

## A New Model of Urban development

### Why in news?

At the **Bloomberg New Economy Forum**, PM called for reimagining of urban planning and development to make cities healthy and liveable after COVID-19.

### Why the new urban planning is needed now?

- The fragile infrastructure in urban areas aided the virus spread quickly in cities.
- In the first hundred days of the pandemic, the top 10 cities affected by virus worldwide accounted for 15% of the total COVID cases.
- There was Rapid transmission in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai due to densification and inability to practice distancing norms.
- Whereas in Dharavi, which is one of the world's highest slum densities, experienced low viral impact due to screening and herd immunity.

### What should be the new urban planning based on?

- Good, affordable housing is the necessary for a sustainable and healthy city.
- Unlike speculative housing investments, well-designed rental housing is key to protecting migrant labour and other less affluent sections from virus spread.
- Mumbai is estimated to have added only 5% of rental housing in new residential construction (1961-2000), and that too led by private funding.
- The Centre's **Affordable Rental Housing Complexes** scheme should focus on building new houses on the lines of the post-war reconstruction in Europe, Japan and South Korea by coordinating with states.
- The laws on air pollution, municipal solid waste management and water quality should be strictly enforced to make urban mobility comfortable.
- Cholera, plague and global flu pandemic a century ago led to change in sewerage, waste handling, social housing and health care which helped in controlling the disease.

**Source: The Hindu**



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