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ICLEI South Asia E-News

November 2021



**Emani Kumar**  
Deputy Secretary  
General, ICLEI and  
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Dear friends,

The recently concluded COP26 in Glasgow has left us pondering over the accelerated actions that need to be taken by countries, which have been asked to submit more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions by the end of 2022. While a global energy transition seems to be the need of the hour to achieve net-zero emissions in the next few decades, we should not underplay the importance of small-scale climate actions by local and regional governments.

Keeping this objective in mind, ICLEI South Asia is partnering with the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission to support the state in enhancing climate-resilient development through its CapaCITIES Phase II project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. In this regard, Dr. Ralf Heckner, Hon'ble Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan, along with the project team, had a meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. M. K. Stalin to propose the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise cooperation with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests under the CapaCITIES project.

Moreover, under the Urban-LEDS II project, Thane and Nagpur have come up with multi-sectoral Climate Resilient City Action Plans (CRCAPs) to help the cities bring down greenhouse gas emissions. Similarly, two cities in Bangladesh, Rajshahi and Narayanganj, have developed their CRCAPs to identify and prioritise their adaptation and mitigation strategies.

This edition features all these and other interesting project activities. In addition, Mairi Dupar from the Climate and Development Knowledge Network programme analyses the massive amount of work cut out for countries post-COP26 in an informative blog. There is also a

delightful article in Hindi on child-friendly traditions and cultures of Udaipur city, India. Hope you enjoy reading this edition.

Keep writing to us and let us know your feedback. Happy reading!

## Latest developments

### SDC Extends Support to Tamil Nadu for Mainstreaming Climate Action under CapaCITIES Project

Hon'ble Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan, Dr. Ralf Heckner submitted a Letter of Intent to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Mr. M. K. Stalin, extending support to enhance climate-resilient development in the state. To this effect, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) supported CapaCITIES Phase II project will partner with the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission. The project is supporting the states of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat and eight cities in India to mainstream climate action, and is being jointly implemented by ICLEI South Asia, South Pole and econcept from Switzerland.



[Read more](#)



### Thane, Nagpur Reflect on Urban-LEDS II Achievements in Spurring Climate-Resilient Development

Thane and Nagpur now have multi-sectoral Climate Resilient City Action Plans (CRCAPs) in place to help steer their ambitions and efforts for bringing down greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, while reducing vulnerability to climate change and enhancing urban sustainability. Having achieved these milestones under the Urban-LEDS II project, meetings were held in Thane and Nagpur to reflect on various activities undertaken from 2017 to 2021.

[Read more](#)

### Urban-LEDS II in Rajshahi, Narayanganj: Leading the Way for Climate-Resilient Development in Bangladesh

The CRCAPs of Rajshahi and Narayanganj, developed under the Urban-LEDS II project, list several 'structural' and 'enabling' strategies spread across key urban sectors, which provide a pathway for both cities to enhance their adaptation and mitigation strategies. These strategies will not only help reduce GHG emissions and better manage local climate risks, but will also support their Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) aspirations.



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### Panaji Highlights Low-Carbon Strategies for Urban Freight at Daring Cities 2021

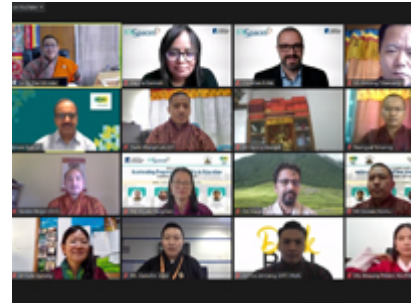
As the first Indian city to develop low-carbon strategies for urban freight, in collaboration with ICLEI South Asia, Corporation of the City of Panaji was invited to present their Low Carbon Action Plan on Urban Freight during the cornerstone event at the Daring Cities 2021 conference. The strategies and key steps taken by the Corporation and the processes involved in developing the Low Carbon Action Plan were presented at the event.

[Read more](#)

### Bhutan's Transition to Blended Learning: KASpaces Webinar Highlights Benefits, Challenges

ICLEI South Asia, Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Singapore, and the Royal University of Bhutan jointly organised a KASpaces Bhutan webinar on "Accelerating Progress and Equality in Education". The webinar focused on identifying key issues and a collaborative framework, promoting stakeholder collaboration, building capacity, and on discussing best practices in education towards achieving SDG 4 which focuses on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

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**“यो महारो नानकियो उदेपुर है”**

**यादों के झरोखे से खास मुलाकात- पुराने उदयपुर के साथ**





उदयपुर में एक खास किस्म की नफासत है, जो दिल्ली, जयपुर या किसी और शहर में नहीं मिलती। केवल इमारतें या बाग-बगीचे ही नहीं बल्कि यहाँ की जीवंत विरासत (Living heritage) में पर्व, त्यौहार, मेले, जुबान-बोली, घर-मोहल्ले आदि भी बच्चों और उनके अभिभावकों (केयरगिवर्स) को केंद्र में रखकर तैयार किये गए हैं। शहर को जब करीब से देखते-समझते हैं तो लगता है जैसे किसी ने यादों का मीठा शहद आँखों- कानों में घोल दिया हो। केवल राह चलते लोग ही नहीं, बल्कि इस शहर में तो सब्जी बेचने वाले से लेकर सोना-चाँदी बेचने वाले तक बच्चों के लिए अलग से आपके झोले में कुछ डालने को तैयार रहते हैं। और जब वे मनुहार करते हुए ठेठ देसी मेवाड़ी में कहते हैं- “अरे जीया, यो आपरे वास्ते नी है, यो तो म्हारे भानेजा-भानेजी रे वास्ते म्हारी तरफ-ऊँ है” (बहन, यह मेरे भांजा-भांजी के लिए मेरी तरफ से भेंट है) तो शहर की विरासत और मेवाड़ी बोली, दोनों पर फक्र महसूस होता है। कई बार तो परकोटे के भीतर माहौल कुछ ऐसा हो जाता है कि अजनबी यही सोचकर कुछ बोलने से डरते हैं कि वे सबसे अलग दिखने लग जायेंगे कि- अरे इसे तो यह भी नहीं पता !!

[Read more](#)

## Blogs



### 'Our Fragile Planet is Hanging by a Thread' – Gutters

Huge work remains, following COP26, to transition to a net zero emissions, climate-resilient future. Mairi Dupar reports.

[Read more](#)

## Events

### ICLEI World Congress 2021 - 2022: The Malmö Summit

Join the Congress onsite in Malmö or virtually to learn about innovative strategies and cutting edge solutions in sustainable and equitable urban development,

exchange good practices, get inspired and connect beyond borders with leading experts and sustainability champions from around the globe. The summit will be held from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. Registrations are open now.



ICLEI World Congress  
Malmö, Sweden • 2021 - 2022

[Register here](#)

## More from ICLEI across the globe

- [Meaningful Progress at COP26 Predicted Because No Country Wants to Be Seen as a “Climate Pariah”](#)
- [COP26 outcomes: Multilevel action is the beacon of hope to keep the 1.5 degree goal alive](#)

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### About ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

ICLEI firmly believes that sustainable cities are the foundation of a just and sustainable world. We create systemic change in urban areas through practical, integrated solutions and spark city-to-city and city-to-region connections. ICLEI brings a strong urban component to national and global sustainability policy and translates global policy into action. Through our collective efforts, ICLEI is building a sustainable urban world to shift the trajectory of global development.

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