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Declaration on The World Environment Day

The United Nations has adopted "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience" as this year's World Environment Day special theme. We, the members of the Institute of Town Planners, on this World Environment Day, recognize that India, with a land share of merely 2.42% of the earth's area, housing 17.7% of the global population, is a highly land-stressed region, affirms the following commitments for land resource conservation in India-

- Optimize the use of land resources to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.
- Preserve, conserve, and add value to the available land resources.
- Creating a balanced land use pattern for all human-related functions and activities
- Minimise land use for urbanisation and maximize the availability of land for agriculture, environment, and afforestation purposes.
- Minimise the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural uses.
- Value the available land resources as a gift of nature and eliminate its misuse.
- Rationalise all planning tools used for promoting planned development.
- Review, revise, and redefine all existing norms and standards, zoning regulations used to plan human settlements, emphasising land conservation.
- Optimise the land resource by adopting the 24x7x365 principle of using urban land.
- Promote compact development, minimising the impact on agricultural land.
- Encourage the use of urban land to promote public good and to meet basic human needs for living, working, health, culture, and circulation.
- Control urban sprawl.
- Prioritise land conservation and minimise urbanisation impact when deciding on land-use conversion projects.
- Collaborate with professional agencies to promote the optimum use of land.
- Aided, advised, assisted, and supported all state and parastatal agencies in framing and implementing policies to conserve and preserve the available land resources.
- Preserve, conserve, and use the land to achieve the universal good of humanity, communities, the environment, ecology, and future generations.

Given under the seal and signature of N. K Patel, President Institute of Town Planners, India; June 5th, 2024.

N.K.Patel

President, Institute of Town Planners India