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ICLEI South Asia E-News

February 2022



*Emani Kumar  
Deputy Secretary  
General, ICLEI and  
Executive Director,  
ICLEI South Asia*

Dear readers,

Hope you all had a pleasant start to the New Year. We kick-started 2022 with a bunch of new developments, both in terms of ongoing activities and venturing into new areas with exciting initiatives. We are also happy to announce that ICLEI South Asia is growing, with over 70 staff supporting South Asian cities, as well as national and subnational governments.

January started with the inauguration of groundwater recharge systems involving rainwater harvesting at two public schools in Nagpur, Maharashtra, with support from Nagpur Municipal Corporation and Nagpur Smart and Sustainable City Development Corporation Limited. The initiative was implemented under the European Commission-funded Urban-LEDS II project.

Our team also conducted a plastic waste survey in Surat, Gujarat, under the Alliance + ICLEI Developing Plastic Waste-Free Cities project, funded by the Alliance to End Plastic Waste. The data and information gathered from the survey will help Surat Municipal Corporation to develop a plastic waste management action plan. More details can be found in an article in this edition. We have also come out with insightful knowledge products, such as training manuals on climate resilience for local governments in Nepal and Bangladesh. Three policy briefs on building climate resilience and reducing heat impacts are also being prepared under the Climate Development and Knowledge Network programme.

We have had a series of webinars on improving climate transparency

and reducing finance gaps under the Asia LEDS Partnership programme. In addition, to mark the completion of the Urban-LEDS II project, a closure webinar highlighted the project achievements, including capacity building and mainstreaming of climate actions in city planning. Don't miss out on the Hindi blog that has an inspiring story about women's empowerment in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Keep sending us your feedback. Happy reading!

## Latest developments

### CDKN Asia Develops New Knowledge Products for Enhancing Climate Resilience

Under the Climate and Development Knowledge Network -Knowledge Accelerator (CDKN-KA) programme, ICLEI South Asia, in collaboration with other institutions, has developed several publications that will be launched soon. These publications include training manuals and policy briefs that will help local governments in Nepal and Bangladesh to enhance their climate resilience and heat impact preparedness.



[Read more](#)



### Urban-LEDS II: Closure Webinar Highlights Capacity Building, Mainstreaming of Climate Actions in City Planning

UN-Habitat and ICLEI South Asia jointly organised a webinar on 'Accelerating climate action through the promotion of Urban Low Emission Development Strategies' project or Urban-LEDS II (2017-2021) to mark the successful closing of the project. The webinar, which was attended by senior officials from several countries, highlighted the key impacts, outcomes and lessons learnt under the project.

[Read more](#)

### IoT Devices to Monitor Groundwater Recharge Pilots in Nagpur Schools

Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) and Nagpur Smart and Sustainable Development Corporation Limited inaugurated the first-of-its-kind Internet of Things (IoT) based groundwater recharge systems for rainwater harvesting at two public schools, as part of the Urban-LEDS II project. NMC plans to replicate similar projects across the city, through rainwater harvesting and scientific use of appropriate designs and methodologies.



[Read more](#)

### ALP Webinars Highlight Solutions for Improving Climate Transparency, Finance Gaps

The Asia LEDS Partnership hosted a peer learning webinar series on 'Sub National Integration in the Asia Pacific', which focused on climate action planning tools and methodologies, climate project structuring and monitoring, reporting and verification systems. Experts made presentations on knowledge-sharing platforms such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System, as well as climate finance and processes to track climate actions.

[Read more](#)

### Findings by ICLEI South Asia, Alliance to End Plastic Waste Show Opportunities in Surat City

A municipal solid waste (especially plastic waste) quantification and characterisation survey was conducted in Surat recently, under the the Alliance + ICLEI Developing Plastic Waste-Free Cities project. The data and information gathered from the survey will help Surat Municipal Corporation to develop a plastic waste management action plan.

[Read more](#)

तोड़-तोड़ के बन्धनों को, देखो बहनें आती हैं ...

सुदूर आदिवासी अंचल से उदयपुर आकर आशा सहयोगिनी बनी  
गीता गरासिया की कहानी





“मेरा नाम गीता गरासिया है। मैं कोटड़ा तहसील (जिला- उदयपुर) की बेड़ाधर पंचायत के खोलिया फला गाँव की रहने वाली हूँ। मेरा घर उदयपुर शहर से लगभग १०० किलोमीटर दूर है। मेरे पूरे गाँव में मैं पहली लड़की हूँ, जिसने दसवीं और फिर बारहवीं पास की। सात भाई बहिनों में मेरा नंबर चौथा है। मुझसे बड़ी तीन बहनें हैं। हमारे पास एक छोटी सी खेती की ज़मीन है, जिस पर हम मक्का, उड़द और गेहूँ उगाते हैं।

बचपन से मेरी एक जैसी दिनचर्या रही। मैं सुबह बकरियाँ चराती, छोटे भाई बहनों को संभालती और जंगल से लकड़ियाँ भी लाती। मेरा घर एक पहाड़ी पर है। घर से आधा किलोमीटर नीचे उतरकर नदी और हैंडपंप से पानी भरना भी मेरा और मेरी बहन का काम था। मेरे गाँव में पिछले साल ही सोलर बिजली पहुँची है। जंगल की ज़मीन होने के कारण हमारे यहाँ बिजली के खम्भे नहीं लग सकते। गाँव तक जाने के लिए मुख्य सड़क से ३ किलोमीटर कच्ची पगडण्डी पर पैदल चलना पड़ता है। पाँचवीं तक का स्कूल तो गाँव में ही था, उसके बाद ३ किलोमीटर दूर पंचायत तक आकर आठवीं तक पढ़ाई की। जब घर वालों ने घरेलू काम और बकरियाँ चराने के लिए दबाव डाला तो आगे नियमित छात्रा के तौर पर कभी स्कूल नहीं गयी। मेरे घर वाले मुझे मज़दूरी के लिए मेरी बहनों के साथ गुजरात भेजना चाहते थे। मैंने मना कर दिया। मेरी ज़िद रंग लाई। पर मैं अपनी बहनों को गुजरात जाने से नहीं रोक पाई। मैंने घर के काम करते- करते पहले दसवीं और फिर बारहवीं प्राइवेट (पत्राचार) पास की। मैं आगे पढ़ाई करके नौकरी करना चाहती थी, पर घर वाले तैयार नहीं थे। दिन ऐसे ही गुज़र रहे थे।

[Read more](#)

## Events

Peer learning Session: Emission reduction tool-  
Lessons from Mongolia



Join us for a webinar to get insights into Mongolia's experience in developing the emission reduction tool to support the green loan programme. The webinar will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 from 9:00-10:30 IST.

[Register here](#)

## 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

- [Cities and regions thriving with nature in 2022](#)
- [COVID-19, climate change, liberal democracy and the role of local governments](#)

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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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