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CII
Confederation of Indian Industry

BENGALURU VISION 2030

Building India's Design Capital



November
2025

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Foreword



DR UDAYANT MALHOUTRA

Chairman, CII National Committee on Design (2025-26)
and CEO & Managing Director, Dynamatic Technologies Ltd.

Every great city tells its story through design — in its spaces, systems, and spirit. Across the world, cities that lead with design are those that define the future. In an era shaped by rapid urbanization and technological change, design stands as the strategic lens through which cities can build sustainable, resilient, and inclusive societies.

The report, **Bengaluru Vision 2030: Building India's Design Capital,** captures this ethos, envisioning a city where design extends beyondform to become the foundation of innovation, identity, and collective well-being. It positions design as the cornerstone of Bengaluru's evolution from a technology-driven hub to a globally recognized design-led metropolis.

From its deep design heritage and creative talent base to its thriving innovation ecosystem, Bengaluru stands uniquely equipped to lead this transformation. The report highlights how the best-designed cities embed design thinking across governance, education, industry, and civic engagement — ensuring that creativity and human-centred approaches drive urban progress. Through initiatives such as establishing a Design Council, creating Design Districts, and promoting participatory urban projects, the framework envisions Bengaluru as a model city where technology, sustainability, and culture converge to shape the urban experience of tomorrow.

This report is the outcome of extensive collaboration among industry professionals, urban planners, design thinkers, and institutional partners. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in the broader national interest, remains dedicated to advancing this collective vision. Together, we share a unified aspiration to make Bengaluru a living example of how design can shape societies, strengthen identity, and inspire innovation. As India moves toward a design-led future, Bengaluru Vision 2030 stands as both a blueprint and a collective commitment to build a city that embodies the spirit of **'Design in India, Design for the World.'**

Foreword



PROF. PRADYUMNA VYAS
President, World Design Organization (WDO)
Senior Advisor, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

The growth of a city depends greatly on the clarity of its design approach and the extent to which design informs its policies, systems, and public environment. As cities worldwide respond to technological, demographic, and environmental changes, design has become an essential element in creating well-functioning, future-ready urban environments. Bengaluru is at an important stage in its development. **Bengaluru Vision 2030: Building India's Design Capital** provides a timely and structured examination of this context.

This report presents a detailed and research-based overview of Bengaluru's evolving design landscape. It incorporates a collaborative perspective and aligns with a strategic framework built around key pillars such as policy and governance, design education and talent development, infrastructure and ecosystem creation, global visibility, and design for social impact. It also reflects emerging institutional thinking around mechanisms such as a Design Council and dedicated Design Districts and Innovation Hubs that can support a design-led urban model. By drawing from India's design heritage and international case studies, the report outlines the economic, social, and cultural considerations required for a design-centred future.

Prepared through careful analysis and informed by contributions from practitioners, institutions, and policymakers, this report offers a coherent direction for strengthening Bengaluru's design capabilities. It seeks to support inclusive and sustainable growth, enhance the quality of life, and reinforce the city's role as a centre of cultural and economic activity within a design-driven framework.

Acknowledgements

With deep gratitude, we acknowledge the exceptional contributions of the following individuals whose insights, commitment, and expertise have been instrumental in shaping this report.

Special Acknowledgements:

Prof. Pradyumna Vyas (President, World Design Organization, and Senior Adviser, CII) for his invaluable guidance, mentorship, and expertise throughout the development of this report. His vision and direction have been central to shaping its depth and quality.

Mr. Shashwath Bolar (Head of Design, Greaves Electric Mobility), a leading design strategist and practitioner provided critical direction and conceptual clarity in the early framing of this report. His ability to draw from India's design heritage, interpret Bengaluru's emerging identity as a design-forward city, and integrate global cities' design perspectives into actionable pathways has significantly strengthened the foundation and ambition of this work.

Ms. Sonia Manchanda (add designation), one of India's most prominent design leaders and the first woman from India to serve in a leadership role at the World Design Organization (WDO), brought exceptional vision to the report. Her nuanced understanding of Bengaluru's unique design culture, combined with her ability to connect these insights to global design movements, deeply informed several of the report's key recommendations. Her contributions helped frame how Bengaluru can position itself as a world-class design city, rooted in community, creativity, and future-ready design practices.

Dr. Varija R. Bolar (Art Historian. Ex Chairperson, Dept. of History & Archaeology, Karnatak University, Dharwad (History consultant), a respected researcher and design academic with expertise in sustainability, human behaviour, and product-service systems, offered vital research inputs and evidence-backed perspectives.

Prof. Venkata Rama Srikar Akubathini, a distinguished academic and design thinker with extensive experience in design education, and pedagogical frameworks, contributed invaluable intellectual depth.

Mr. Ajay Choudhary (Principal Designer, Greaves Electric Mobility) and **Mr. S. S. N. Pavan Kumar (Designer, Greaves Electric Mobility)** for their meticulous editorial review and contributions to images, clarity, structure, and cohesion.

Together, their thought leadership, foundational inputs, and dedicated efforts were instrumental in conceptualising, shaping, and elevating this report to a high standard of relevance and impact.

Executive Summary

“Let’s envision Bengaluru 2030 – not just a Design Capital of India, but a Global Design Capital.”



Purpose

The primary objective of this report is to present a strategic roadmap to transform Bengaluru into India’s Global Design Capital. It seeks to leverage design thinking as a means to address the city’s pressing urban challenges, including rapid population growth, infrastructure strain, environmental concerns, and social disparities. By embedding design into planning, policy, and community development, the report envisions a Bengaluru that overcomes these challenges through creativity, innovation, and inclusive design practices. Ultimately, it positions design as a catalyst for sustainable growth and as the cornerstone of the city’s evolving global identity.

A Blueprint for India’s Design Future

Drawing from the inspirations and experiences of global design capitals such as Seoul, Helsinki, Valencia, and Singapore, this report aims to position Bengaluru as a model for design-led urban transformation rooted in India’s cultural and creative strengths. Its strong education base, civic engagement, and cultural diversity reinforce Bengaluru’s stature as India’s “University City,” further enabling this transformation. It emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration, participatory design, and sustainability as central to the city’s growth narrative. By 2030, Bengaluru envisions becoming a globally recognized design hub—a city where innovation, inclusivity, and identity converge under the banner of “Designed in Bengaluru.”

Design-Led Transformation

The report envisions Bengaluru as a city where design is integral to governance, infrastructure, education, and community life. It highlights design’s role in shaping responsive urban systems, fostering collaboration, and strengthening the city’s position as a global hub for creativity, innovation, and sustainable growth. The establishment of the Greater Bengaluru Authority and its recognition as the world’s first World Design Protopolis further position the city as a model for design-led governance and sustainability. Bengaluru has always been a city in transition — from a quiet retirement town to the Garden City, from an innovation hub to a vibrant, young metropolis that blends culture with modernity. Today, it continues to navigate the dual forces of opportunity and challenge that come with rapid growth, shaping the future of urban India.

“This transformation is not merely aesthetic; it promises significant economic growth, socialinnovation, and a renewed sense of cultural identity.”

For more details on the report; please connect with Ms. Tannu Arora (tannu.arora@cii.in), Ms. Namita Bahl (namita.bahl@cii.in)

01 India’s Design Heritage — From Timeless to Contemporary



Mohenjodaro



Tree Plantation Along Roads



Aravattige

Indus Valley Civilization & Mauryan Empire

The cities of the **Indus Valley Civilization,** such as Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, represent a triumph of ancient **urban planning** and civil engineering. They were meticulously organized on a rigid **grid pattern,** where main streets ran straight, intersecting at precise right angles to divide the city into uniform rectangular blocks. A hallmark of this design was the advanced **sanitation and drainage system;** almost every house, built with standardized fired bricks, featured a private bathing area and drains connected to covered, centralized street sewers, often equipped with manholes.

During the 3rd century BC, Emperor Ashoka’s contribution to city design and urban planning was characterized by a monumental **public works agenda,** driven by the spread of **Dhamma (moral law)** and Buddhism. His projects focused heavily on **infrastructure** and communication, including the construction of a vast network of **roads** and rest houses. Within cities and at key junctions, he commanded the erection of thousands of **stupas** (like the one at Sanchi) and **Ashokan Pillars,** which served as highly polished free-standing architectural monuments and vehicles for public policy.

He was instrumental in getting trees planted on either sides of the main road (Banyan trees & other native varieties). Platforms were built around such trees and drinking water was placed in earthen pots on them. This unique concept was called **" Aravattige"** and it helped in providing rest, shade and portable drinking water to the travelers and public.

01 India’s Design Heritage — From Timeless to Contemporary

Hoysala & Vijayanagara

The Hoysala dynasty was one of the major dynasties which ruled Karnataka from 1000 AD to 1346 AD. They have contributed tremendously to the art, architecture, culture and city planning around the temples. Some of the outstanding temples of that period is the UNESCO World heritage sites of **Belur and Halebeedu,** twin capitals of the **Hoysala Empire**. It showcase extraordinary craftsmanship & intricate carvings and architecture which have stood the test of time. These temples served as centers of worship, learning, art, and culture, embodying the holistic urban planning that integrated spiritual, cultural, and social life.

Hampi was founded in 1346, was one of the world's largest, richest cities by the 15th century—a hub for trade, culture, wealth, and knowledge where ideas flourished & art was celebrated. It's water systems, temples, & urban planning reflected ancient Indian design principles.

Some of the outstanding temples of that period is the UNESCO World heritage sites of Virupaksha Temple and the interesting fusion architecture of Indo-Sarcenic styled Lotus Mahal.



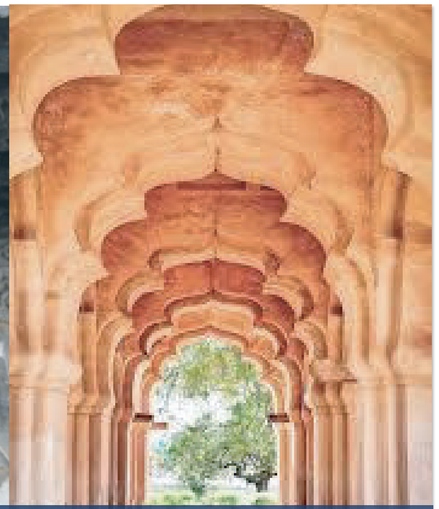
Chennakesava Temple, Belur



Virupaksha Temple, Hampi, Vijayanagara



Shilabalika Sculpture



Lotus Mahal

02 Bengaluru — From Garden City To Design City

Bangalore Foundation heritage :

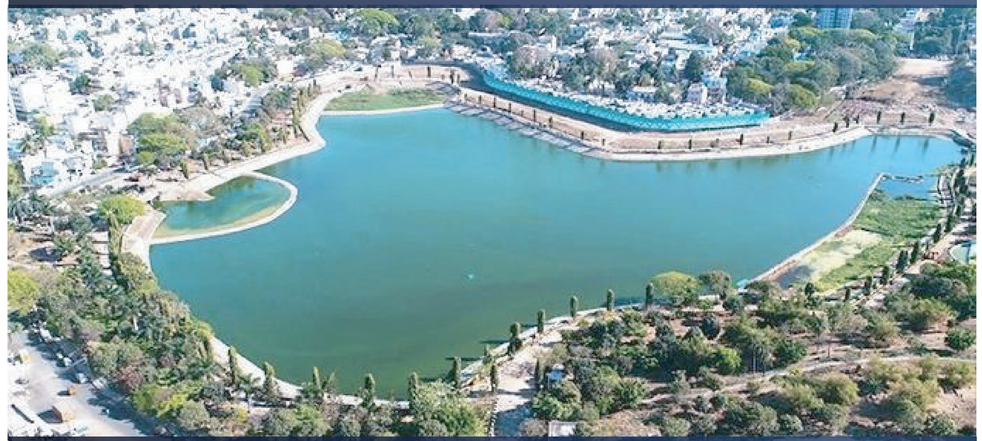
History of Bangalore

Bangalore, now officially known as Bengaluru, has a rich history dating back over a millennia. The earliest inscriptions of Bengaluru date back to the 9th century CE, with a hero stone found in Begur that mentions a "Battle of Bengaluru" fought in 890 CE. The city's origins & development were shaped by various rulers who left their mark on its urban design & culture. Some of the notable dynasties were the Gangas of Talkad, Imperial Cholas, Nalamba Pallavas, Chalukyas of Kalyan, Hoysalas, Vijayanagara, Marathas, Wodeyars of Mysore, Hyderali, Tippu Sultan and finally, the Britishers.

The city's formal founding is attributed to **Kempe Gowda I**, a chieftain under the Vijayanagara Empire, in **1537**. Kempe Gowda I is credited with building a mud fort and establishing the layout of the city, placing four watchtowers at the cardinal directions to mark the city's boundaries. He was also responsible for constructing numerous lakes and a cascading tank system around the city. His motivation was to ensure a sufficient water supply for the new city, which was not located on a perennial river. These artificial, interconnected tanks harvested rainwater, which supported agriculture and provided drinking water during the dry seasons.



Inscriptions stone from 890 AD; Watch tower, Kempegowda I



Kempekerelake built by Kempegowda I

02 Bengaluru — From Garden City To Design City



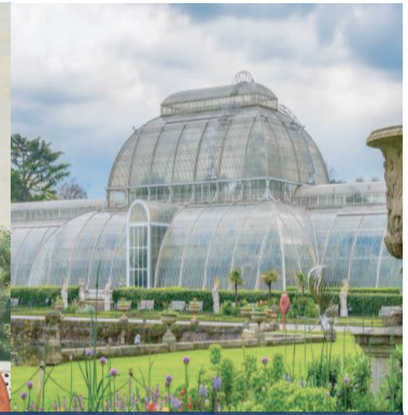
Lalbagh Botanical Garden



Hyder Ali



Tipu Sultan



Kew Garden, London

Bangalore Foundation heritage :

Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan (18th Century): During their rule, Bangalore came under the Kingdom of Mysore. They fortified the city, built the Bangalore Fort, & contributed to its military & administrative infrastructure. Tipu Sultan, in particular, strengthened the fort & made Bangalore an important administrative center. Hyder Ali founded Lalbagh and later Tippu contributed from rare trees from various parts of the world..

British Colonial Period (1799-1947): After Tipu Sultan's defeat in 1799, the British took control of Bangalore & returned it to the Wodeyar dynasty of Mysore as a princely state. The British established a cantonment area (separate from the old city) and introduced modern urban planning, including parks, gardens, & tree-lined avenues. The British era transformed Lalbagh into a premier botanical garden, officially establishing it as the Government **Botanical Garden** in 1856. They introduced the iconic **Glass House** (modeled after London's Crystal Palace) for flower shows and massively expanded the garden's collection with thousands of exotic plant species from across the British Empire.

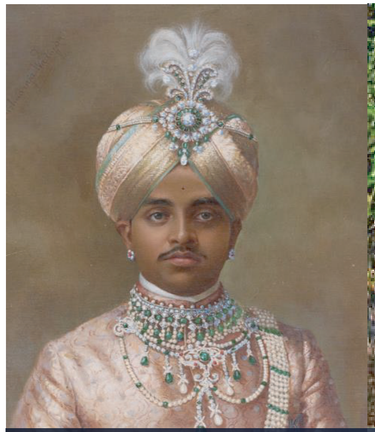
The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Lalbagh in Bengaluru are internationally linked through a shared history of botanical research and plant introduction. Lalbagh, originally a Mughal-style garden exotic species, was transformed into a scientific institution under British rule. A succession of **Kew-trained horticulturists**, such as **John Cameron** (who introduced thousands of new plants and established commercial crops) and **Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel**.

02 Bengaluru — From Garden City To Design City

The Wodeyar era & Garden City title:

The Wodeyar era & Garden City title: Under hisenlightened rule & with the assistance of his Diwan, Sir M. Visvesvaraya and German botanist Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel Bangalore saw significant modernization. The Wodeyars established, schools across the state, educational institutions, industries, & improved infrastructure, transforming Bangalore into a modern city. They modernised Lalbagh and designed city layouts at Basavanagudi inspired form Europe. He was also responsible to bring in electrical street lights to Bengaluru as early as 1905 and it was the first city to do so in Asia. As a ripple effect that influenced BBMP to design a well designed residential areas like tJayanagar with wide roads, tree lines, parks, wide footpaths and row houses and designated play areas. This went on to become Asia's largest residential areas.

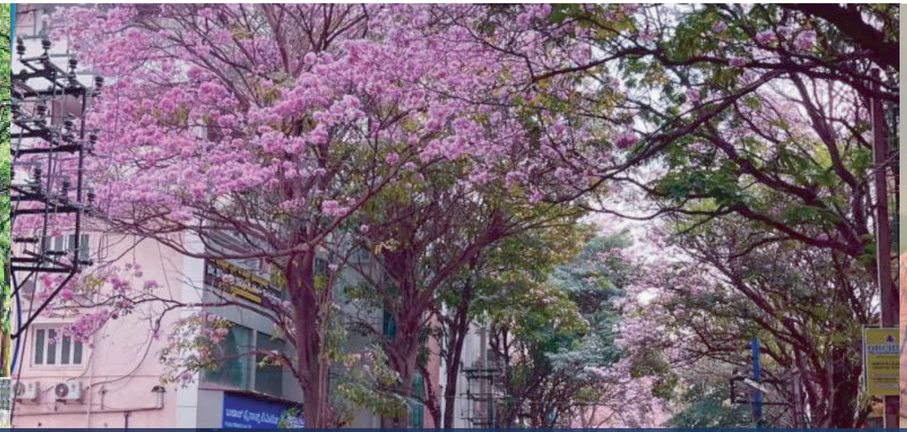
S. G. Neginhal, as the Deputy Conservator of Forests overseeing the Urban Green Project in the 1980s, was instrumental in reaffirming Bengaluru's title as the "**Garden City**." He spearheaded a massive,unprecedented tree-planting campaign, planting over **1.5 million saplings** of diverse species across the city. His key contribution was pioneering **community-based urban forestry**, involving residents and volunteers to ensure the widespread survival and nurturing of the new green cover, thereby transforming a simple departmental task into a successful civic movement. His efforts also beautified Bengaluru with sequential flowering trees, which was an idea originated during the Wodeyar's time.



Krishnaraja Wodeyar



WodeyarJayanagar - Residential area



Sequential Flowering Trees



S G Neginhal

03 Why Design Cities Matter ?

Global, Economic & Social Impact

For the first time in human history,over 50% of the world's population lived in urban areas in 2008. This trend is expected to continue, with projections estimating that around 60% of the world's population will be urban by 2030 and up to 68% by 2050. This is fueling the " **Rapid Urbanization**" mega trend and it's important that as conscious human beings we design a better designed cities for people and planet.

City design is a powerful tool with significant **global, economic, and social** ramifications, transcending mere aesthetics and functionality to shape the very fabric of urban life & its planetary impact. Globally, well-designed cities are crucial to addressing **climate change** and **sustainability,** as urban centers consume two-thirds of the world's energy & are responsible forthe majority of green house gas emissions. A strategic urban design focused on **mixed-use development, efficient public transit**, and **green infrastructure** not only reduces a city's carbon footprint but also enhances its resilience against environmental shocks, positioning it as a competitive and responsible actor on the world stage. For a global technology & innovation hub like Bengaluru, adopting world-class design standards is essential for maintaining its international appeal & driving forward the global agenda for sustainableurbanization.

The economic impact of city design is profound, as cities are the engines of national economies, generating a vast percentage of global GDP. Intelligent design fosters **economic prosperity** by boosting productivity, attracting talent & investment, & encouraging innovation. By mitigating issues like traffic congestion & inefficient infrastructure—challenges that currently plague Bengaluru -design can lower business operating costs & improve the flow of goods and services.



03 Why Design Cities Matter ?



Creating vibrant, legible, and attractive urban spaces, including well-planned public areas and cultural districts, directly enhances a city's **'liveability'** factor. This, in turn, is a key determinant for retaining the skilled workforce and knowledge-based industries that are fundamental to Bengaluru's status as India's 'Silicon Valley,' thus, cementing its potential as the **nation's design capital**.

Critically, city design holds immense leverage over **social equity** & the quality of life for all residents. Design choices fundamentally dictate access to essential services, resources, and opportunities. Prioritizing design that promotes **inclusive, accessible public spaces,** affordable housing, and well-connected neighborhoods can actively combat socioeconomic segregation and enhance community well-being.

For Bengaluru, aiming to be the nation's design capital means designing for its diverse population, ensuring that infrastructure investments, such as improved pedestrian networks, public spaces, gardens, & efficient multi-modal transit, benefit marginalized & underserved communities as much as they do the economic elite. Ultimately, a great design capital is one that uses design to create a more **just, healthy, and harmonious** society.

03 Why Design Cities Matter ?

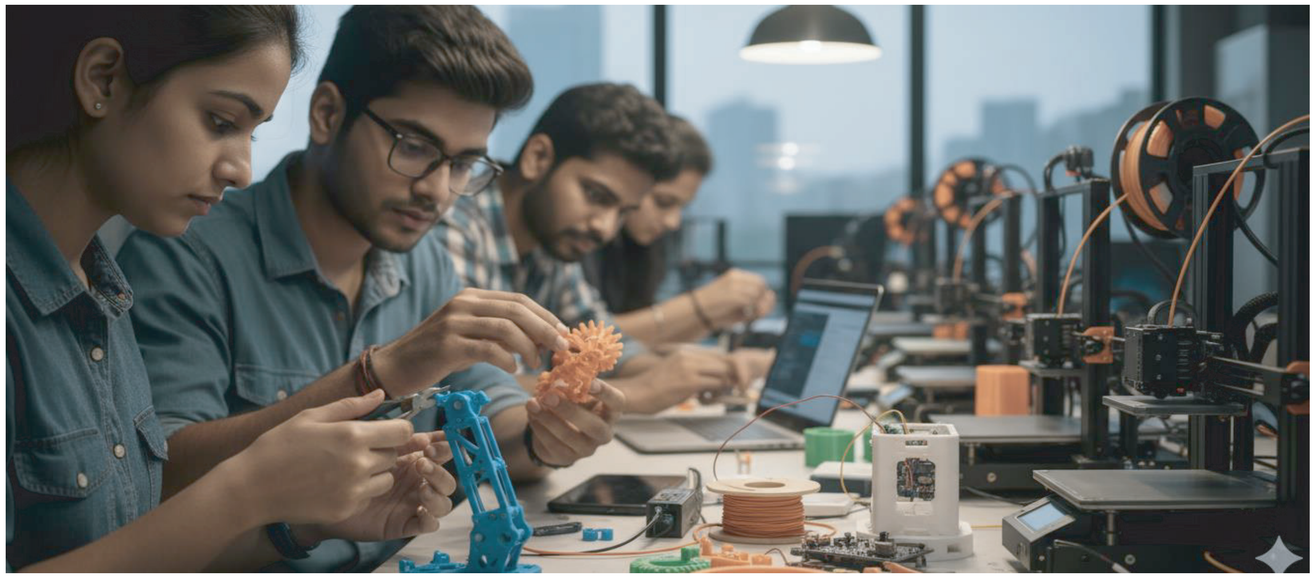


To **decentralize** the innovation advantage beyond the core tech hub, a city must strategically create a **distributed network** of smaller design and innovation platforms across all neighborhoods. This requires leveraging **mixed-use urban planning** to integrate flexible **co-working spaces, maker labs, and pop-up innovation kiosks** into existing commercial and even residential zones. Anchoring these decentralized hubs—especially near universities, industrial corridors, & community centers—fosters **hyper-local entrepreneurial clusters** and encourages organic, cross-disciplinary collisions. This 'Beyond the Core' strategy, often supported by smart infrastructure and targeted government grants, not only **decongests** the main city area but also ensures that opportunities, **talent development**, and a sense of **civic pride** are inclusively spread throughout the entire metropolitan region.

Brandt Building: A strong design identity elevates a city's global profile, attracting tourism, talent, & businesses. It fosters a sense of pride and belonging among residents.

The **city brand** is a strategic tool for cities like **Bengaluru** to globally compete, positioning itself beyond the "Silicon Valley" title to embrace its identity as a **design and innovation capital**. This involves crafting a compelling narrative that attracts top **talent, investment, and tourism**. Success hinges on aligning this marketed image with the lived urban reality, requiring continuous efforts to improve physical and social infrastructure to maintain its competitive edge and foster a strong sense of **civic pride** and belonging.

Innovation Hubs: Design cities act as melting pots for creative minds, fostering collaboration between designers, technologists, artists, & entrepreneurs, leading to groundbreaking innovations.



04 Global Design Cities



The World Design Organization designates a World Design Capital every two years to recognize cities that effectively use design as a tool for economic, social, and cultural development.

Previous Design Capitals of the world offer powerful solutions and unique approaches to the most complex problems faced in high-population metropolitan cities. The detailed analysis of particular challenges — from cultural & climate aspects to demographics & biodiversity — provides insights we can use to make our solutions more effective & efficient.

Each World Design Capital demonstrates how design can transform not just spaces, but systems — reimagining the way people live, move, connect, and thrive. From **Helsinki's citizen-centric design policies to Seoul's fusion of digital innovation and traditional culture, and Valencia's focus on sustainability and human well-being,** these cities prove that design is a force for holistic progress.

Economic and Innovation Hub: Design districts create concentrated ecosystems that generate significant economic multiplier effects by clustering creative businesses, attracting talent and investment, & fostering cross-pollination between designers, technologists, & entrepreneurs.

Urban Transformation: They revitalize underutilized areas through adaptive reuse of buildings, create vibrant walkable neighborhoods, & serve as cultural destinations that enhance the city's identity & attract tourism.

Infrastructure and Access: Design districts provide shared facilities (fabrication equipment, maker spaces, materials libraries) and affordable workspaces that democratize access to resources, helping retain design talent and lowering barriers for emerging designers.

04 Global Design Cities - Example: Seoul

SEOUL

Seoul, South Korea's capital, has transformed itself into one of the world's most innovative and livable cities through visionary urban planning. It was named **World Design Capital in 2010** and Seoul transformed itself from a manufacturing hub to a design powerhouse.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

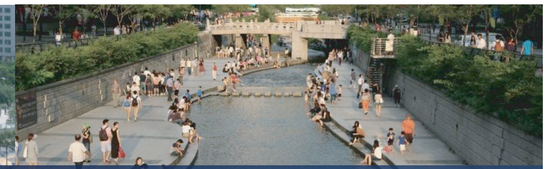
1. Reclaiming Space for Nature and People
Seoul has demonstrated a radical commitment to urban regeneration by removing outdated car-centric infrastructure to create public green space, most famously with the Cheonggyecheon Stream restoration.

2. Integrated Public Transportation Network
Seoul boasts one of the world's most integrated and comprehensive public transportation systems, featuring an extensive subway network seamlessly connected with a color-coded, real-time bus system.

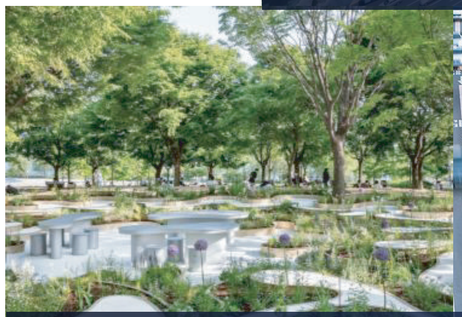
3. Polycentric Development Strategy
Instead of a single, highly congested downtown, Seoul has shifted to a **multi-centered urban structure** with three major city centers and multiple metropolitan/regional centers. This distributes population, jobs, and services.



Seoul Sky Garden



Restoration natural waterway



Restoration natural waterway



Seoul smart Transportation Network

04 Global Design Cities - Example: Seoul

SEOUL

4. Digital Infrastructure & Smart City Technology

Digital infrastructure is the essential backbone of Smart City Technology, providing the high-speed connectivity (like 5G and fiber-optics) and data platforms (IoT and cloud computing) required for a modern urban environment. This integration allows cities to collect and analyze real-time data to optimize services like traffic, utilities, and public safety, ultimately driving efficiency, sustainability, and improved quality of life.

5. Fostering a Design and Cultural Industry Hub

Seoul leveraged its designation as a UNESCO City of Design to create physical and institutional pivots like the **Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP),** actively nurturing its creative industry and integrating design into urban policy.



Smart City Bus stop



Dongdaemun Design plaza



Seoul Design district

04 Global Design Cities - Example: Helsinki

HELSINKI

Helsinki, Finland's capital, has earned global recognition as one of the world's most livable and sustainable cities. Through thoughtful urban planning that prioritizes people, nature, and innovation. Known for its user-centric approach and Nordic design principles, it was designated **World Design Capital in 2012**.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Human-Centric Design & Walkable Neighborhoods
Helsinki is committed to a people-first approach, ensuring that new and renewed areas, like the **Jätkäsaari** district, are built for pedestrians and cyclists. The city prioritizes mixed-use zoning to place services, schools, and workplaces within **easy walking distance of residences**, creating vibrant, local communities.

2. Integration of Nature into Urban Fabric
Helsinki maintains an extensive network of green spaces, including central parks, shorelines, and nature reserves that are easily accessible to residents. Its strategy emphasizes a **green and blue network**—combining parks and sea areas—to improve biodiversity, manage rainwater, and ensure residents are never far from nature.



Helsinki Public Library



Amos Rex Art museum





Helsinki Public Sauna

04 Global Design Cities - Example: Helsinki

HELSINKI

3. Sustainable Transportation & Car-Free Vision

The city aims to make walking, cycling, and public transport the most attractive options, working towards a future where there is **no need for private car ownership**. Key initiatives include expanding the efficient tram and metro systems, developing a comprehensive network of dedicated bike routes, and creating **car-free zones** in the city center.

4. Participatory Planning & Citizen Engagement

Helsinki actively involves its residents in the urban development process through various digital platforms and workshops. This approach, exemplified by tools like the '**Kalasatama's Co-Creation**' project, ensures that citizens' needs and ideas are integrated into planning decisions, leading to more responsive and functional urban spaces.

5. Circular Economy & Climate-Neutral Goals

Helsinki has ambitious targets to become **climate-neutral by 2030**. Its strategy heavily relies on promoting a **circular economy**, focusing on resource efficiency, waste reduction, and utilizing district heating/cooling networks to reduce emissions, aiming to decouple economic growth from resource consumption.



Climate Neutral 2030



Helsinki Public Transport



Helsinki Car free Zones

04 Global Design Cities - Example: Valencia

VALENCIA

Valencia, Spain's third-largest city, has undergone a remarkable urban transformation over the past few decades. By reimagining its relationship with nature, public space, and sustainable mobility. It was elected **World Design Capital 2022**, leveraging its rich artisanal traditions and modern design talent.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1.Transformation of Infrastructure into Green Space

Valencia is famously characterized by the **Turia Gardens**, a nine-kilometer-long park created from the former riverbed, which is a prime example of transforming obsolete infrastructure into a central green lung. This massive park provides ecological benefits, connects disparate city districts, and offers a vast space for recreation, significantly enhancing the city's overall livability.

2. Reclaiming Streets from Cars

Valencia is actively reducing vehicle dominance by creating more **pedestrian-priority zones** and expanding its network of cycling infrastructure. Initiatives, particularly in the central Ciutat Vella and around the central market, focus on widening sidewalks and converting traffic lanes into public spaces to make the urban core safer, quieter, and more pleasant for residents and visitors.



Turia gardens

Plaza de España

Turia gardens

04 Global Design Cities - Example: Valencia

VALENCIA

3. Climate-Adapted Urban Design
The city's design strategy involves addressing its Mediterranean climate, which includes high heat in the summer, by implementing **climate-adapted urban planning**. This includes using light-colored materials to reduce heat absorption, increasing the tree canopy for shade, and employing sustainable urban drainage systems to manage flash rain events effectively.

4. Mediterranean Diet of Mobility: Balanced Multi-Modal Transport
Valencia's mobility approach is often likened to a "Mediterranean diet," promoting a **balanced mix** of transport options. This emphasis means fostering excellent public transport (metro and bus), making cycling extremely popular via its extensive bike lanes, and encouraging walking, creating an environment where no single mode dominates.

5. Cultural Identity & Quality Public Space
Valencia's planning aims to enhance its rich **cultural heritage** by creating high-quality public spaces around key landmarks like the Central Market and the City of Arts and Sciences. Preserving and revitalizing historic plazas and squares serves to reinforce the city's unique cultural identity, fostering spaces where social life and tradition flourish.



Turia gardens runs nine kilometers through Valencia - one of Spain's largest urban parks

04 Global Design Cities - Example: Singapore

SINGAPORE

Singapore has transformed from a developing nation into one of the world's most admired cities. Through visionary planning, strict implementation, and continuous innovation, it was elected as **World Design Capital 2022**, leveraging its rich artisanal traditions and modern design talent.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Long-Term Master Planning & Implementation

Singapore employs rigorous, long-term national planning, primarily through its Concept Plan (50-year horizon) and Master Plan (10-15 year detail), which are reviewed every five years. This methodical, top-down approach ensures coordinated development across land use, infrastructure, and housing, allowing the nation to effectively manage its limited

2. Integrated Public Housing & New Town Development

The Housing and Development Board (HDB) provides housing for over 80% of the population through well-planned "New Towns." These are designed as **self-sufficient satellite communities** with integrated amenities, schools, and commercial centers, connected to the rest of the island by high-capacity public transport, ensuring equitable access to high-quality, affordable living.



Public Housing Projects



Satellite Community



New Town

04 Global Design Cities - Example: Singapore

SINGAPORE

3. World-Class Public Transportation & Car Demand Management

Singapore manages its vehicle population through strict policies like the **Certificate of Entitlement (COE)** system and congestion pricing **(ERP)**, making car ownership very expensive. Concurrently, it has invested heavily in a world-class, seamless public transport system centered on the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) and bus networks, ensuring **fast, reliable, and affordable mobility** for the majority of its citizens.

4. "City in a Garden" - Strategic Greening

The country has strategically evolved from a "Garden City" to a **"City in a Garden,"** with the National Parks Board ensuring greenery is woven throughout the urban environment. This includes creating extensive park connectors, greening vertical surfaces, and developing iconic spaces like **Gardens by the Bay** to enhance biodiversity, mitigate the urban heat effect, and provide accessible recreational spaces.

5. Flower Dome

The **Flower Dome** in Singapore, part of Gardens by the Bay, is recognized by the Guinness World Records as the world's largest column less glass greenhouse. This architectural marvel replicates a cool-dry **Mediterranean climate**, allowing it to host a wide range of exotic flora from five continents, including towering Baobab trees and an ancient Olive Grove. It features nine themed gardens and a dynamic Flower Field that showcases **changing floral displays** throughout the year, celebrating different seasons and festivals.



Turia gardens runs nine kilometers through Valencia - one of Spain's largest urban parks

05 The Growth City: Bengaluru

Growth City

Bengaluru is dealing everyday with the **challenge and opportunity of growth.**
It stands at the crossroads of scale and transformation - a city powering India's digital leadership while navigating the complexities of rapid urban expansion. With a metro population of ~13–14 million and one of the youngest knowledge workforces globally, Bengaluru continues to anchor India's tech-services, R&D, and startup growth.

Bengaluru has always been a transition city, from a retirement town, to garden city, to innovation city, to a vibrant and young metropolis that can shape the future of India blending its culture and its future.

- 300-500 people move to Bengaluru EVERY SINGLE DAY - that's a new neighborhood every week
- 1 new startup is registered every 8 hours in the city
- ₹11 crore worth of IT exports happen every hour from Bengaluru (₹96,000 crore/year ÷ 8,760 hours)
- 100,000+ new jobs are created annually - that's 274 jobs every day
- ₹200 crore flows into the city daily through salaries, investments, and business transactions
- ~350-400 babies are born in Bengaluru every day (based on 13M population, 25-28 birth rate per 1000)
- 1 lakh+ people added to the population every year through births and migration
- In 20 years (2000-2020), Bengaluru's population doubled from 6M to 12M
- By 2035, Bengaluru will have 20+ million people - larger than today's Mumbai



Church Street



Bengaluru Metro – Jayanagar

05 The Growth City: Bengaluru

City of the Future

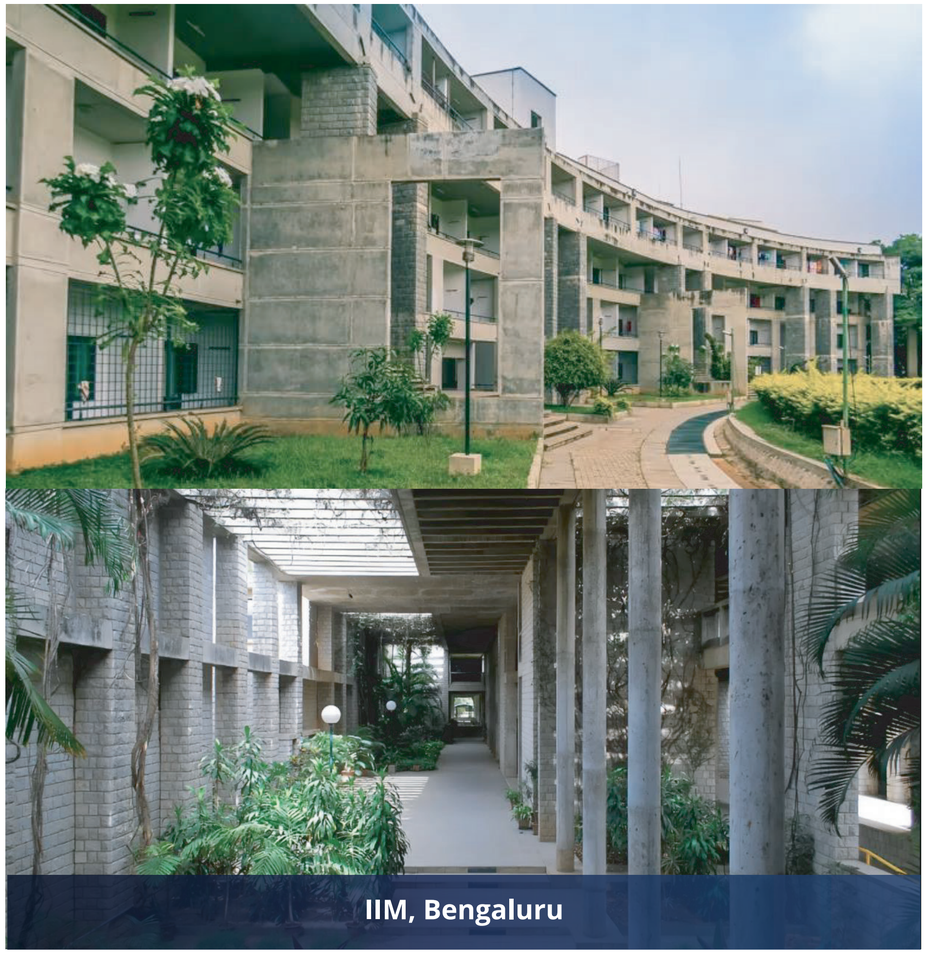
Starting September 2025, The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has divided the city of Bengaluru into five municipal corporations for better governance and administration

These five divisions are:
1. Bengaluru Central City Corporation
2. Bengaluru East City Corporation
3. Bengaluru West City Corporation
4. Bengaluru North City Corporation
5. Bengaluru South City Corporation

This new structure, established under the Greater Bengaluru Authority Act, 2024, replaces the former single municipal body, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

University City of India

Bengaluru shapes the Youngest skilled workforce among India's major metros with its Strong Education Ecosystem: Engineering, design, biomedical science, and management universities feeding industry talent. It is a National and Global Talent Magnet with the largest share of India's tech migrants — domestic and international. Who come to Bengaluru to study and start a business, a career and life.



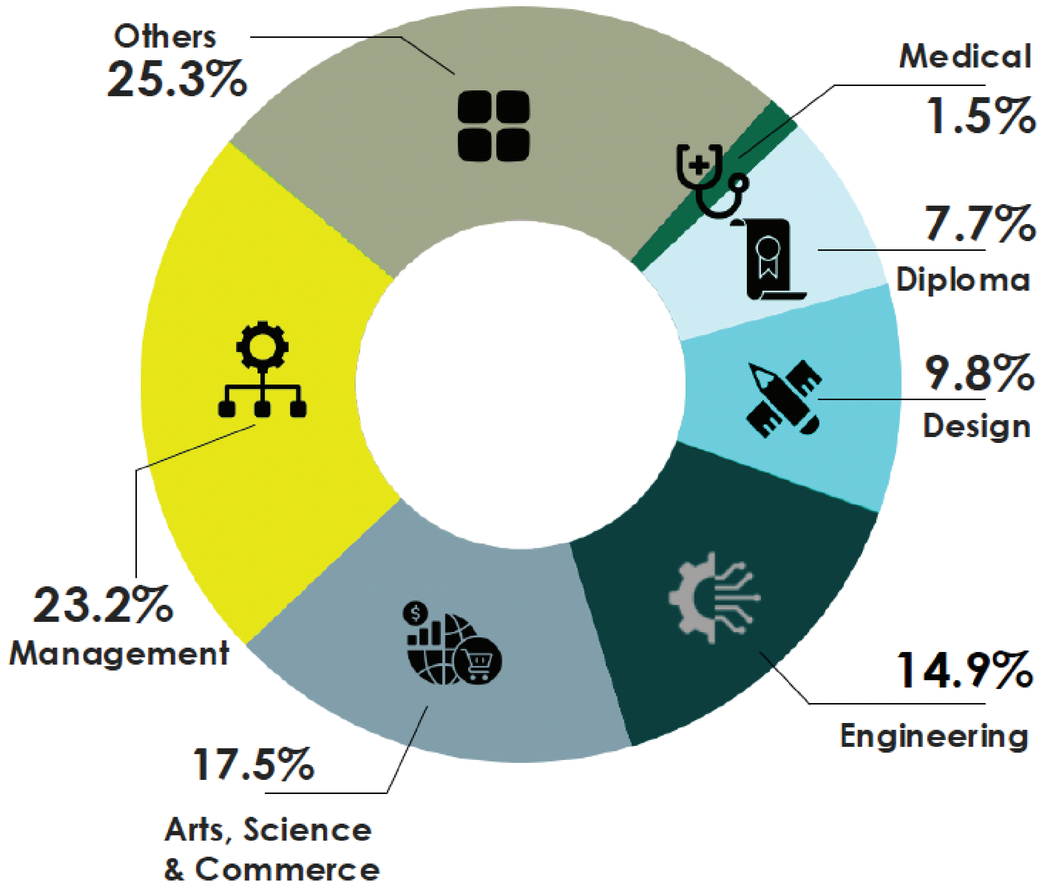
IIM, Bengaluru

05 The Growth City: Bengaluru

Scale of Higher Education

Students: Around 1 million+ students pursue higher education in and around Bengaluru — one of the highest concentrations in India.

- Institutions: The city has over **900 colleges,** more than **20 universities** (including public, private, and deemed), and **numerous research institutes like IISc, NIMHANS, IIMB, IIIT-B, and NCBS.**
- Range: From engineering and medicine to design, humanities, and management — the breadth is unmatched.
- Students come from every Indian state and over **80 countries** - making Bengaluru a pan-Indian and **global student hub.** With Diversity and Magnetism.
- It's a preferred destination for **north-east Indian students, African nations, & South Asian countries** alike.



Distribution of Educational Institutions Bengaluru

05 The Growth City: Bengaluru

Scale of Higher Education

- Bengaluru's innovation and startup ecosystem is deeply intertwined with its universities much like Boston or Silicon Valley. There are great Ecosystem Linkages.
- Graduates feed into **tech, biotech, design, and research industries seamlessly.**
- The city's urban fabric — with student-heavy neighborhoods like Koramangala, Jayanagar, Yelahanka, and Whitefield — resembles a city built around learning and innovation. With throbbing, experimental and massive pubs and restaurants places to engage, relax and rewind Giving it a Youthful Social Urban Identity.

The presence of co-living, student housing, cafés, and digital-first culture strengthens that identity.



NCBS, Bengaluru



IISC, Bengaluru

05 Bengaluru – The Design Capital of the Future

World's first World Design Protopolis

World Design Protopolis is the World Design Organization's evolving model for the "City of the Future"—a living laboratory where design is used to prototype better ways of living, working, governing, and sustaining life on Earth.

Bengaluru is the WDO's first designated **World Design Protopolis** and will be integrating design as a driver of change within civic functions. Making a commitment to prototype and test for five years.

Use design as a driver for positive change within a community, neighborhood or borough. Aligning with one or many of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Engaging methods and resources to measure the increase of civic well-being. Instead of treating cities as finished, rigid systems, Protopolis sees cities as prototypes—ever-evolving, open to iteration, experimentation, and co-creation. It puts citizens, designers, policy makers, business, and community systems into active collaboration, shaping new approaches to:

- **Urban mobility**
- **Housing and habitat**
- **Food, water, health, and wellbeing**
- **Cultural vitality**
- **Environmental regeneration**
- **Digital and physical civic experiences**

It's not a utopia—it's a work-in-progress city. A prototype city. A Protopolis.
In Protopolis, every initiative is treated as a first version / proto that can be improved.

This encourages:

- **Small experiments**
- **Rapid testing**
- **Policy design as prototyping**
- **Citizen co-ownership of the city's evolution**



World Design Protopolis Bengaluru

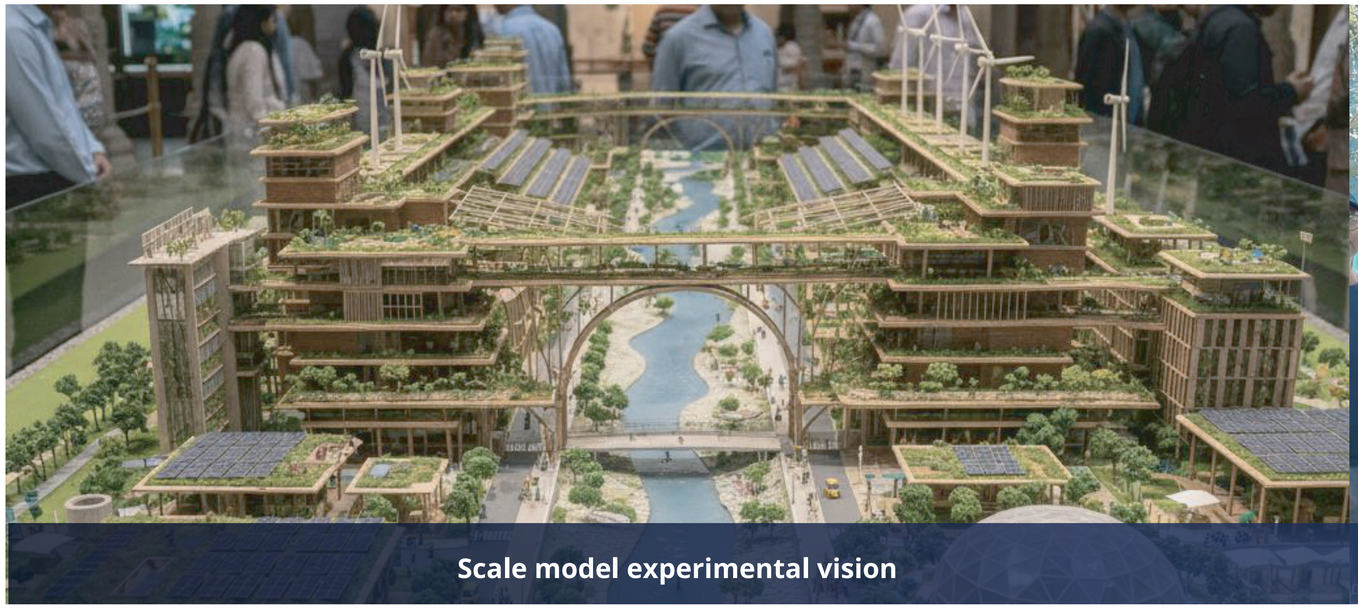


WDO launches new global programme, World Design Protopolis in Bengaluru, India

05 Bengaluru – The Design Capital of the Future

World’s first World Design Protopolis

In short: Cities learn by doing.
World Design Protopolis (WDP) supports the creation of solutions-based design projects to address key development issues globally. The programme empowers a selected city or community with the design knowledge and resources required to initiate targeted and transformational projects that improve civic quality of life.to:



Scale model experimental vision



World Design Protopolis Bengaluru

05 Bengaluru – The Design Capital of the Future

Design Culture

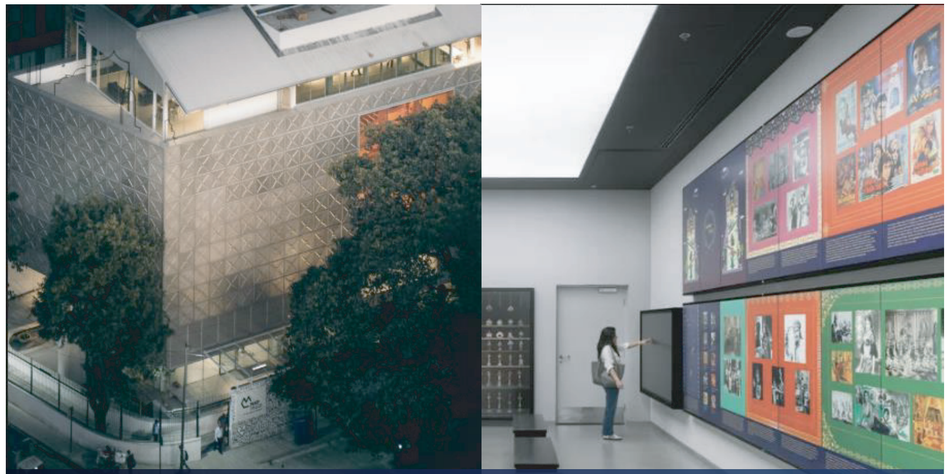
Arts + Science, Creativity, Culture, Design Thrust powered by City Leaders.

MAP | Museum of Art and Photography
A private museum in Bengaluru, India, with a collection of over 60,000 works of South Asian art, textiles, photography, and crafts. It was founded by industrialist Abhishek Poddar and launched its physical space in February 2023.

Sabha
A newly established arts and cultural space housed in a beautifully restored, 160-year-old heritage school building. It is envisioned as a vibrant hub for the arts, ideas, and community, located on Kamaraj Road in Shivaji Nagar.

BIC | Bangalore International Center
A non-profit public institution in Domlur that serves as a neutral platform for informed conversations, arts, and culture. The facility hosts almost 400 free public programs each year.

Design Barn
It is India's first independent design center, offering a multifunctional and sustainable space for training, creative events, co-working, and exhibitions. It is in the emerging new North Bengaluru.



MAP (Museum of Art And Photography)



BIC, Bangalore International Center

05 Bengaluru – The Design Capital of the Future

Creative Circus
An urban living lab in the Yeshwanthpur Industrial Area that has transformed a former warehouse into a community space for creativity, sustainability, and collaboration. It features a restaurant, workspaces, an art gallery, and a garden.

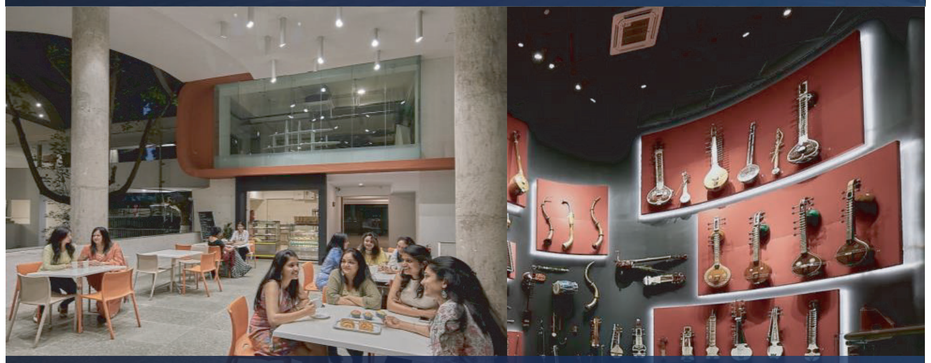
Science Gallery
A not-for-profit public institution that works at the intersection of the natural and human sciences, engineering, art, and design. It aims to engage young adults through dynamic, ever-changing exhibitions, public programs, and mentorship opportunities, all with free entry.

Rangoli Metro Art Center
Developed by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRCL), it is a vibrant public space for art and culture, located next to the MG Road Metro Station. It features art galleries, an auditorium, a play area for children, and green spaces. The center is known for hosting a variety of events, including art exhibitions, live performances, and craft markets.

Indian Music Experience
Funded by the Brigade Group, it is India's first interactive and exhaustive music museum and is dedicated to preserving and showcasing Indian musical heritage.



Design Barn Bengaluru


Indian Music Experience, Bengaluru

05 Bengaluru – The Design Capital of the Future

Cubbon Park
A vibrant public space in Bengaluru, known for its lush greenery, colonial-era buildings, and diverse recreational and cultural activities. It serves as a natural haven and a social hub, especially on weekends when it is closed to vehicles. You can expect Runs, Reads, Knits, Performances, Music and more.

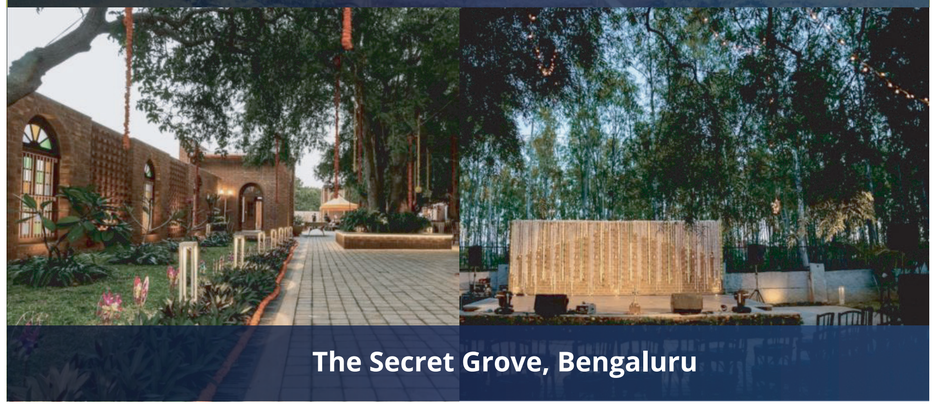
The Secret Grove
An open-air private event space located in Yelahanka. Part of the JINVARA cultural center, a large green lung, it functions as a vibrant public space by hosting various community events, workshops, and markets that are open to the public. It is also home to a nature-inspired café.

Nrityagram
A globally renowned Indian classical dance school and community of artists located in rural Hesaraghatta, on the outskirts of Bangalore. It was founded in 1990 by the eminent Odissi dancer Protima Gauri Bedi.

Rangashankara
A prominent performing arts theatre located in the J.P. Nagar area of Bengaluru, India. Opened in 2004, it is a dynamic cultural institution dedicated to promoting theatre and the performing arts, envisioned by founder Arundathi Nag in memory of her late husband, renowned actor Shankar Nag.

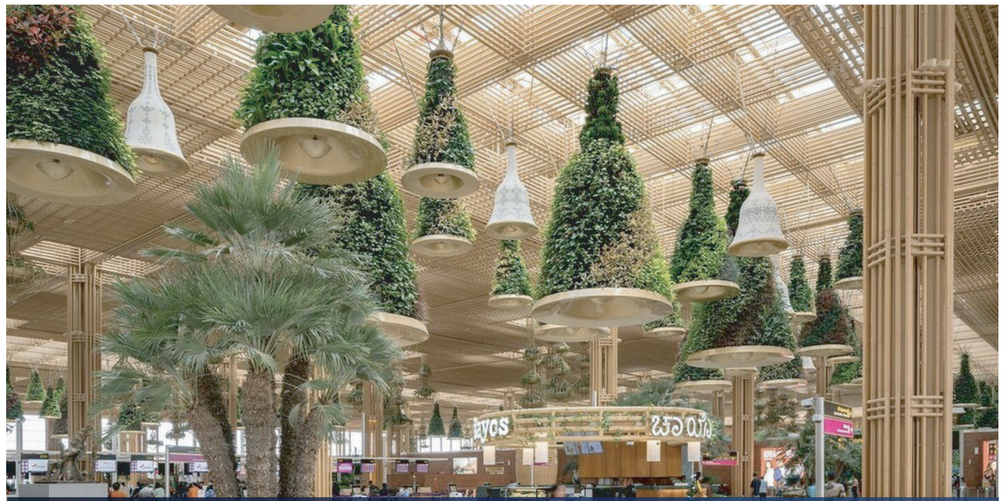


Cubbon Park, Bengaluru

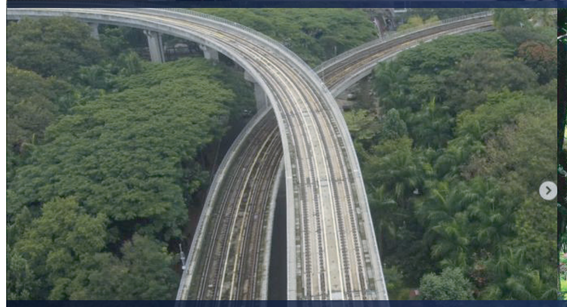


The Secret Grove, Bengaluru

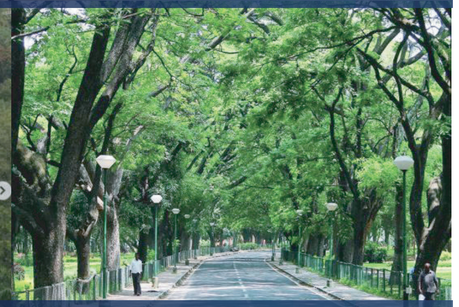
05 Bengaluru – The Design Capital of the Future



Bengaluru International Airport



Bengaluru Metro – Green Line



Cubbon park

Bengaluru already possesses the crucial foundation for evolving into a global design capital, primarily rooted in its identity as the **"Silicon Valley of India."** This designation means the city is a powerhouse of **technology, innovation, and a massive, highly skilled talent pool,** all essential ingredients for modern design disciplines like UX/UI, product design, and industrial design. The city is home to numerous tech **multinational company (MNC) R&D centers,** top-tier educational institutions like the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** and the **National Institute of Design (NID),** and a thriving **startup ecosystem.** This concentration of technical and creative minds fosters a culture of rapid prototyping, problem-solving, and cross-disciplinary collaboration—the very core of contemporary design thinking—setting the stage for design excellence that transcends digital spaces.

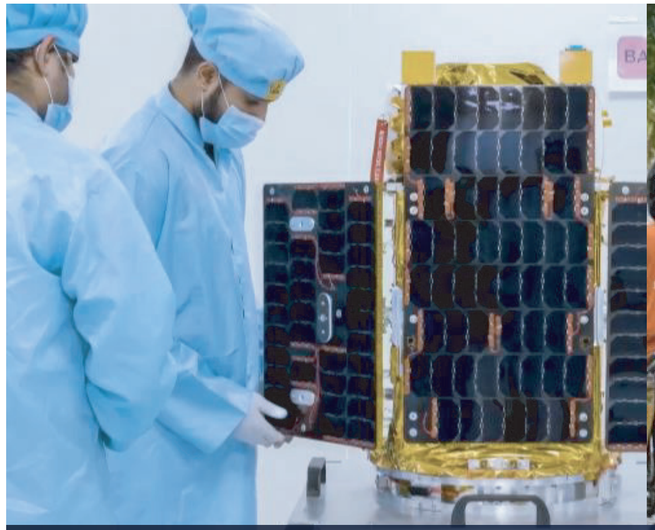
Beyond the tech sector, Bengaluru's historical character and cosmopolitan ethos provide a rich context for design application. The legacy of the **"Garden City"** offers a unique biophilic theme, influencing urban planning and architectural design towards sustainability, as seen in modern projects integrating green spaces and local materials. Furthermore, its history, marked by colonial-era architecture and diverse resident communities, creates a fertile ground for **adaptive reuse** and **cultural fusion** in design, blending traditional aesthetics with futuristic concepts. By leveraging its robust innovation ecosystem and embracing this unique blend of heritage, nature, and modernity, Bengaluru is well-equipped to integrate design deeply into its civic life, infrastructure, and commercial sectors, making it a true hub for design-led change.

05 Bengaluru – The Design Capital of the Future

The city's **green infrastructure** became a magnet for India's startup ecosystem. Entrepreneurs & tech professionals, drawn to Bangalore's blend of modern amenities and natural beauty, established their ventures here. The city fostered innovation through its cosmopolitan culture, educated workforce, and quality of life—all built into its DNA by earlier visionaries.

As Indian startups flourished, many became unicorns—companies valued at over **$1 billion. Flipkart, Ola, Swiggy,** and numerous others put Bangalore on the global map as **India's Silicon Valley.** The city's success demonstrated how thoughtful **urban planning** that **prioritizes human well-being** and **environmental sustainability** creates the foundation for economic innovation and growth. Bengaluruis the **Unicorn capital of India,** followed by Delhi-NCR and Mumbai. Bengaluru leads with 26 unicorns.

Today, Bangalore stands as a testament to its designers' foresight—proving that cities built with empathy, greenery, and social consciousness don't just create better living conditions, but also foster the **creativity & entrepreneurship** that drive nations forward on the **world stage.**



Pixxel Space Start up



Swiggy is valued at 11.3B$



Bengaluru Metro – Green Line

06 Advantage Bengaluru

Progressive City : Citizen groups engaged in governance

B PAC

Founded: 2010 - Funded by: Citizen contributions and corporate partnerships. BPAC is India's first citizen-led political action committee dedicated to transforming urban governance through electoral reforms. It evaluates political candidates across party lines, publishes comprehensive report cards on their credentials, criminal records, and financial backgrounds, and conducts voter awareness campaigns. With over 10,000+ active citizen members, BPAC has revolutionized how Bengalureans engage with democracy, making candidate accountability a mainstream conversation in local elections.

Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy

Founded: 2001 - Funded by: Ramesh and Swati Ramanathan (founders), philanthropic contributions, and international development agencies Janaagraha is India's leading urban governance reform organization, pioneering citizen participation in civic affairs. Its flagship platform "I Change My City" has resolved over 100,000+ civic complaints, connecting citizens directly with government agencies. The organization's Ward Works program empowers citizens to monitor and influence local budgets and infrastructure projects. Janaagraha has been instrumental in drafting policy recommendations for urban reforms across India, making Bengaluru a model for participatory governance.



B PAC, Bengaluru



Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, Bengaluru

06 Advantage Bengaluru

Namma Bengaluru Foundation

Founded: 2014 - Funded by: Corporate CSR funds, individual donations, and government partnerships. Namma Bengaluru Foundation is dedicated to restoring Bengaluru's identity as the "Garden City" through aggressive environmental and civic infrastructure projects. The foundation has successfully restored over 25+ lakes, planted 50,000+ trees, and installed rainwater harvesting systems across the city. Their community-driven model engages residents, schools, and corporates in sustainability initiatives, making environmental conservation a collective responsibility.

Hasiru Dala

Founded: 2012 - Funded by: International development organizations, CSR funds, and social impact investors. Hasiru Dala is a groundbreaking organization that has formalized and dignified the work of 10,000+ waste pickers in Bengaluru, ensuring fair wages, social security, and recognition. It operates dry waste collection centers, advocates for inclusive waste management policies, and has been pivotal in integrating informal waste workers into the formal economy. Hasiru Dala's model has been replicated across multiple Indian cities, making it a national leader in sustainable waste management and social justice. Hasiru Dala,



Hasiru Dala, Bengaluru

06 Advantage Bengaluru

Bengaluru Environment Trust (BET)

Founded: 1995 - Funded by: Citizen contributions, environmental grants, and corporate partnerships One of Bengaluru's oldest environmental organizations, BET has been at the forefront of lake rejuvenation, biodiversity conservation, and green cover expansion. The trust has restored over 15+ lakes, created urban forests, and conducted extensive environmental education programs in schools. BET's advocacy has been crucial in protecting Bengaluru's remaining green spaces from encroachment and urban sprawl.

Citizens for Bengaluru (CfB)

Founded: 2015 - Funded by: Citizen volunteers and crowdfunding. Citizens for Bengaluru rose to prominence during the successful opposition to the controversial Steel Flyover project, which would have destroyed 800+ trees. This volunteer-driven collective monitors infrastructure projects, advocates for sustainable urban planning, and holds government agencies accountable. CfB has become the voice of citizen resistance against top-down, environmentally destructive development projects, championing people-centric urban design.

Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs)

Number: 5,000+ active RWAs across Bengaluru. RWAs are the grassroots backbone of civic engagement in Bengaluru, addressing hyper-local issues like street lighting, garbage collection, road maintenance, and security. These associations have evolved into powerful advocacy groups, collectively representing millions of residents. The Confederation of Apartment Owners Associations (CAOA) and Citizen Action Forum (CAF) are umbrella organizations that coordinate RWA efforts, amplifying their voice in city planning and policy decisions.



Citizens for Bengaluru (CfB)



Residents Welfare Associations Bengaluru

06 Advantage Bengaluru

Bangalore Bicycle Network (BBN)

Founded: 2011. BBN is a citizen-led advocacy group promoting cycling as a sustainable mode of urban transport. The network organizes weekly cycling events, advocates for dedicated cycling infrastructure, and has successfully lobbied for 100+ km of cycling tracks across the city. BBN's efforts have made Bengaluru one of India's most cycling-friendly cities, reducing carbon emissions and promoting healthier lifestyles.

Mahadevapura Parisara Samrakshane Mattu Abhivrudhi Samiti (MAPSAS)

Founded: 2008 - Funded by: Local residents and environmental grants. MAPSAS is a community-driven organization focused on lake conservation and environmental protection in East Bengaluru. The group has successfully restored Bellandur Lake and Varthur Lake, two of the city's most polluted water bodies, through citizen-led clean-up drives, legal advocacy, and collaboration with government agencies. MAPSAS has set a precedent for community-driven environmental action in urban India.

Ugly Indian

Founded: 2010. The Ugly Indian is a guerrilla civic action group that tackles urban eyesores—garbage dumps, broken footpaths, and neglected public spaces—through anonymous, spontaneous clean-up drives. Operating on the philosophy of "Karo, mat bolo" (Do, don't talk), the group has transformed hundreds of public spots across Bengaluru into clean, functional spaces. Their model has inspired similar movements across India, proving that citizen action can drive visible change.



Bangalore Bicycle Network (BBN)



Ugly Indian, Bengaluru

06 Advantage Bengaluru

Friends of Lakes

Friends of Lakes is a coalition of citizens, environmentalists, and activists dedicated to protecting and restoring Bengaluru's rapidly disappearing lakes. The group has documented encroachments, filed public interest litigation (PIL) against polluters, and organized community-led restoration projects. Their advocacy has saved dozens of lakes from being converted into real estate, preserving Bengaluru's ecological heritage.

Swabhimana Trust

Swabhimana Trust focuses on sustainable sanitation and waste management in rural and peri-urban areas around Bengaluru. The organization has installed eco-friendly toilets, promoted composting, and trained communities in waste segregation. Their work has improved sanitation for thousands of families, reducing environmental pollution and public health risks.



Swabhimana Trust, Bengaluru



Friends of Lakes, Bangalore

06 Advantage Bengaluru

Foundation for the Future

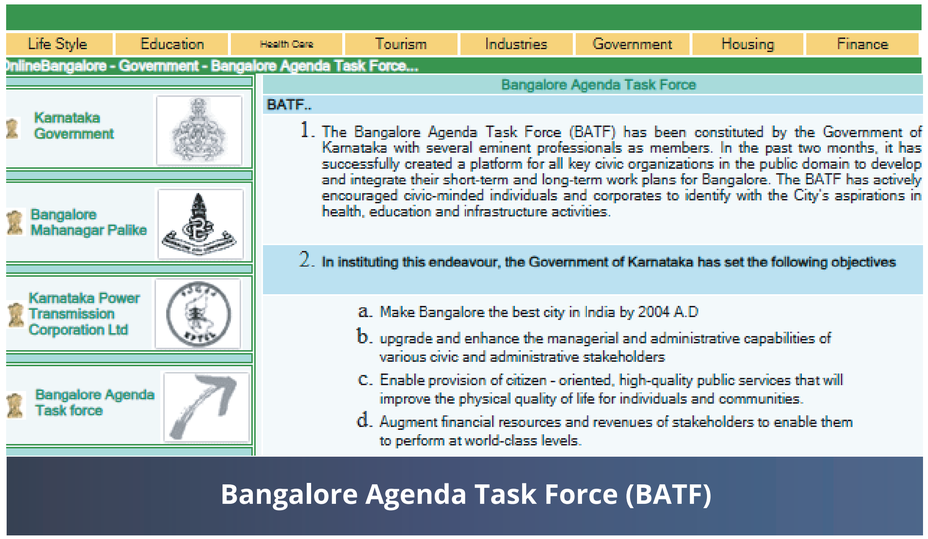
Bangalore Forward
The "Bangalore Forward" initiative, driven by the **Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF)** was a significant public-private partnership (PPP) experiment in urban governance launched in 1999.

Designed as a movement and driven by design to create properties and infrastructure, prototyped, refined and documented thoroughly (Swachh Bangalore - that became **Swachh Bharat, Nirmala Bangalore for clean toilets across the state,** Freedom Park and the greater plan for the Metro city) The initiative was driven by leaders from the IT industry and civil organizations in partnership with the Karnataka state government. The goal of the BATF was to upgrade the city's infrastructure and public governance systems, aiming to make Bangalore a **"world class"** city by 2004 by applying corporate expertise and industry best practices to civic systems.

Launched in 1999 as a coalition of industry leaders, civil organizations, and the state government of Karnataka, functioning as a "para-statal" body. To improve urban governance and infrastructure (e.g., water, power, roads) using private sector management practices. Outcome: The task force was eventually disbanded by the new government in 2004, though it contributed to an overall improvement of the city in a significant manner.



Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF)



Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF)

06 Advantage Bengaluru

Foundation for the Future

Brand Bengaluru
More recently, in June 2023, the Government of Karnataka launched a new "Brand Bengaluru" initiative, which also focuses on infrastructure development, easing traffic, and enhancing the city's global potential.

Designing a market for Millets
Mainstreaming Millets to solve the problem of farmer suicides, Karnataka led the way with strategic design, creating systems of experiences and communication campaigns to solve the problem of Farmer suicides. An initiative spearheaded by Agriculture Minister Krishna Byregowda, with Spread as design partner. Leading to the adoption of Millets nationally and by the UN, declaring 2023 as the year of Millets. India is proposing millets as a new food solution for the world.

Swachhameva Jayate
An award winning **(CII awarded)** design initiative to create systems and awareness, a multi year project across rural Karnataka. In Karnataka, governance has always embraced design, creating benchmarks for replication nationally.



Market for Millets, Bengaluru



Swachhameva Jayate

06 Advantage Bengaluru

A Global Innovation City for the Future

With coordinated long-term urban planning, Bengaluru has the opportunity to go beyond being India's technology capital and position itself among the world's top innovation megacities. This requires integrating infrastructure development, public services, mobility, and housing into a unified vision rather than fragmented projects. Strategic global partnerships — with leading technology hubs, research ecosystems, and international investors — can accelerate capability-building, attract **frontier-technology capital,** and embed Bengaluru firmly into **global innovation supply** chains.

A governance model anchored in **sustainability**, digital transparency, and **citizen-first service delivery** will be key to managing growth responsibly. By strengthening **environmental resilience,** expanding equitable access to public services, and fostering inclusive economic participation, the city can balance rapid progress with quality of life. If industry, government, academia, and civil society align through collaborative institutions and data-driven policy frameworks, Bengaluru can evolve into a top-10 global innovation metropolis - **one that is economically competitive, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and future-ready.**



Swachhameva Jayate

06 Advantage Bengaluru

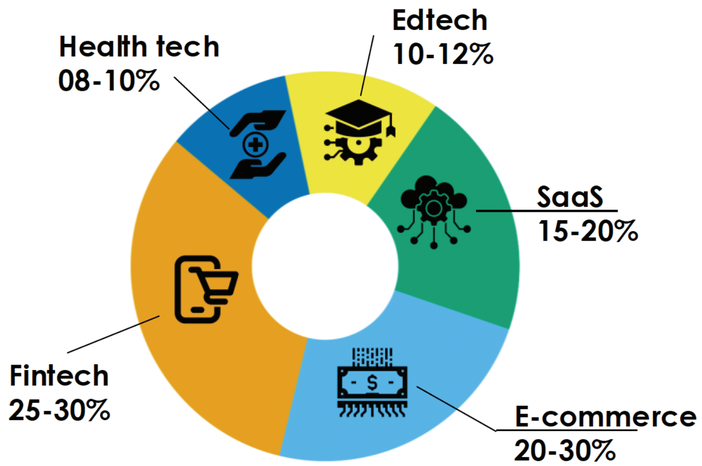
Promise of the start up ecosystem

Startup Statistics

- Total Startups: 15,000-17,000+ registered startups (2023)
- Unicorns: 35-40 unicorns (highest in India, ~40% of India's unicorns)
- Funding: Attracts 35-40% of India's total startup funding
- 2022-23 Funding: ~$8-10 billion despite global slowdown
- Series C & Beyond
- Series C+ Startups: 150-200 companies
- Notable Series C+ companies: Razorpay, Meesho, Udaan, Ola Electric, Swiggy, Flipkart (earlier), Greaves Electric Mobility Ltd.
- IPO Pipeline: 20-30 startups in IPO preparation stage

Startup Sectors

- Fintech : 25-30%
- E-commerce : 20%
- SaaS : 15-20%
- Edtech : 10-12%
- Health tech : 8-10%





Flipkart Bengaluru

Unicorn Start ups, Bengaluru

06 Advantage Bengaluru

Tech Industry / Corporate Presence

IT/Tech Companies

- IT Companies: 4,000+ IT/ITES companies
- Global Capability Centers (GCCs): 1,500+ (40% of India's GCCs)
- Fortune 500 Presence: 400+ Fortune 500 companies have offices
- IT Exports: ~₹3.5-4 lakh crore annually (40% of India's IT exports)

Major Employers

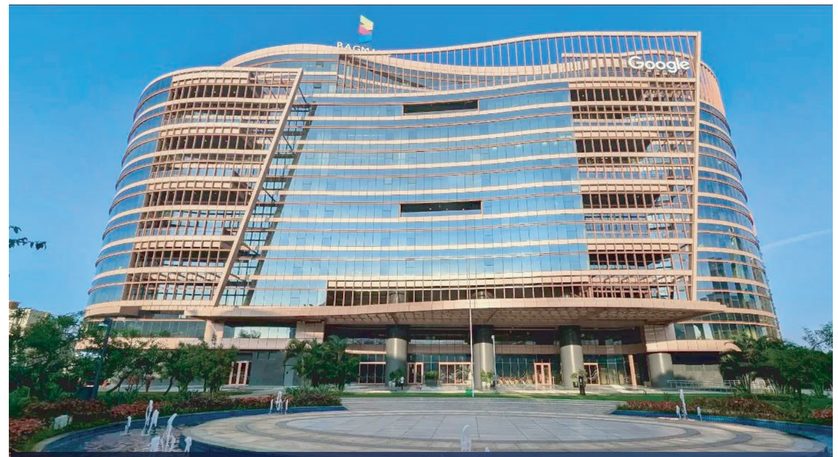
- Infosys, Wipro, TCS, Accenture, IBM, Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Flipkart, etc.
- Total IT/ITES Employment: 2+ million direct jobs
- Indirect Employment: 6-8 million jobs

Emerging Sectors

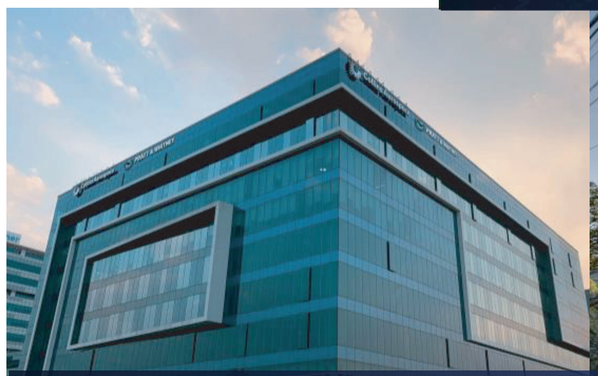
- Aerospace: 65% of India's aerospace companies
- Biotechnology: 50% of India's biotech companies
- Electric Vehicles: Major hub (Ola Electric, Graves Electric mobility, etc.)

Higher Education

- Universities: 50+ universities
- Engineering Colleges: 200+ engineering colleges
- Management Institutes: 100+ B-schools
- Total Colleges: 1,000+ colleges across disciplines



Google, Bengaluru


Collin Aero Space, Bengaluru


Wipro, Bengaluru

06 Advantage Bengaluru

Premier Institutions

- IISc (Indian Institute of Science): Ranked #1 in India
- IIM Bangalore: Top 3 B-school in India
- NLSIU: Premier law school
- NIMHANS: Leading mental health institute
- Christ University, Jain University, PES University, etc.

Design Colleges

- National Institute of Design (NID) Bengaluru
- Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology
- NIFT Bengaluru
- MIT Institute of Design
- 50+ design schools offering various specializations
- Design Professionals: 15,000-20,000 designers

Student Statistics

- Total Students: 8-10 lakh
- Engineering Students: 2-3 lakh



PES University, Bengaluru



NID, Bengaluru

06 Advantage Bengaluru

Bengaluru enjoys several unique advantages that position it ideally to become India's Design Capital:

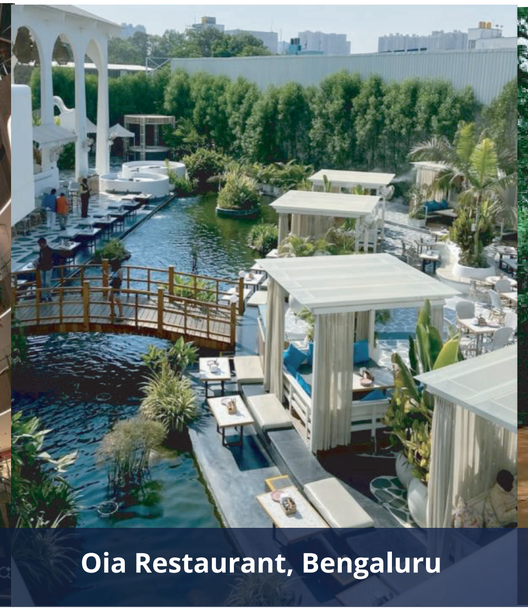
Bangalore has a legacy of being the first to experiment with new technologies. For instance, the city installed **Asia's first electric streetlamps in 1904**. Adapting and inventing technologies has always been at the core of Bangalore's culture.

This pioneering spirit positions Bangalore as **the ideal launchpad for India's technological and design-driven future.**

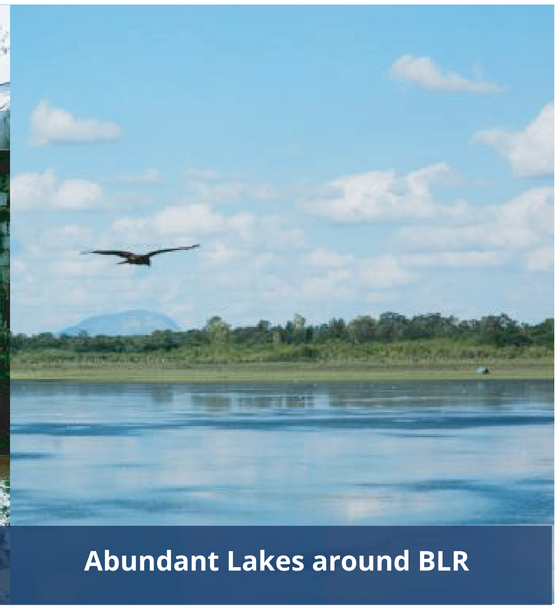
The city's historical commitment to innovation, combined with its modern infrastructure, makes it the natural choice for becoming not just India's tech and design hub, but a global example of how cities can **blend heritage with cutting-edge progress**. Bangalore is uniquely positioned to set standards that other Indian cities—and even international tech hubs—can aspire to follow.



Forum Mall Interior


Oia Restaurant, Bengaluru


Nrityagram Dance School


Abundant Lakes around BLR

Indian thought, idealogy, art, culture& spirituality – 3rd BC

06 Advantage Bengaluru

Bengaluru enjoys several unique advantages that position it ideally to become India's Design Capital:

Beyond technology, Bangalore's ****cultural diversity**** is one of its greatest strengths. The city has always welcomed people from across India and the world, creating a **cosmopolitan environment** where different **perspectives, ideas, and traditions merge seamlessly.** This cultural melting pot attracts top talent from every corner of India and international markets alike. Engineers, designers, entrepreneurs, and creatives from Silicon Valley to Singapore choose Bangalore for its openness, tolerance, and **collaborative spirit.**

And then there's the **weather**—the cherry on top that makes Bangalore truly special. With moderate temperatures year-round and no extreme heat or humidity, the city offers exceptional quality of life. This pleasant climate attracts professionals and families, enabling an active outdoor lifestyle that supports better health, productivity, and happiness.

Together, these advantages—technological heritage, cultural diversity, and exceptional climate—create a powerful synergy that will continue to drive Bangalore forward as **India's premier destination for innovation, creativity, and world-class talent.**



Big Banyan Tree, Outskirts of Bengaluru

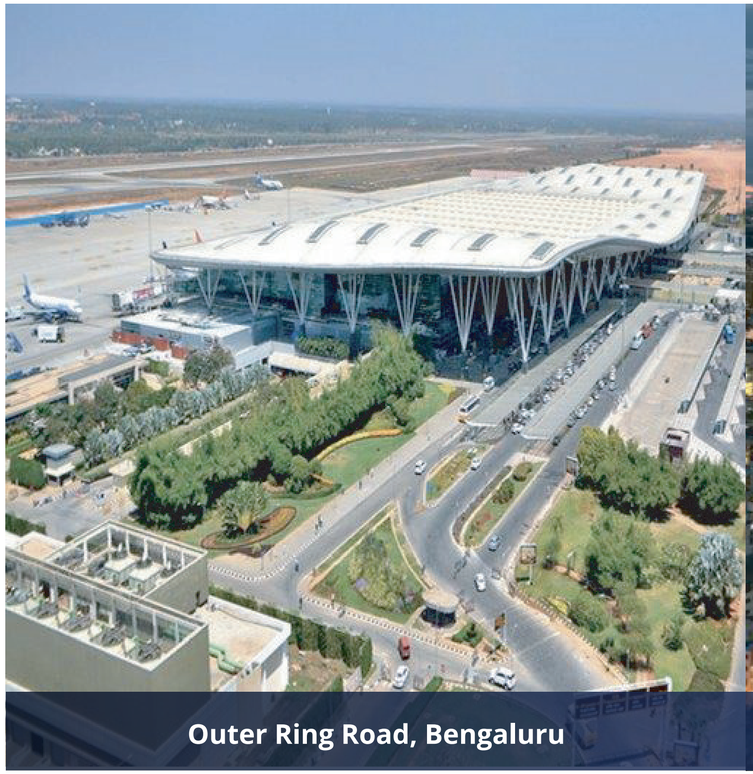


Bengaluru Street

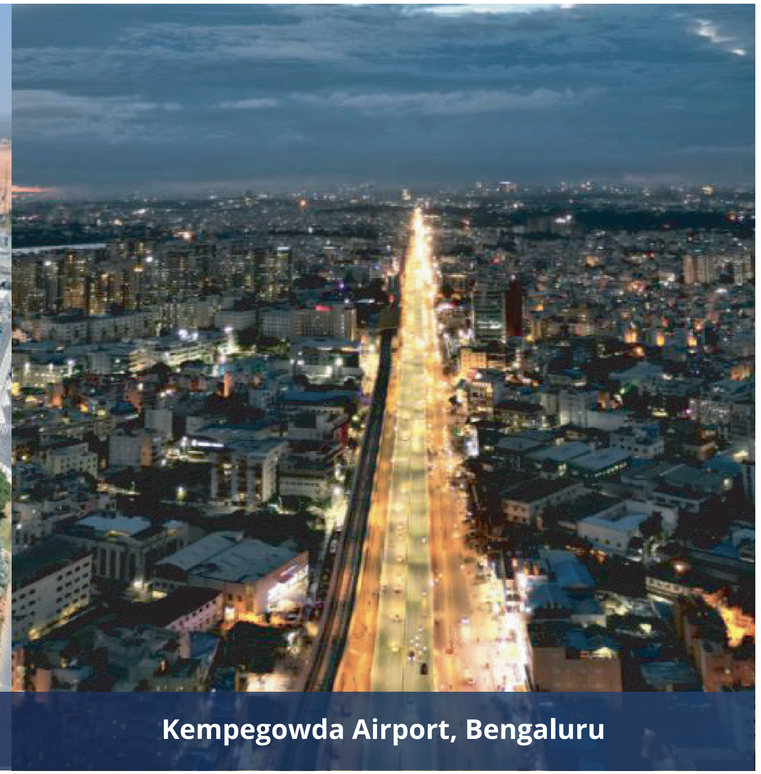
07 Strengths & Opportunities- Bengaluru as a Design Hub

Strengths & Opportunities:

- **Strong IT/Tech Foundation:** Ready-made ecosystem for digital design, UX/UI, and product development.
- **Talent Pool:** Existing and growing base of design professionals and aspiring students.
- **Entrepreneurial Culture:** High rate of new ventures, fostering innovation.
- **Academic Institutions:** Presence of leading design and technical institutes.
- **Urban Sophistication:** A relatively modern and cosmopolitan city attracting diverse talent.
- **Integration with Smart City Initiatives:** Design can play a crucial role in making Bengaluru a truly "smart" & liveable city.
- **Export Potential:** Indian design, especially digital, has significant global export potential.
- **Leveraging Heritage:** Infusing contemporary design with India's rich traditional crafts & aesthetics.
- **Global Collaborations:** Attracting international design studios, schools, and events.
- **Sustainable Design:** Opportunity to lead in eco-friendly & inclusive design solutions.



Outer Ring Road, Bengaluru



Kempegowda Airport, Bengaluru

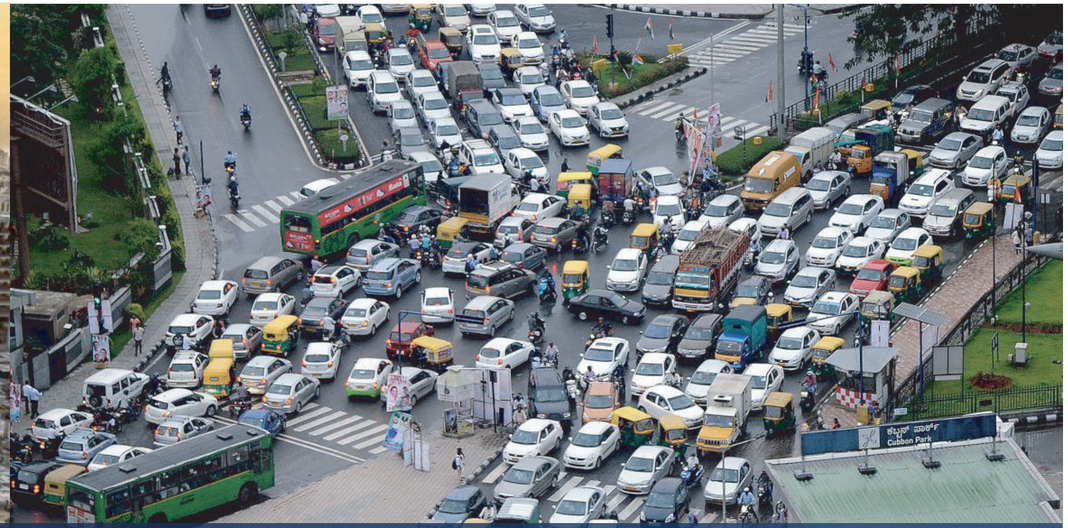
07 Challenges - Bengaluru as a Design Hub

Challenges:

Lack of Cohesion: Design community and initiatives are often fragmented.
Infrastructure Gaps: Urban infrastructure struggles to keep pace with growth, impacting quality of life and creative spaces.
Limited Public Appreciation: Design's value beyond aesthetics is not widely understood by the general public or businesses.
Funding Gaps: Insufficient dedicated funding for design-led startups and research.
Environmental Concerns: Traffic congestion, waste management, and green space depletion affect liveability and inspiration.
Brain Drain: Talented designers might seek opportunities in more established global design hubs.
Urban Degradation: Declining quality of urban life could deter creative talent.
Economic Downturns: Global or national economic shifts could impact investment in design.



Bengaluru Aerial view



Traffic Aerial view, Bengaluru

08 The Bengaluru Blueprint

To build India's Design Capital, Bengaluru must focus on the following strategic pillars:

1. Policy, Governance & Institutional Framework

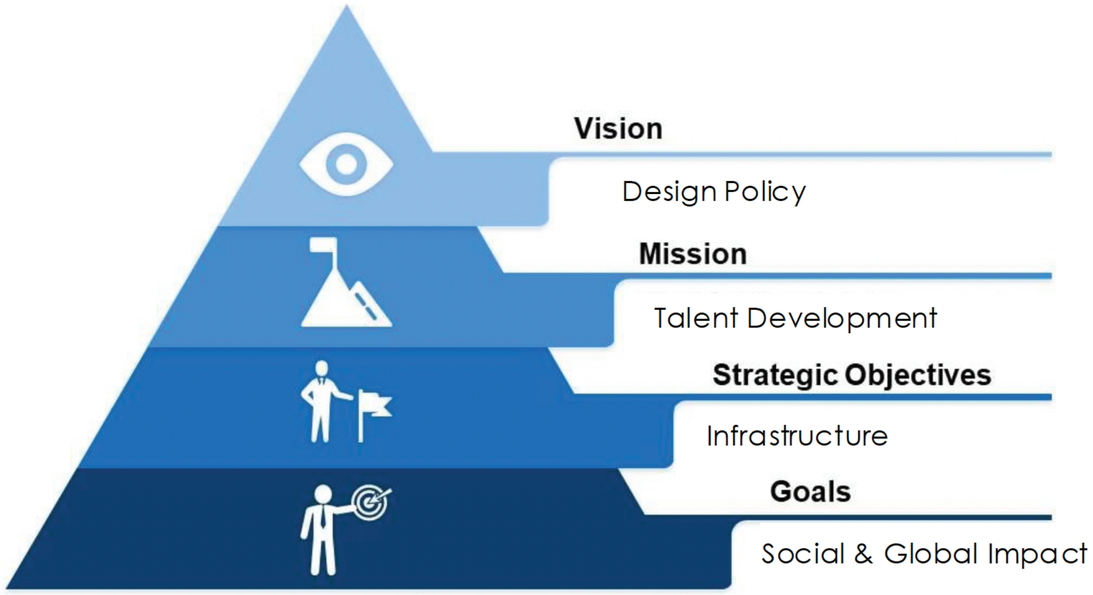
Establish a dedicated Design Council for Bengaluru with a clear mandate to develop anc implement design policies, facilitate inter-agency coordination, and champion design a the highest levels of government. Create a Chief Design Officer (CDO) role within state and city government to integrate user-centric design thinking into policy-making, publi service delivery, and urban planning.

2. Education, Talent Development & Industry Linkages

Strengthen existing design schools and encourage new ones with interdisciplinary programs (AI + Design, Biotech + Design, Sustainable Design). Introduce design thinking modules in non-design curricula and offer vocational design training. Foster globa exchange programs with leading international design institutions. Mandate industry-led design projects and internships and create mentorship programs connecting senio designers with emerging talent.

3. Infrastructure, Ecosystem & Market Development

Develop designated "Design Districts" offering affordable studios, workshops, galleries co-working spaces, maker-labs, and exhibition facilities. Create incubators and accelerators specifically for design-led startups. Provide dedicated public funding and incentives for design-centric startups and SMEs. Encourage corporates to establish design-focused R&D centers in Bengaluru. Facilitate partnerships between design studios, tech companies, manufacturers, and craftspeople.



08 The Bengaluru Blueprint

4. Global Visibility & Design Events
Institute an annual "Bengaluru Design Week" or international design summit that attracts renowned designers, architects, and design-thinking leaders from around the world. Establish prestigious annual design awards and permanent design exhibitions. Use these platforms to showcase local talent and attract foreign investment in the creative economy. Launch campaigns to educate businesses and the public on the value and impact of good design.

5. Urban Design & Design for Social Impact
Integrate design thinking into urban planning, focusing on pedestrian-friendly spaces, green infrastructure, and public art. Focus on thematic areas like Sustainable Bengaluru (circular economy, green spaces), Built Bengaluru (smart infrastructure, public spaces), and Creative Bengaluru (arts, culture, and design-led events). Advocate for design-centric procurement policies in government projects. Fund "Design for Social Impact" projects addressing local community needs.



JANA Urban Space



CII INDIA DESIGN SUMMIT

09 Concrete recommendations and quick wins

10 Strategic Recommendations to Position Bengaluru as a Global Design Capital

1. **Branding Bengaluru & holistic public signage design**
2. **"Art in Transit" & Permanent Public Art Commissions**
3. **Interactive Smart-City Furniture & Installations**
4. **Green Design Corridors & Bio-Mural Projects**
5. **Design Education & Design Innovation Hub**
6. **Pedestrian-First Design Zones (P-Zones)**
7. **Showcase and Promote Design Prowess of Bengaluru**
8. **Citizen-Sourced Design & Participatory Design**
9. **Curated Cultural & Design Trail**
10. **CSR sponsored projects Public Space Design**



Recommendation 1- Brand Bengaluru & holistic signage design

Brand " BENGALURU – DESIGN CAPITAL"

A strong design identity elevates a city's global profile, attracting tourism, talent, & businesses. It fosters a sense of pride andbelonging among residents.

A Versatile & Vibrant 'B' logo which can depict the various identities, aspects , facets, image of Bengaluru – Silicon Valley of the East, Design Capital, Bio-mdeical Hub, Educational Hub, Garden City, Pub Capital of India, Party Capital and so on.

A unified and holistic signage design needs to be designed for applications across the cities with a standard color template, font design and appropriately designed signage system for– digital & physical mediums in both English & Kannada.

The Bengaluru Airport logo's color palette could be a good starting point as it incorporate Karnataka's state colors andode to Bengaluru's sequential flowering systems.





Brand " Bengaluru Design Capital; BLR Airport Logo, Melbourne Logo; Signage Design

Recommendation 1- Brand Bengaluru & holistic signage design

INFORMATION DESIGN

Information design goes beyond simply presenting facts or directions; it helps shape how people feel and experience the city. Through visual systems like signage, maps, symbols, colors, and typography, information design contributes to a city's identity and character.

Visual Identity:
The wayfinding systems, public signage, and graphic language used in transport networks, parks, or cultural districts give the city a unique visual personality. For example, the London Underground's iconic roundel and map design are instantly recognizable symbols of the city's identity.

Cultural Expression:
Information design can reflect local heritage, languages, and artistic traditions. This cultural integration makes communication feel more authentic and connected to place.

Consistency and Aesthetic Cohesion:
A well-designed information system creates a sense of order and unity across different parts of the city, reinforcing civic pride and belonging.



Recommendation 1- Brand Bengaluru & holistic signage design

“INFORMATION DESIGN AS IDENTITY”

Emotional and Cultural Expression
Design adds character and emotion to the way cities communicate.

Aesthetic Identity:
The visual language of a city’s information system can express its cultural heritage or modern aspirations — for instance, using local motifs, materials, or languages.

Emotional Connection:
Well-crafted design evokes feelings of welcome, safety, and belonging. Think of how the warmth of wooden signage in a park feels different from the precision of metal signs in a business district.

Sense of Place:
Design turns generic spaces into places with meaning and identity — contributing to how people remember and describe the city.

Consistency in Visual Language:
When signs, maps, and systems follow a unified design standard, people learn to trust the information as official and accurate.

Reduction of Cognitive Load:
Well-structured design prevents confusion and helps users make quick, confident decisions.



Brand " Bengaluru Design Capital; BLR Manhole, floor Signages Design

Recommendation 2 - Art in Transit

Transforming mobility spaces

Transforming mobility spaces into inspiring art-driven transit hubs, where transportation meets culture, creativity, and community. These hubs are not just points of travel—they become immersive environments that celebrate local art, architecture, and human connection, making everyday commutes emotionally enriching and visually engaging.

1. Blending Functionality with Culture

This elevates public spaces from being purely functional to places people enjoy spending time in. This is also an opportunity for cultural and theme based story telling. Ex: Garden CIty / Bio-Phillic Bus stops & metro stations (Inspired by BLRT2 Terminal.

2. Human-Centric Experience

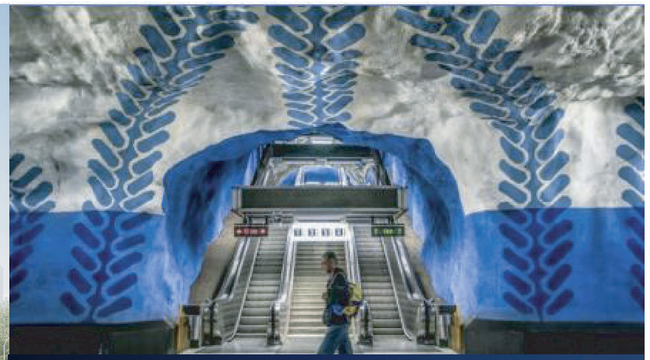
People feel a sense of belonging and pride in their local transport system, improving the overall public perception.

3. Promotes Local Art & Identity

By incorporating local art and architecture, each transit hub can reflect the unique character of its region. Bus Stops in MG Road, Indira Nagar and Electronic City can have a techy and Neon Light inspired Bus Stops.



Garden City Inspired Bus Stops



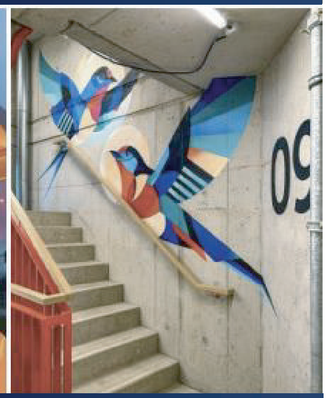
Helsinki Metro Station Mural



Garden City Inspired Metro Station



Bus Stop



Metro Mural

Recommendation 3 - Interactive Smart-City Furniture and Installations

Urban aesthetics is more than just visual beauty

it's about how a city feels, functions, and connects with its people. By integrating **smart, interactive furniture** and **well-designed pedestrian spaces,** cities can become more **livable, engaging, and human-centric.**

1. Blending Function with Beauty
Smart urban furniture integrates technology (e.g. charging stations, interactive screens) into sleek, modern designs—enhancing utility without compromising visual appeal.

2. Human-Centric Public Spaces
Well-designed pedestrian zones with greenery, seating, and sensory elements create inviting environments that prioritize comfort, safety, and community engagement.

3. Cultural and Visual Identity
Using locally inspired materials, forms, and art in public spaces strengthens cultural connection and transforms everyday infrastructure into expressions of place and identity.



Garden City Inspired Metro Station

Recommendation 3 - Interactive Smart-City Furniture and Installations

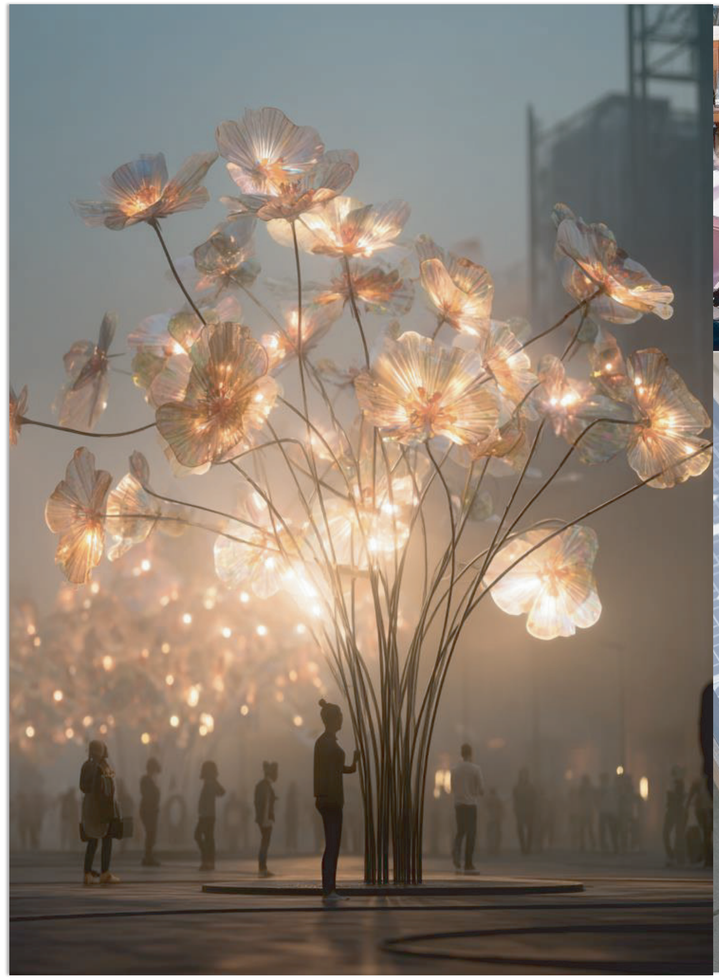
A well-designed space fosters a deep sense of belonging

By reflecting the identity, culture, and everyday lives of its people. When citizens see their values, heritage, and stories embedded in public spaces—through art, design, and accessibility—they feel more connected and emotionally rooted to their city. This connection transforms urban environments from merely functional areas into places of shared meaning, pride, and community.

4. Fostering a Sense of Belonging
Thoughtfully designed public spaces reflect local culture and values, making citizens feel seen, represented, and connected to their city.

5. Enhancing Daily Joy and Well-being
Interactive elements, greenery, art, and comfort in everyday transit or walking routes can uplift moods and reduce urban stress, turning routine moments into positive experiences.

6. Encouraging Civic Pride and Ownership
When people feel emotionally connected to beautifully designed, functional spaces, they're more likely to care for and take pride in their city—leading to stronger community spirit.







Recommendation 4 - Green Design Corridors & Bio-Mural Projects

"Bio-gardens are living sanctuaries in the city where nature & people grow together".

Bio-gardens in modern urban spaces offer citizens a refreshing escape into nature while promoting sustainability and well-being. More than just green zones, they become inclusive spaces where people can relax, connect, and rediscover a sense of harmony within the urban fabric.

1. Reconnects People with Nature
Bio-gardens offer citizens a calming, natural environment within urban chaos, fostering mental well-being and emotional balance.

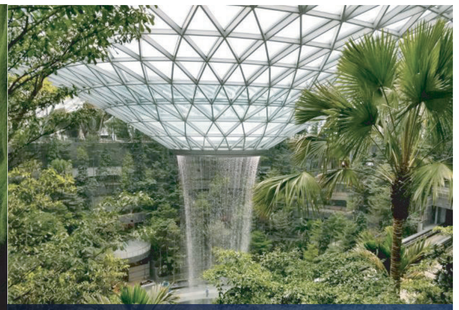
2. Promotes Sustainable Living
Designed with eco-friendly practices—like rainwater harvesting, native plants, and biodiversity—they support a greener, more resilient city.

3. Builds Community Spaces
These gardens become inclusive, shared environments where people of all ages can gather, interact, and form stronger social connections.

4. Moss Walls that attract Co2 emissions
Moss walls are a compact, low-maintenance urban design feature that acts as a natural air filter. The moss's large surface area effectively captures **carbon dioxide (CO2)** and other pollutants from the atmosphere.



Moss Walls to attract Co2 emissions



Green House, Singapore



Eden Project, UK

Recommendation 5 - Design Education & Design Innovation Hub

Design education hubs inspire creativity and collaboration, shaping the innovators of tomorrow

Design education hubs are dynamic spaces that nurture creativity, critical thinking, and innovation. More than just classrooms, they are collaborative environments where students, educators, and industry professionals come together to explore ideas, experiment with materials, and solve real-world problems.

1. tCultivating Creativity through Hands-On Learning

Design education hubs offer interactive and collaborative environments where students engage in practical city design projects. This hands-on approach encourages experimentation and innovation,

2. Bridging Academia and Industry

These hubs provide vital connections between students, educators, and industry professionals.

3. Design Innovation Hub

This kind of hub for Bengaluru should be a central space for **converging tech, art, and engineering talent.** Its purpose would be to leverage the city's IT expertise and heritage to rapidly prototype **holistic, user-centric design solutions for urban challenges,** making Bengaluru a global leader in innovative and sustainable city development.



Recommendation 6 - Pedestrian-First Design Zones (P-Zones)

Pedestrian zones transform city streets into vibrant, safe, and sustainable spaces that prioritize people over vehicles.

Pedestrian zones are dedicated urban areas where vehicle traffic is restricted or eliminated to prioritize walking, social interaction, and public life. Thoughtfully designed pedestrian zones transform city streets into vibrant, safe, and accessible spaces that enhance urban livability and promote sustainable mobility.

1. Enhancing Safety and Accessibility

Designing pedestrian zones focuses on creating safe environments free from vehicle hazards. Wide walkways, clear signage, smooth surfaces, and well-planned crossings ensure accessibility for all,

2. Encouraging Social Interaction and Community Life

Pedestrian zones foster social connectivity by providing spaces where people can gather, relax, and engage with each other.

3. Boosting Economic Activity

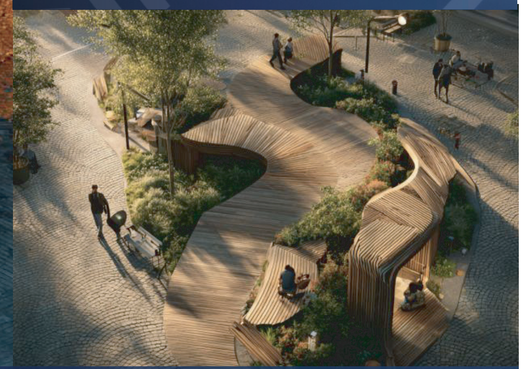
By creating attractive, walkable environments, pedestrian zones increase foot traffic to local shops, markets, and restaurants. This economic uplift benefits small businesses and encourages vibrant street life, turning city centers into thriving commercial and cultural hubs.



Design Innovation Hub



Creative Pedestrian graphics



Co-working space

Recommendation 7 - Showcase and Promote Design Prowess of Bengaluru

Design festivals ignite creativity& foster collaboration driving the future of design forward.

Design festivals play a vital role in celebrating creativity, innovation, and cultural exchange within the design community and beyond. They serve as dynamic platforms that bring together designers, artists, industry experts, students, and the public to explore new ideas,

1. Showcasing Innovation and Creativity

Design festivals provide a stage for emerging and established designers to present groundbreaking work & experimental concepts. By highlighting the latest trends, technologies, and methodologies, festivals push the boundaries of design thinking and inspire both practitioners and audiences to imagine new possibilities.

2. Fostering Collaboration and Networking

These events encourage interaction among a diverse mix of participants—designers, manufacturers, entrepreneurs, educators, and policymakers.

3. Education and Skill Development

Through workshops, talks, and masterclasses, bridge the gap between academia and industry by exposing participants to real-world challenges & innovative solutions



Recommendation 8 - Citizen-Sourced Design & Participatory Design

A citizen-based feedback system enables residents to report issues and share opinions, fostering better governance and community engagement

A Citizen-Based Feedback System is a mechanism or platform that enables residents of a community or city to share their opinions, report issues, and provide suggestions directly to local authorities or service providers. These systems empower citizens by giving them a voice in governance, urban planning, and public service improvements.

1. Participatory Governance:
Encourages active involvement in decision-making processes, fostering transparency and accountability.

2. Real-Time Communication:
Allows citizens to instantly report problems like potholes, broken streetlights, or safety concerns.

3. Data-Driven Improvements:
Collects citizen input that governments use to prioritize resources and improve services efficiently.



Recommendation 8 - Citizen-Sourced Design & Participatory Design

Participatory Design Approach

Participatory design in the context of city design is an **inclusive and collaborative approach** where professional designers and planners actively involve a diverse range of **stakeholders**—most importantly, **citizens, residents, and end-users**—in the process of planning, designing, and managing the urban environment.

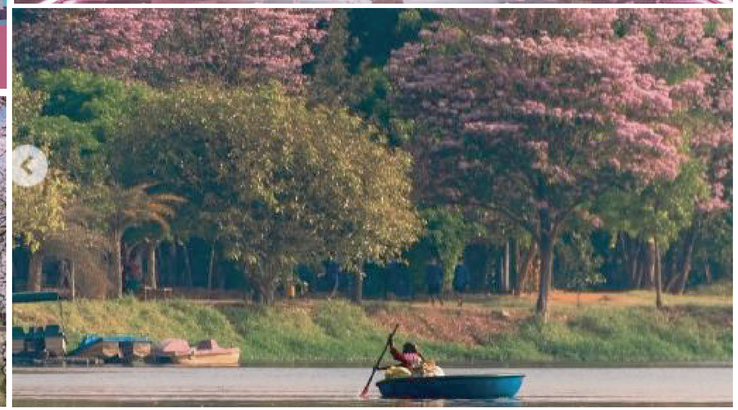
This approach views local inhabitants as **experts in their own lived experience** and shifts the traditional model from "designing for people" (top-down) to **"designing with people"** (collaborative/bottom-up).

The Japanese cherry blossom festival is a significant economic driver, attracting millions of tourists and generating billions of dollars through spending on travel, accommodation, food, and local services. The season sees a surge in both domestic and international visitors, with projections for 2025 indicating a record economic impact. This can inspire our very own **Pink Blossom Festival**, where the Tabebuia Rosea blooms between every Feb – March each year. A global Fashion & Beauty event can be designed with people from industry across fashion design, beauty, salon, culinary art and tourism.









Recommendation 8 - Citizen-Sourced Design & Participatory Design

Participatory Design Approach

The **"Let's make Bengaluru aWALKALURU "** is a gleaming example of participatory design approach wherethe public and Government have come together to make footpaths of Bengaluru walkable, clean and aesthetic with art. This movement can be reinforced by having street art competitions for schools later, professional artists and graphic designers can improve the art and get it executed as part of this movement.



City | BangaloreMirror

1,400+ citizens walk 100 km, exploring B'luru's footpaths

Recent 21.1 km walk in Bengaluru highlights pedestrian infrastructure, promoting fitness and footpath assessments, revealing both well-maintained and challenging areas

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A 21.1 km walk on footpaths was conducted in Bengaluru on Saturday. Over 50 participants started the walk, and 36 completed the entire route of 21.1 km, the remaining 15 walkers completed between 10 km and 15 km. This was the finale of BLRWalkFest, where over 1,400 citizens had walked over 100 km of interconnected footpaths over 13 walks between December 1 and 15 as part of Bengaluru Habba.

The BLRWalkFest is curated and





Recommendation 9 - Design Trails

Design spaces for citizens create inclusive environments that promote social interaction,

These spaces are thoughtful creation and organization of physical or virtual environments that cater to the needs, well-being, and participation of people living in a community or city.

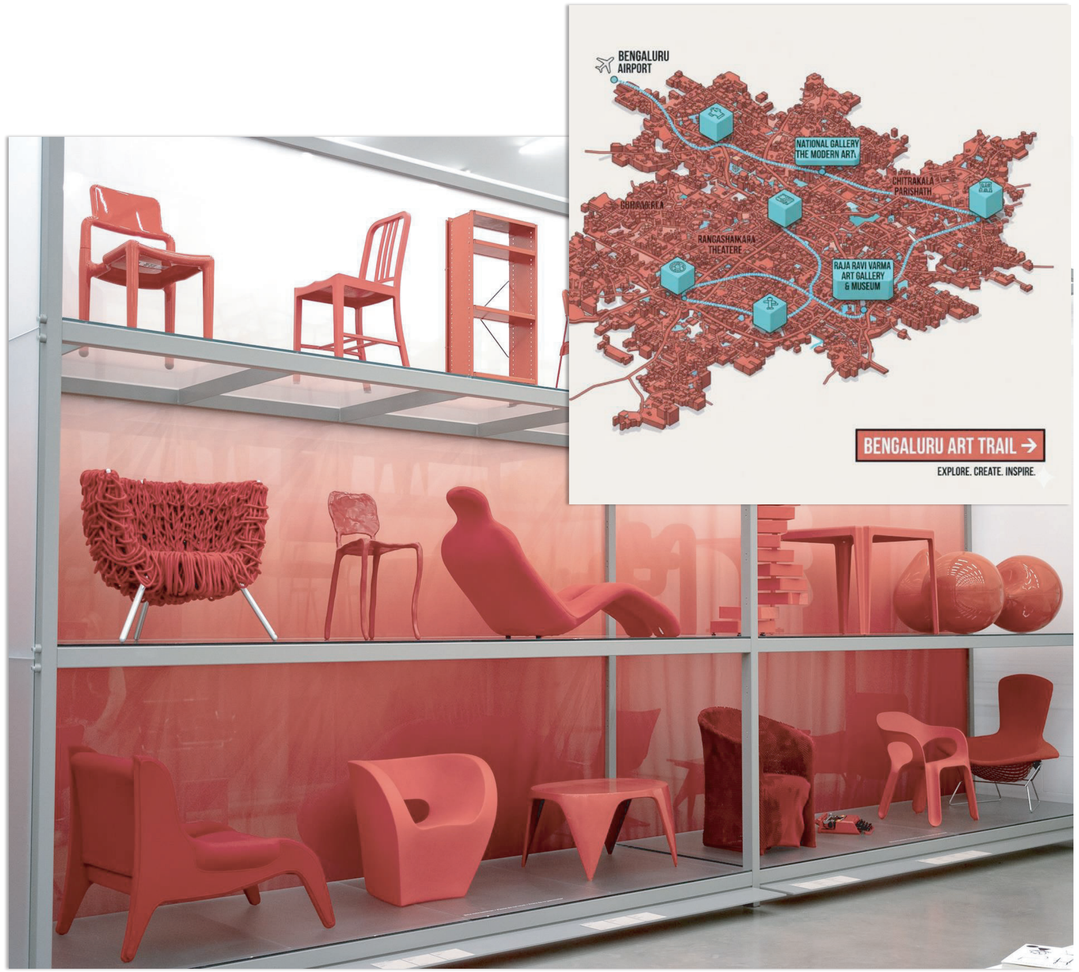
1. Promote Good Design: Design spaces ensure all citizens, regardless of age or ability, can inspire the citizens And promote good design.

2. Promote Design Interaction: These spaces encourage community gathering, cultural exchange, and strengthen social bonds.

3. Support Design Engagement: Well-designed spaces enable citizens to participate actively in decision-making and public life.

4. Bengaluru Trails on Maps: Create Various Trails and people can follow based on their liking and inclination and these should be available both digitally as well as physicall pocket maps.Some examples are:

Bengaluru Art Trail
Bengaluru Design Trail
Bengaluru Food Trail
Bengaluru Pub Trail



Recommendation 10 - CSR Sponsored Public space design

Creative CSR spaces are intentionally designed to provide inclusive, accessible environments where people from diverse backgrounds can gather, collaborate, and grow. These spaces go beyond merely providing services; they foster empowerment, skill development, and cultural enrichment, creating long-term value for communities.

1. Empowerment and Inclusion

Creative CSR spaces democratize access to resources, knowledge, and creative opportunities, especially for underprivileged or marginalized groups, fostering social equity. Nike – Lego play area is a great such example

2. Promoting Mental Well-being and Social Connection

Such spaces serve as safe havens for social interaction, creativity, and leisure, contributing positively to mental health and community cohesion.

3. High quality sculptures at road junctions

High-quality sculptures at road junctions are crucial for urban design as they function as memorable visual landmarks and gateways, aiding in navigation and defining neighborhood identity. They contribute significantly to the aesthetic quality and civic pride of the area, transforming mundane infrastructure into points of interest and cultural significance.



Love Sculpture In Ny

Jeff Koons Sculpture In Ny

Nike – Lego Play Area

Recommendation 10 - CSR Sponsored Public space design

4. Multifunctional and Flexible Design
These spaces are adaptable to multiple uses—workshops, exhibitions, training sessions, cultural events, and community meetings. Flexibility allows them to serve different age groups, interests, and community needs over time.

5. Colorful Metro pillars
Inspired by examples like the **Puente de Colores** in Spain, artistically painted metro bridge pillars transform massive, often drab, concrete structures into vibrant **public art canvases.** This practice uses large-scale murals to **beautify urban infrastructure,** enhancing the streetscape and providing a distinctive sense of place. Beyond aesthetics, the colorful designs often reflect the culture or history of the local neighborhood, fostering **civic engagement** and making the space beneath elevated lines feel safer and more inviting for pedestrians.

6. Community-Centered Approach
Designing with the local community in mind ensures these spaces reflect cultural identity and social priorities. Citizen involvement in programming and management fosters a sense of ownership and relevance, increasing long-term impact and engagement.


Jeff Koons sculpture in NY


Green Mile Project Mumbai

KT- 5g Urban art Korea

City Thread USA

Recommendation 10 - CSR Sponsored Public space design

Creative CSR spaces cultivate vibrant communities by inspiring collaboration, learning, and shared cultural experiences.

7. Multifunctional and Flexible Design
These spaces are adaptable to multiple uses—workshops, exhibitions, training sessions, cultural events, and community meetings. Flexibility allows them to serve different age groups, interests, and community needs over time.

8. Focus on Creativity and Skill Development
By incorporating studios, maker labs, digital media centers, and art installations, creative CSR spaces inspire innovation and provide citizens with tools to develop new skills. This can range from vocational training to artistic expression, helping bridge gaps in education and employment.

9. Community-Centered Approach
Designing with the local community in mind ensures these spaces reflect cultural identity and social priorities. Citizen involvement in programming and management fosters a sense of ownership and relevance, increasing long-term impact and engagement.

10. Smart Bus Stop design
This smart bus stop can be CSR sponsored, have smart transport info display, digital billboard to earn for its own maintenance and have men / women's toilet on either sides with inbuilt vertical moss garden for C02 absorption.



Smart Bus Stop With Digital Billboard & Toilet


Tokyo Public Toilet


Tokyo Public Toilet


Tokyo Public Toilet

10 Conclusion

The **Bengaluru Vision 2030** framework for establishing the city as India's Global Design Capital represents a critical pivot from being merely a technology hub to a fully integrated **design-led metropolis.** This transition is not about aesthetics alone; it is a strategic and systemic effort to leverage Bengaluru's core strengths—its immense talent pool, vibrant start-up ecosystem, and academic prowess—to address chronic urban issues like mobility, waste management, and environmental degradation. The successful execution of this vision hinges on **inter-disciplinary collaboration**, creating dedicated design-innovation districts, and critically, embedding **design thinking** into public governance and infrastructure planning. By prioritising human-centric, sustainable, and inclusive design principles, Bengaluru can unlock the next phase of its growth, ensuring that its economic prosperity translates directly into enhanced livability for all its citizens.

Ultimately, the long-term impact of this vision transcends the city's boundaries. By successfully resolving its own complex urban challenges through innovative design solutions, Bengaluru will create a **replicable blueprint** for sustainable development across India and the Global South.Realising the 2030 Vision demands unwavering commitment from the government, industry, academia, and citizens, solidifying Bengaluru's place as a truly **global city** where design is the fundamental engine of growth and quality of life.

The recommendations in this report and learnings from the world design capitals would go a long way in building Bengaluru as not just India's design capital but a " Global Design Capital ".

“ DESIGNED IN BENGALURU ”



Bengaluru



Confederation of Indian Industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organisation, with around 9,700 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 365,000 enterprises from 318 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

For 130 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. CII charts change by working closely with the Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness, and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialised services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Through its dedicated Centres of Excellence and Industry competitiveness initiatives, promotion of innovation and technology adoption, and partnerships for sustainability, CII plays a transformative part in shaping the future of the nation. Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes across diverse domains, including affirmative action, livelihoods, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and sustainable development, to name a few.

For 2025-26, CII has identified "Accelerating Competitiveness: Globalisation, Inclusivity, Sustainability, Trust" as its theme, prioritising five key pillars. During the year, CII will align its initiatives to drive strategic action aimed at enhancing India's competitiveness by promoting global engagement, inclusive growth, sustainable practices, and a foundation of trust.

With 70 offices, including 12 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 9 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with about 250 counterpart organisations in almost 100 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

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