

Coordinator, Advocacy

Organisation

Urban Works Institute (UWI) is a not-for-profit organisation registered under charitable trust act, representing the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) in India. ITDP works with cities worldwide to bring about sustainable transport solutions that cut greenhouse gas emissions, reduce poverty, and improve the quality of urban life. It is headquartered in New York City with offices in China, India, Indonesia, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and the United States. ITDP's programme areas include bus rapid transit (BRT), non-motorised transport, travel demand management, and transit-oriented development (TOD). More information can be found on www.itdp.org and www.itdp.in.

ITDP India provides in-depth support to government officials to implement sustainable transport initiatives, and engages with the state government to develop progressive policies and expand sustainable transport paradigm to other cities. ITDP India also engages extensively with media and other stakeholders to promote sustainable and equitable transport ideas.

The India headquarters of ITDP is in Chennai, with field offices in Delhi, Pune and Ranchi. The Chennai office leads all initiatives in Tamil Nadu — with in-depth engagements in Chennai and Coimbatore — as well as supports all the field offices. It is in the process of expanding its programmes to other regions across India in phases.

About the position

We are looking for someone with a strong commitment to equity and sustainability and passion to improve urban life in India. The position involves engaging with a diverse set of people—civic officials, politicians, civil society agents, media, and others— to build support for sustainable and equitable urban transport. This person will be based at the Chennai office but will be required to travel frequently within India. S/he will report to the Manager, Tamil Nadu Programmes and work in close collaboration with team members across ITDP offices in India.

Scope of work

- Engage with senior decision makers in cities and at the state level, and inspire them to implement sustainable transport initiatives.
- Build coalitions with civil society organisations to advocate for sustainable transport initiatives
- Engage with media to generate support for sustainable transport issues through press coverage, campaigns and other initiatives.

- Strategize, develop, organize and execute workshops, conferences, public events and campaigns to build support for implementation of sustainable transport initiatives.
- Develop written material — including proposals, press releases, blogs etc — on sustainable transport campaigns in a manner that is easily understood by our target audience and effectively communicates our messages.

Key qualifications and skills required

- Have at least 6 - 8 years' relevant work experience in advocacy, outreach, and communications that includes interacting with diverse groups of people and establishing partnerships.
- A Master's degree in Political Sciences, Social Work, Journalism, or similar field is highly desirable.
- Demonstrate good understanding of political environment and government systems in India. Prior experience of engaging with government officials and political leaders is highly desirable.
- Have prior experience of working on urban and environmental issues, preferably urban transport and/or urban planning.
- Experienced in planning and organising workshops, events, and campaigns.
- Have a strong grasp of the function and operation of various media formats (print, electronic, new media). Strong connections with media houses highly desirable.
- Demonstrate very good command of spoken English and Tamil. Hindi desirable.
- Must have strong English writing and editing skills. Tamil and Hindi desirable.
- Ability to communicate complex issues as concise, compelling messages.
- Ability to make impactful presentations that move people into action.
- Very good command on MS Office suite.
- Experience with social media campaigns preferred.

How to apply

Interested applicants can apply to jobs.india@itdp.org using “Coordinator -Advocacy” in the subject line, with the following documents in a PDF format (maximum 5 MB):

- Resume
- Examples of successful advocacy done at city or state level which has resulted in initiating a project
- A two page note on your thoughts on improving quality of urban life in India

We are unable to consider applications without the above details. The position will remain open until filled.
