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From Global to Local: Our Quest to Arrest Plastic Waste

This year's World Environment Day theme, 'Beat Plastic Pollution', has reiterated the urgency for targeted policies and decisive action to end plastic pollution.

As we prepare for the final frontier of negotiations for a Global Plastics Treaty at the second Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) meeting (INC 5.2), to be held in Geneva in August 2025, it is essential to remind ourselves that global success starts with local action.

At ICLEI South Asia, our philosophy entails multilevel governance. We work with governments—national, sub-national and local—to move the needle through holistic interventions, including strategizing, planning, monitoring, and implementation, along with mobilising funds and building capacities that lead to the strengthening of local institutions.

Our work entails guiding urban local bodies to improve segregation at source in municipal waste collection, supporting implementation of 3R (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle) and 3F (Faster, Fairer, Fuller), conducting extensive information, education, and communication campaigns and building local government capacities to promote sustainable consumption, working with the private sector to enable EPR based initiatives, among others.

As we await a global treaty, ICLEI South Asia reaffirms its support to national and sub-regional governments in developing and financing practical, locally rooted solutions that eliminate plastic use. The time for incremental change is over, and the window for bold, grounded action is now.

Let's #BeatPlasticPollution together from the ground up!

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READ THE FULL MESSAGE

SPOTLIGHT

ICLEI South Asia launches 'SIMPLY SUSTAINABLE', an explainer series that will break down and simplify the basics and complexities of sustainability. In each episode, an expert will share with you the what's, why's, and how's of a topic, and how ICLEI South Asia is implementing it on ground-zero.

In Episode I, **Dr Monalisa Sen**, Associate Director at ICLEI South Asia unfolds the concept of urban biodiversity.

WATCH NOW

ICLEI SOUTH ASIA @ 20

On our 20th Anniversary, ICLEI South Asia received valuable support from key stakeholders, including government officials, partners, and community leaders, who have been instrumental in our initiatives. Their messages underscore a shared commitment to advancing climate resilience and inclusive urban governance, and the impact and importance of local partnerships in driving sustainability across the region.

Read and explore the messages here

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ICLEI South Asia has done some path-breaking work, with innovations and pilots being incorporated into regular government programmes. It speaks volumes about the impact that ICLEI has made.

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SUPRIYA SAHU, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu

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As urbanisation continues at a rapid pace, ICLEI South Asia will have a very significant role to play in the future.

”

DR. C. SUVARNA, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Government of Karnataka

“

ICLEI South Asia continues to carry out commendable work and contributing to sustainable development.

”

A. ARUNACHALAM
Director,
Central Agricultural Research Institute, ICAR

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ICLEI South Asia's work has influenced policies and empowered cities to act confidently and clearly in their sustainability journeys.

”

MD. MOINUL ISLAM
Union Minister,
Naryanganj UP Corporation, Bangladesh

“

ICLEI South Asia has been carrying out exemplary work in the field of sustainable development and handholding not only urban but also villages like in Goa.

”

DR. PRADIP SARMOKADAM
Member Secretary,
Goa State Environment Board

VOICES OF CHANGE

ACTION ON THE GROUND

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS FOR LOSS AND DAMAGE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Communities in Gujarat are helping shape local plans to deal with climate change. Workshops in Ahmedabad and Surat brought together community groups, NGOs, and government departments to discuss real problems like heatwaves, floods, and their effects on daily life. The goal to create stronger, people-focused plans that protect lives, homes, and local traditions.

READ MORE

ICLEI SOUTH ASIA HIGHLIGHTS INCLUSIVE RESILIENCE WORK AT CLAREXCHANGE WORKSHOP 2025 IN ZAMBIA

At CLAREXchange 2025 in Lusaka, ICLEI South Asia shared powerful stories from the SIRA project—where young women took the lead, local governments strengthened their skills, and communities across Asia built resilience. Through hands-on training, peer learning, and inclusive action, the project turned climate research into meaningful, on-the-ground change.

READ MORE

HIMACHAL PRADESH CONTINUE TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM WITH ELECTRIC MOBILITY INITIATIVE IN KINNAUR

With more tourists choosing greener ways to travel, key local stakeholders in Kinnaur joined a workshop on 5 May to learn about electric vehicles (EVs) organised by ICLEI South Asia and partners. The event showed how EVs can protect the environment and boost tourism, with hotel owners keen to install EV chargers.

READ MORE

STORMS, SYSTEMS AND SOLUTIONS: ICLEI LEADS THE WAY IN URBAN FLOOD GOVERNANCE

Across India and South Asia, cities are stepping up to face early monsoon challenges with innovation and care. At a recent UNDRR/UNEP session, ICLEI South Asia shared examples from Ahmedabad and Trivandrum, showing how nature-based planning and smart infrastructure can help build flood-resilient cities and protect communities now and in the future.

READ MORE

HOST YOUR TOWN HALL COP

What if your community could connect to all levels of climate action — from right where you live?

Introducing the Town Hall COP.

They're locally hosted events that connect community priorities to national climate plans — and global processes like COP30.

Learn more: iclei.org/town-hall-cop

ICLEI South Asia invites cities to host a Town Hall COP—a dynamic platform that brings UN-style climate dialogue to the local level. Led by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, this initiative brings the spirit of the UN COPs to the grassroots, allowing cities to engage communities in shaping climate solutions that reflect local priorities.

Outcomes from Town Hall COPs will feed into national processes and the UNFCCC through ICLEI's role as the focal point of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency. Join the movement—amplify local voices and connect your city to global climate action.

GET STARTED

नौनिहालों की घर आधारित देखभाल: आज की महत्वपूर्ण ज़रूरत

शुरुआती १००० दिन बच्चे के जीवन के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण होते हैं, जब उसका भौतिक, लैंगिक, गति से विकसित होता है। इस दौरान घर आधारित उपरालों से गुजरना—जैसे, भोजन, खेल और रोपण—बच्चे के संरक्षण, समर्थन और वास्तविक विकास की नींव रखती है। दुर्भाग्यवश, ०-३ आयु वर्ग के बच्चों के लिए नीति, संरक्षण और मार्गदर्शन की अब भी भारी कमी है। आगवजारी सेवाओं से बाहर के बच्चों और देखभालकर्ताओं के लिए आयु उपयुक्त गतिविधियाँ, पुनर्क संयोजन और विभिन्न विभागों का तालमेल आवश्यक है। सही निवेश और जागरूकता से हम सभी बच्चों को समान अवसर दे सकते हैं—चाहे उनकी सामाजिक पृष्ठभूमि कुछ भी हो।

और पढ़ें >>

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Opinion | How Nature Is Returning To Indian Cities

Monalisa Sen
Opinion, Updated: May 22, 2025 12:00 pm IST

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ICLEI ECO CHAMPS

LOCAL ACTION MOVES THE WORLD

ANITA MANDAL
Associate Graphic Designer
ICLEI South Asia

