

Rethinking Urban Infrastructure for a New Climate Reality

As developers, urban planners, policymakers, environmental experts, and civic authorities, we must rethink the way we design and build our cities. Climate resilience, water security, and sustainable urbanization must become the three pillars of India's next phase of development.

Kamlesh Thakur, President, NAREDCO Maharashtra

The unprecedented rainfall witnessed across Mumbai and Maharashtra recently is another reminder that climate patterns have fundamentally changed. What was once considered a "once-in-a-century" event is becoming increasingly frequent. The real question is no longer how do we respond after such events, but how do we plan our cities to withstand them?

Our urban challenges are no longer limited to flooding. Ironically, the same cities that struggle with waterlogging during the monsoon also face severe water shortages for the

rest of the year. With increasing urbanization and population growth, demand for water continues to rise, making rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and water conservation essential—not optional.

At the same time, rapid concretization has significantly reduced permeable surfaces. Water that should naturally seep into the ground is instead forced into overloaded drainage systems, increasing the risk of flooding while reducing groundwater replenishment.

