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“STRENGTHENING LOCAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP ON THE ROAD TO COP30

As we enter into the second half of the year, a huge momentum is steadily building toward COP30, which will take place in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025.

A key milestone in this journey is the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation forum, scheduled for 13-14 August in Kuala Lumpur, where we will be convening and speaking in parallel sessions. This platform provides convening, knowledge sharing, and learning opportunities. We also look forward to supporting Kuala Lumpur City Hall (the city council) in hosting a Town Hall COP event – an ICLEI initiative that brings the urban design team into decision-making and the public at large into the conversation, in line with the need to meet national commitments (NDC 3.0) ahead of COP30. At the local point of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, ICLEI continues to advocate for local voices in these global climate negotiations.

South Asian cities, particularly, are leading climate action with determination, innovation, and resilience. They are adopting scientifically-informed climate action plans, embracing nature-based solutions, and advancing inclusive urban planning models that respond to local climate risks. ICLEI South Asia is proud to stand beside these cities, helping them translate their commitments into action.

Over the past months, we have worked alongside local governments to build technical expertise and leadership capacity through several initiatives. This includes the Urban@2050 Lab in Kathmandu which aims to integrate personal knowledge and the city's broader risk resilience planning, and provide training for data-driven urban planning through hands-on, multi-stakeholder engagement.

In Gujarat, ICLEI South Asia helped in preparing the Annual Action Plan for Ahmedabad—a comprehensive blueprint for citywide development, and offered technical expertise for a Road to Climate Change (R2C2) project in India. We also supported the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) in designing measures aligned with national and global climate goals for its Urban Greening Policy Measures for a Greener Ahmedabad. Under the Smart Development Corporation Ahmedabad (SDC) Phase II project, ICLEI South Asia helped AMC in developing the On-routine Electric Charging Station for Public Electric Buses. Realising a strong institutional partnership, we recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with AMC for the implementation of the third phase of the CapaCTTES project.

The time ahead will see us engaging more deeply with cities in the region, partnering with multilateral entities, and building local capacities through urban leadership on climate action. The road to COP30 presents an opportunity for the Local Governments to be heard on the world stage, demand leadership, highlight local innovation, and influence the global climate agenda so that it truly reflects local realities.

SPOTLIGHT

YOUTH FOR CLIMATE HACKATHON - KNOWLEDGE WEBINAR SERIES

CLIMATE STORYTELLING WITH YOUTH KI AWAAZ - 3 AUGUST 2025

Writing Climate Stories

Writing about climate is crucial

What makes a story tick?

Have you heard of the 5W1H?

Youth Ki Awaaz, our knowledge partner for the Youth for Climate Hackathon programme, hosted the first webinar titled "Writing on Climate: How Every Story is a Climate Story" under the Knowledge Webinar Series of the initiative on 3 August 2025.

The discussion focused on empowering the youth to become effective climate storytellers. By equipping them with the writing tools and strategies needed to amplify their voices, share local climate realities, and drive meaningful action through compelling narratives.

The webinar series will feature discussions led by youth hackathon partners, where every session will align with the hackathon theme "Adaptation to Climate Change - Evidence-based, Innovative Solutions for South Asian Cities". The series aims to build capacity and deepen understanding of climate challenges and solutions in the region.

LEARN MORE

ACTION ON THE GROUND

ICLEI SOUTH ASIA'S TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO AHMEDABAD RECONNAISSANCE AT THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT YEAR 2025

ICLEI South Asia was recognised for its technical support to Ahmedabad during the Urban Development Year 2025 celebrations. Highlights included the launch of a city action plan, clean construction and greening policies, a solar-powered bus charging station, and an MoU to advance climate goals under Phase II of the SDC-funded CapaCTTES project. These efforts reinforce Ahmedabad's commitment to becoming a net-zero, climate-resilient city.

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URBANSHIFT CHINA CITY ACADEMY IN CHENGDU PROMOTES THE MESSAGE OF SHARED LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The UrbanShift China City Academy, co-organised by UrbanShift, China Centre for Urban Development (CCUD), and ICLEI, brought together officials from five countries to share strategies on green neighbourhoods and urban biodiversity. Pubezherry, a replication project city under the UrbanShift programme, presented its nature-based urban solutions, practical tools, partnerships, and learnings.

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TRANSPORT FOR ALL: A PEOPLE-CENTRED AGENDA FOR ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

As the Secretariat for the Asia LEDS Partnership, ICLEI South Asia joined a high-level expert consultation on sustainable transport in Bangkok, Thailand, held under the "10h Decade of Sustainable Transport - 2025-2035". ICLEI South Asia highlighted the need for inclusive, climate-sensitive transport systems and stronger regional collaboration.

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ADVANCING HEAT ACTION PLAN (HAP) IN NARYAYAMPET CITY CORPORATION UNDER THE CLARE PROGRAMME

Naryayampet City Corporation and ICLEI South Asia organised a Shared Learning Dialogue to advance Bangalore's first city-level Heat Action Plan. Supported by the UK-Canada CLARE programme, the plan aims to protect vulnerable communities from extreme heat through participatory, data-driven strategies. It underscored the importance of proactive action, inclusive governance, and strategic investment to build heat resilience, especially for vulnerable groups.

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STAKEHOLDER VALIDATION WORKSHOP: MALE'S VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW 2025

Male City Council, with support from UNISCAP and ICLEI South Asia, held a workshop to validate its first Voluntary Local Review (VLR) report. The VLR tracks the city's progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and will guide Male's Strategy Action Plan 2026-2030. Stakeholders reviewed key findings and shared recommendations to strengthen local planning and partnerships.

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ICLEI ADVOCATES FOR STRONGER LOCAL ACTION AND GLOBAL COLLABORATION AT ECO FORUM GLOBAL 2025

ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability reinforced its leadership in local sustainable development at Eco Forum Global 2025 in Guyang, China. Emami Kumar, Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI, highlighted the key role played by cities in green transitions and called for stronger global-local cooperation. He stressed innovation, finance access, and peer learning for lasting impact.

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STAKEHOLDERS UNITE TO ADVANCE VIJAYAWADA'S DISASTER RISK RESILIENCE STRATEGY

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation convened a multi-stakeholder consultation to assess the city's progress on disaster and climate resilience under CDRN's Accelerating Inclusive Climate Action programme. Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands and Canada's International Development Research Centre. Using the UNDRR Disaster Resilience Scorecard, stakeholders reviewed Vijayawada's vulnerabilities and capacities, identified gaps, and proposed inclusive, locally informed strategies for disaster preparedness.

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जलवायु परिवर्तन और शिक्षा: एक गहराता संकट

जलवायु परिवर्तन बच्चों की शिक्षा पर गहरा प्रभाव डाल रहा है, विशेषकर गहरी गरीब इलाकों में। अत्यधिक गर्मी, बाढ़ और जल-जमाव के कारण स्कूलों तक पहुंचना मुश्किल हो गया है, जिससे उपस्थिति घट रही है और पढ़ाई प्रभावित हो रही है। बच्चे मानसिक तनाव, स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं और सामाजिक अलगाव का सामना कर रहे हैं। स्कूलों और आगारवाड़ियों में बुनियादी की कमी से इनकार और थकान है। हमें यह देखना है कि यह संकट बच्चों के सीखने की गति, आगंतिक्य और चर्चण की संभावनाओं को प्रभावित कर रहा है। स्थायी समाधान के लिए स्थानीय सरकार, स्कूल और समुदायों को मिलकर कार्य करना होगा।

और पढ़ें >>>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Translating Climate Advocacy into Real Action: Stories from Nepalese Youth for Climate Action (NYCA)

Nepalese Youth for Climate Action (NYCA), Nepal, will host the next session of the Knowledge Webinar Series under the Youth for Climate Hackathon. The webinar will spotlight how youth-led climate advocacy in Nepal has evolved from awareness-raising to delivering real, impactful change on the ground.

From community mobilisation to local climate solutions, join us to hear inspiring stories, practical strategies, and know key lessons from NYCA's journey in turning passion into strategic action.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Call for Applications: UTM - Signify - GCoM City Assessment Partnership on Lighting

Cities are invited to complete the lighting assessment form to support their climate transition efforts. Cities can receive a free energy audit for their street lighting systems. Submit the application form now to take advantage of this no-cost opportunity. Gain tailored recommendations, expert assistance, and access to a complimentary lighting audit from Signify.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

HOT OFF THE PRESS

ICLEI ECO CHAMPS

LOCAL ACTION MOVES THE WORLD

SPONGE PARKS: POROUS POWERHOUSES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

[READ THE FULL BLOG](#)

Discover how Chennai's first sponge park is paving the way for a climate-resilient city. Built on an asphalted parking lot and waste dumping ground, today the park functions as a natural water treatment system using landscapes and ecology to manage stormwater.

Read the full blog to explore the power of nature-based solutions in shaping the future of our cities.

RAMYA M. A.
Senior Project Officer
ICLEI South Asia

My artwork themed "Pride in Public Spaces" advocates for inclusive urban design to combat violence and invisibility faced by LGBTQIA+ individuals. It emphasises LGBTQIA+ Pride concept as crucial for self-affirmation, equality, and visibility. Initiatives like trans-inclusive bathrooms, public artworks, and improved street lighting create safer, more welcoming environments. Integrating LGBTQIA+ representation ensures dignity, respect, and equal access in public spaces.

SATARUPA ROY
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KNOW MORE FROM THE ICLEI WORLD SECRETARIAT HERE

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