

SAMARASYA – City of Harmony



Essence through Theme:

As the theme is 'City, Health and Wellbeing', it suggests a city with all the aspects of life balanced in every way. Hence, to summarize it in a word is 'Samarasya'.

'Samarasya', which is a Kannada and Hindi word for Rapport and Harmony and has Sanskrit meaning as 'condition of oneness'. Hence, with respect to the planning field, we can imagine a city of harmony; which is in the logo represented by the symbol of **Yin and Yang**.

What is yin and yang?

Yin and Yang has Chinese origin symbolizing 'Harmony through Balance', which speak for the interdependence and interconnectedness of seemingly opposite forces which has profound insights into the nature of existence providing a framework for understanding the dynamic equilibrium that underlies all aspects of life.

Why yin and yang?

The concept of Yin and Yang is symbolized by the iconic Taijitu, a circular symbol divided into two equal, complementary halves. The black and white halves represent Yin and Yang, respectively, with a small dot of each color within the opposing section, symbolizing the presence of one within the other. Yin is associated with qualities such as darkness, passivity, receptivity and the feminine principle, while Yang embodies light activity, assertiveness, and the masculine principle.

Despite their apparent contradictions, Yin and Yang are interdependent, illustrating the inherent duality and balance in the natural order.

Harmony through balance:

The philosophy of Yin and Yang advocates for the pursuit of harmony through balance. It suggests that imbalance and disharmony arise when one force dominates the other. True equilibrium, according to this philosophy, is achieved when Yin and Yang are in harmonious proportion, acknowledging the necessity of both in creating a unified whole.

This balance extends to various aspects of life, including health, relationships, and societal structures. For example, **Societal Structures:** Cities, as complex ecosystems, can be seen as embodying the principles of Yin and Yang. Yin qualities, such as receptivity, tranquility, and communal spaces, can be reflected in parks, public spaces, and residential areas. These spaces provide a counterbalance to the Yang aspect of the city, characterized by activities, commerce, and bustling urban life. Recognizing the need for both Yin and Yang elements within the urban landscape is crucial for fostering a sense of well-being and equilibrium.

The cities of Yin and Yang extends to the planning and design of societal structures within cities. Balanced governance, where the Yin qualities of empathy, inclusivity, and social welfare complement the Yang attributes of efficiency, innovation, and progress, contributes to a more stable and resilient society. A harmonious blend of these opposing forces fosters an environment where the needs of individuals are met while ensuring collective progress and prosperity.

Transportation systems within cities also illustrate the Yin and Yang dynamic. Efficient and well-connected transportation networks (Yang) must be balanced with an emphasis on sustainability, safety, and accessibility (Yin).

In essence, the philosophy of Yin and Yang provides a holistic framework for creating cities and societal structures that are not only functional but also nurturing and sustainable. By embracing the interdependence of opposing forces, cities can become vibrant, dynamic, and harmonious spaces where individuals and communities thrive.

Similarly, the principles of Yin and Yang can be applied to interpersonal relationships, where understanding the importance of complementary qualities fosters harmony and cooperation.