development is essential to ensure holistic growth and an improved quality of life for citizens. He highlighted that in the coming years, dedicated investments will be required to meet India’s expanding urban infrastructure needs, with public-private partnership support.

He added that by 2047, Indian urban population will be around 50% of total population and for them, all stakeholders will have to come together and huge investments not only from central and state governments but also from private players and individuals will help in achieving the dream of Viksit Bharat.



The first day of the conclave had four breakout sessions in which different senior officials from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs addressed the important topics. The first session focused on regional planning, Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and city mobility. The second session highlighted Livelihood Opportunity and Poverty Alleviation. The third session was a technical session on Construction and Demolition waste. The fourth and last session focused on Capacity Building.

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