



### Panel 3

## Urban Transformation: Future Models and Practices

### Panel Brief:

Urban India is experiencing a major transformation. It is estimated that half of India's population will live in cities by 2050, with urban areas contributing almost 70 percent to the country's GDP. The design, construction and governance of urban areas will determine future living conditions of its inhabitants. Indeed, building the necessary infrastructure will be key for creating livable, climate-resilient, and inclusive cities that drive the economy forward. World Bank estimates that India will need to invest on an average of \$55 billion per annum in urban infrastructure to meet future needs of rising population. How well India manages this urban transformation will play a critical role in realizing its ambition of becoming a developed country by 2047.

Governments with cooperation of private sector are adopting innovative projects to enable Indian cities emerge as global players. The GIFT city in Gujarat is a revolutionary idea of a greenfield development of a planned financial Central Business District (CBD). It is designed as a hub for global financial services sector at par with globally benchmarked financial centres. Gift city is expected to serve as a paradigm for Next Class city in terms of quality of life, infrastructure and ambience that will attract and retain global business and talents. The panel members will engage in a discussion of the challenges of urban transformation in India and future possibilities.

Key questions to be discussed:

- 1. What are the current challenges facing Indian cities? What measures are being taken to address these challenges?**

---
- 2. Is there a need for new cities or should the focus be on fixing existing cities?**

---
- 3. Is the GIFT city model a solution to urban crisis facing other cities? How can it be replicated in other states?**

---
- 4. What can be learned from global experience in other regions?**