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Create space for poor: Ex-mayor of Bogota

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THE FORMER mayor of Bogota had a suggestion for the city on Friday.

"Creating public and pedestrian space is a symbol of human dignity in any city," Enrique Penalosa said.

As experts from around the globe shared their experiences at the Urban Age India Conference on how different cities had successfully housed the poor, the former mayor of the capital of Colombia shed light on how to give the poor a better quality of life as well.

Penalosa said Bogota created the best facilities in even the poorest of neighbourhoods - good schools, health clinics or walkways. "We created a 23-km pedestrian street in a poor locality because it is as important as car space," he said.

Bogota has 70 lakh people and many of same problems as the city - land scarcity, housing shortage and a burgeoning population.

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