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## E-Newsletter - December 2024



Dear friends,

As we continue to advance our mission for sustainable urban development, I am proud to share the impactful strides ICLEI South Asia has made in recent months across the region. At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, we emphasized the indispensable role of local governments in climate action. It was inspiring to see the commitment from global leaders, with developed countries pledging \$300 billion annually by 2035 to support developing nations.

At the World Urban Forum 12 in Cairo, ICLEI South Asia led critical discussions on bridging the gap between climate mitigation and adaptation. The sessions highlighted innovative approaches to urban climate resilience, showcased the transformative role of cities, and underscored the importance of inclusive partnerships, including the vital contributions of faith-based organisations.

The National Conference on Urban Biodiversity in Hyderabad, held in collaboration with National Biodiversity Authority, on 29-30 November 2024 was a great success. Over 200 delegates from 35 cities came together to discuss the critical role local governments play in fostering urban biodiversity and sustainability.

We are also excited about our collaboration with Amazon in creating urban food gardens in India's megacities. This initiative will provide nutritious meals to schoolchildren and

long-term solutions for our cities' growth.

In India, cities like Kakinada, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam are leading by example, setting the stage for achieving net-zero emissions by 2047, addressing disaster risk reduction and mainstreaming gender and social inclusion in climate action. Similarly, our work in the Darjeeling Himalayas, to address water scarcity in tea garden communities reflects the power of community-led approaches for sustainable solutions to water security issues, by blending traditional knowledge with modern techniques.

Meanwhile, in Bangladesh, Narayanganj through its Heat Action Plan and Lalmonirhat through its disaster risk reduction initiatives, are proactively addressing climate-induced challenges and public health for its most vulnerable residents. At the Global Climate Investment Forum 2024 in Malaysia, we highlighted the critical need for partnerships and investments to realize green city visions. We are also happy to release the Report of the ALP Forum 2024, held in Thailand from 19-21 August 2024, which focused on "Decarbonization in the Asia Pacific through 2025 NDCs".

Looking ahead, our journey continues to strengthen urban resilience, foster inclusivity, and drive innovation. Thank you for being a part of this collective endeavor. Together, we can shape a sustainable future for our cities and communities.

Eyes down for next year, when we celebrate the 20 years of ICLEI SA existence!

**Emani Kumar**

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

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

### ICLEI South Asia at COP29: Towards a Climate-Resilient Future

At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and Executive Director of ICLEI South Asia, led sessions on how cities can enhance climate resilience. On 12 November, he spoke at the Multilevel Action and Urbanization Pavilion, encouraging global conversations to include urban regions. He also led a discussion about Malaysia's Green City Action Plans. Throughout the occasion, Kumar stressed teamwork and the importance of financing to support sustainable municipal efforts. A notable effect of the event was developed countries' commitment to provide \$300 billion per year by 2035 to fund climate action in developing countries.



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ICLEI South Asia led crucial discussions on urban resilience at the 12th World Urban Forum from 5-7 November 2024. On 5 November, we co-hosted a session titled "Building Resilient Cities: Bridging the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Gap" with major worldwide partners to emphasize cities' transformative role in addressing climate change. Experts discussed optimal methods for linking local actions with national and global climate goals. On 6 November, ICLEI's Deputy Secretary General, Emani Kumar, took part in a podcast at the Faith Pavilion, emphasizing the role of faith actors in climate resilience. On 7 November, ICLEI co-hosted a workshop at the India Pavilion about climate-smart development and locally led adaptation for urban resilience.

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### Kakinada, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam Lead the Charge Towards Net Zero

On 20 November 2024, city officials gathered in Visakhapatnam for a workshop on equipping city officials with the tools and knowledge for developing and implementing city-level climate-resilient plans. The session focused on climate adaptation and exchanged best practices from other cities. ICLEI and C40 will continue to help these cities with technical assessment studies to attain their visionary goal of net-zero targets by 2047, and for reporting their progress on global platforms. These plans will focus on climate risk assessments, emissions inventories, and emission reduction strategies.

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### IUEPM Workshop Strengthens ASEAN's Path Towards Sustainable Urban-Energy Planning

The IUEPM Workshop, conducted in Jakarta on 20-21 November 2024, brought together professionals to discuss integrating energy into urban planning. The ACE-organized event, which was supported by USAID SPP, focused on smart cities, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

ICLEI South Asia spoke about urban-energy planning tools and incorporating solar energy into cities. The event also covered the USAID SPP's Competitive Procurement Center (CPC), which promotes sustainable energy in ASEAN. The seminar culminated with a tour to Jakarta Smart City, which demonstrated real-time data management for urban planning.



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### Asia LEDES Partnership Forum 2024: Report Now Available!

The Asia LEDES Partnership (ALP) has issued the report from the Asia LEDES Partnership Forum 2024, which was held in Bangkok from 20-22 August 2024. The forum, which attracted over 160 participants from 32 nations, focused on "Decarbonization in the Asia Pacific through 2025 NDCs." Key conclusions include the need for improved inter-ministerial cooperation, local context consideration, and NDC alignment with LT-LEDS. The paper also underlines the necessity of technology transfer and regional cooperation in meeting climate targets.



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### Narayanganj City Takes Major Step Towards Climate Resilience with Development of First Heat Action Plan in Bangladesh

Narayanganj City has initiated work on Bangladesh's first Heat Action Plan (HAP) with the help of ICLEI South Asia. The initiative focuses on heat stress, a major climate concern listed in the city's 2021 Climate Resilient City Action initiative (CRCAP). Work on the HAP began in November 2024 and intends to protect disadvantaged groups while also improving the city's resilience to excessive heat. ICLEI South Asia is conducting a baseline evaluation to help shape the plan's development. This program will improve public health and help Narayanganj achieve its climate adaptation goals, serving as a model for other cities in Bangladesh.



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### Stakeholder Consultation Workshop Advances Climate-Induced Disaster Risk Reduction Planning in Lalmonirhat Municipality

As part of the CDKN Phase 3 project, a workshop on Climate-Induced Disaster Risk Reduction was conducted in Bangladesh's Lalmonirhat Municipality on 13 November 2024. In order to evaluate the city's climate risks and vulnerabilities, 21 stakeholders—including community leaders and municipal officials—came together for the event. Waterlogging, environmental damage, and an increase in thunderstorms were the main topics of debate. The workshop's insights can help shape a comprehensive



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### CDKN Asia presents a session on Gender and Social Inclusion at a Workshop on Building Climate Resilient Cities in Visakhapatnam, India

At the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation workshop in Visakhapatnam on 20 November 2024, CDKN gave a presentation on "Mainstreaming Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Climate Action." In order to guarantee that the benefits of climate action reach all vulnerable groups, Anuradha Adhikari, CDKN Asia's Country Engagement Lead for India, underlined the significance of incorporating gender issues. She emphasized the importance of traditional knowledge and the inclusion of underrepresented groups in climate planning as agents of change. Sixty people attended the seminar, which covered the necessity of inclusive solutions and the significance of keeping an eye on the effects on vulnerable groups.

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### Workshop in Manali Promotes EV Charging Infrastructure to Promote E-Mobility and Sustainable Tourism

Supported by ICLEI South Asia and local authorities, a workshop in Manali on 12 November 2024, concentrated on creating EV charging infrastructure in hotels to encourage environmentally conscious travel. The Himachal Pradesh EV Policy and governmental programs to promote sustainable energy were the focus of the discussion. In addition to discussing cooperation strategies and financial obstacles, experts talked about the economic and environmental advantages of EV infrastructure for tourism. Hotel owner and Vice-President of Manali Hoteliers Association, Roshan Thakur praised the initiative, acknowledging its potential to establish Manali as a sustainable vacation destination. Participants underlined how crucial stakeholder collaboration is to the effective deployment of e-mobility solutions.

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### National Conference on Urban Biodiversity: Fostering Sustainable Cities Through Collaboration And Conservation

urban biodiversity in Hyderabad on 29-30 November 2024. Over 200 delegates, including mayors, legislators, and urban experts from 35 cities, debated critical methods for biodiversity conservation in urban areas. The event featured notable speakers, including Smt. Vijayalaxmi Gadwal, Hon'ble Mayor of Hyderabad, who emphasized the city's global renown for biodiversity efforts. Through technical seminars and site visits, the conference stressed the importance of local government partnership in creating environmentally sustainable communities.

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### Green Cities Investment Forum 2024 (GCIF24): Advancing Malaysia's Green City Action Plans

The Green Cities Investment Forum (GCIF24), held in Kuala Lumpur on 26–27 November 2024, focused on important investment prospects for Green City Action Plans (GCAPs) in Penang Island, Langkawi, Kota Bharu, and Kuching (Padawan) of Malaysia. The forum, co-hosted by ADB and the Centre for IMT-GT, drew 363 participants from government, financial institutions, and the business sector. GCIF24, which focused on climate action, encouraged collaboration, reviewed green investment strategies, and delved into issues such as the blue economy and ESG funding. The summit closed with a vow to advance GCAP projects, paving the way for a larger Green City Investment Summit in 2025.

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### Amazon and ICLEI South Asia Join Forces to Launch Urban Food Gardens, Boost School Nutrition and Foster Biodiversity in Indian Megacities

Amazon and ICLEI South Asia—launched a ground-breaking urban food garden project in India on 14 November 2024. Over the next three years, the project intends to establish 75 urban food gardens in Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, providing 15 million wholesome meals to students attending municipal schools. The program, which is funded by Amazon's Right Now Climate Fund, encourages biodiversity, local food production, and practical learning opportunities in rainwater recycling and composting. This project would aim to tackle food insecurity, help pollinators, and enable communities to create healthier, greener futures for India's kids by promoting a sustainable future.



## BLOG

### Addressing Water Scarcity in the Darjeeling Himalayas: A Community-Led Approach

Water supply is a crucial concern in many remote hamlets in the Darjeeling Himalayas, where water sources rely heavily on spring-fed systems that are sensitive to irregular rainfall patterns exacerbated by climate change. ICLEI South Asia is tackling these issues through its Community-Led Climate Resilient Water Security initiative in the Kurseong and Jorebunglow-Sukiapokhari blocks. The initiative, which focuses on four tea plantations, intends to increase water security by combining traditional knowledge with scientific assessments, implementing localized water management systems, and encouraging climate-resistant infrastructure.



[Read Full Blog](#)

## जलवायु परिवर्तन और छोटे बच्चों पर प्रभाव

जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण शहरी क्षेत्रों में मौसम में असामान्य बदलाव आ रहे हैं, जैसे अत्यधिक गर्मी, अचानक बारिश और बाढ़। ये बदलाव खासकर गरीब और कमजोर वर्गों, विशेष रूप से छोटे बच्चों और गर्भवती महिलाओं पर गंभीर प्रभाव डाल रहे हैं। इन वर्गों को जलजनित बीमारियाँ, गर्मी से संबंधित समस्याएँ और कुपोषण का सामना करना पड़ता है, जो उनके स्वास्थ्य को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित करते हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त, बाढ़ और चरम मौसम के दौरान बच्चों की शिक्षा और विकास पर भी नकारात्मक असर पड़ता है। आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों और अन्य संस्थाओं की बंदी से बच्चों को महत्वपूर्ण सीखने और सामाजिक अवसरों से वंचित होना पड़ता है, जिससे उनके समग्र विकास में देरी हो सकती है।

इस स्थिति में, शहरों में जलवायु लचीलापन बढ़ाने के लिए तत्काल नीतिगत हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकता है, ताकि बच्चों और गर्भवती महिलाओं को बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ, शिक्षा और सुरक्षा मिल सके।



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# HOT OFF THE PRESS

**हिमाचल भास्कर** 13-11-2022

**मनाली में झूली घाटिंग इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर को बढ़ावा देने के पर लगी चर्चा**

मनाली मनाली को रफ्तार पाने का एक अग्रणी केंद्र बनने के उद्देश्य से, आधुनिकताओं का विकास, विमान परिवहन निवेशक और विमान सेवा प्रदाता विभाग के सहयोग से एक आधुनिक परिवहन का अग्रणी विभाग है।

अवसर में मनाली के क्षेत्रों में इतिहासिक महत्व (सी) घाटिंग इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर के विकास पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जा, जहां परिवहन निवेशक का को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके और

वर्क-इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर में सही तरह का सही सुख सुविधाएं एवं कार्यालय सुविधाएं विभिन्न संस्थानों ने काम को ईंधन स्रोत के साथ ही अग्रणी और आधुनिक क्षेत्रों को बढ़ावा के लिए किए गए हैं।

CM, K +

**‘Conservation and restoration our goal’**

**IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED**

Hyderabad: Preserving water resources, vital for all life forms, and protecting biodiversity remains our key priority. HYDRAA commissioner AV Rangarath said during a national conference on ‘Urban Biodiversity’ organised by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) on Saturday.

The commissioner highlighted HYDRAA’s focus on conserving and restoring urban lakes, ensuring they remain sources of clean water while enhancing the surrounding environment with plantation drives. Such efforts aim to create conducive habitats for biodiversity.

HYDRAA has also been ac-

61% of Hyderabad’s lakes already encroached upon

39% lakes could disappear within 15 years without immediate action, warns HYDRAA chief

more cautious about whether their properties within lake zones or green areas. This change is tied to HYDRAA’s enforcement efforts and court directions mandating the demolition of unauthorised construction in such zones.

With over 41% of Hyderabad’s lakes already encroached upon, Rangarath noted that without immediate action, the remaining 39 will disappear within 15 years. HYDRAA is working with multiple agencies, including the Survey of India, the Urban Survey Department (USDM), to document lake boundaries, buffer zones, and other public spaces.

To strengthen enforcement, HYDRAA is setting up a dedicated police station to address complaints and take immediate action.

Rangarath noted increased public awareness about lake boundaries, buffer zones, and green lands. People are now

**Hans India** LATEST NEWS HYDERABAD CRICKET ENTERTAINMENT PHOTO

Workshop organised on ‘Building Climate-Resilient Cities’

Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Mayor G Hari Venkata Kumar addressing the gathering in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

Climate change is a global phenomenon impacting urban life, with costly consequences for basic urban services, infrastructure, housing, livelihoods, and health, stated Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Mayor G Hari Venkata Kumar.

Attending a workshop on ‘Building Climate-Resilient Cities: From Planning to Implementation’ here on Wednesday, the Mayor said that as a coastal industrial city, Visakhapatnam is particularly vulnerable to climate hazards and disasters.

**జీవ వైవిధ్య పరిరక్షణ అందరి బాధ్యత**

జీవ వైవిధ్యం అనేది ప్రకృతి యొక్క అపారమైన వనరు. ఇది మానవులకు అవసరమైన ఆహార, వాతావరణం మరియు ఆరోగ్యం కోసం అత్యవసరం. అయితే, మానవ చర్యలు మరియు వాతావరణ మార్పులు జీవ వైవిధ్యంను తగ్గిస్తున్నాయి. దీనిని నివారించడానికి మరియు జీవ వైవిధ్యంను పునరుద్ధరించడానికి అందరి బాధ్యత ఉంది.

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**‘61% city lakes already encroached, the rest could disappear in 15 years’**

HYDRABAD (SUNDAY) DECEMBER 12, 2022

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**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN BIODIVERSITY**

**‘Major problem water bodies experience is encroachments’**

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- ICLEI hosts Gap Fund Step-Up International Event at WUF12 to empower transformative urban infrastructure in cities





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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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