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ICLEI South Asia E-News

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Emani Kumar
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General, ICLEI and
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Dear Readers,

Cities serve as hubs of innovation and economic vitality, and they also grapple with profound social, economic, and environmental challenges. Urban centres in Asia are witnessing a surge in extreme weather events, including floods, cyclones and droughts, wreaking havoc on infrastructure and property, and resulting in substantial economic losses. This underscores the critical need for infrastructure development, meticulous urban planning, and adequate financing to tackle climate change.

Climate finance was a major talking point at the Urban 20 and G20 meetings this year, and to continue the dialogue on the issue, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability organised the UrbanShift Forum (Asia) in New Delhi, jointly with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), along with several international organisations as partners. The UrbanShift programme, being implemented in nine countries including India, is funded by the Global Environment Facility and led by the United Nations Environment Programme.

We were delighted to have Hon'ble Minister Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, MoHUA, open the Forum and address an illustrious gathering of more than 150 representatives of national and local governments, multilateral organisations, financial institutions, businesses and NGOs. The four days of the Forum were marked by intense discussions, technical and training sessions, non-commercial events and high-level investors' roundtable on issues such as urbanisation challenges, financing strategies for e-mobility, climate finance, urban densification and sustainable urbanisation.

This edition showcases the highlights of the Forum and also our other impactful activities in focus areas as diverse as the development of

climate actions plans for Dhaka, supporting Bangladesh's Urban Vision 2050, organising a brilliant kid's festival in Udaipur and mapping critical ecosystems in Noida.

Do follow us on social media and keep watching this space, as we promise to bring coverage of several exciting developments and events that are lined up in the weeks ahead.

Warm Regards!

Latest developments

UrbanShift Asia Forum Makes Debut, Highlights Key Urban Issues

The Forum, organised by ICLEI under the UrbanShift programme, proved to be a pivotal platform for providing training and capacity-building to regional cities on various facets of sustainable urban development. Over 250 representatives of national governments and cities in India, Indonesia, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Jordan, and Sri Lanka, and of international organisations, financial institutions, businesses, and NGOs attended the four-day event in New Delhi.



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Back with a Bang: Urban95 Brings Festival Fun to Kids in Udaipur

Fun and frolic marked the Urban95 Kids' festival in Udaipur, where children had a gala time reading books, making clay toys and watching a magician's performance, among several other entertaining activities. The event was organised jointly by the Udaipur Municipal Corporation and the Bernard van Leer Foundation, with technical support from ICLEI South Asia and Ecorys India Pvt. Ltd.

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Key Sessions at International Conference Put Focus on Climate Finance in Bangladesh

ICLEI South Asia, in collaboration with GIZ Bangladesh, hosted two sessions at the third International Conference on Urban and Regional Planning, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, as part of the Climate Resilient Inclusive Smart Cities project, funded by GIZ. The sessions focused on developing the Bangladesh Urban Vision 2050 and on increasing the accessibility of climate finance by addressing local challenges.



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Climate Action Plans for Dhaka: Workshop Discusses Strategies, Stakeholder Experiences

A consultation workshop was held in Dhaka to engage stakeholders for validating the draft Greenhouse Gas inventory and Climate Change Risk Assessment reports, as part of the development of two distinct Climate Action Plans for the Dhaka North City Corporation and Dhaka South City Corporation. ICLEI South Asia, in partnership with C40 Cities, is supporting the development of the two action plans.

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Noida Biodiversity Strategy: Critical Ecosystems Identified

ICLEI South Asia is developing the Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Noida under a project supported by the HCL Foundation. In this connection, a consultation meeting was held with academicians and researchers from Amity University, Noida, in which seven critical ecosystems were identified and their services and benefits were mapped.



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Events



2023 Asia Low Carbon Development Strategic Partner Exchange Forum

Join the 2023 Exchange Forum on Asia Low Emission Strategic Partnership virtually and gain insights from policymakers, industry professionals, and other experts in promoting low-emission, climate-resilient development in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Date: 22 October, 2023

Time: 6:30-9:40 AM IST

[Register here](#)

पेड़-प्रकृति की रक्षा और उसके साथ . . .

आदिवासियों का लोक नाट्य, जो चलता है पूरे ४० दिन



अरावली की पहाड़ियों को जब सावन भिगो चुका होता है, भादौ की दूसरी ही तिथि को मांदल और थाली बज उठती है, खासकर उन आदिवासी इलाकों में जो भील बहुत हैं और जो भगवान शिव के उपासक हैं। प्रकृति की गोद में लहलहाती फसलें दानों को दूधाधार बनाने में अपना ध्यान देती है और उस दाने को दमदार बनाने के लिए भील समुदाय वाले शिव-गौरी की आराधना में निकल पड़ते हैं, गांव-गांव 'गवरी' की लीला आरंभ हो जाती है। रोजाना दस से लेकर पंद्रह खेल।

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- [Constituency of cities, towns, regions and other subnationals release climate position statement ahead of COP28](#)

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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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