

EVENT

# Dharamshala, Vizag joins GCoM

*Dharamshala and Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Mayors sign the commitment letter to join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.*

DHARMSHALA: Onkar Singh Nehria, Mayor of Dharamshala Municipal Corporation, signed the commitment letter to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), thus making Dharamshala the 27<sup>th</sup> city from India to join the global network.

GCoM is the largest coalition of mayors committed to taking actions on climate change. Over 11,500 cities and local governments representing around one billion people spread across 142 countries are its members. The cities and partners of GCoM share a long-term vision of supporting voluntary action to combat climate change. The signatory cities aim to achieve the ambitious goals ascertained in the Paris Agreement of 2015. The signatory city has to undertake initiatives aiming to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, prepare itself for the effects of climate change, enhance access to sustainable clean energy solutions and lastly, the cities have to track the progress of all the initiatives.

Through local and global city network partners, the Global Covenant of Mayors will offer technical support and training, and work with Dharmshala to plan and implement climate initiatives more effectively. It will provide access to global city data, research and knowledge, harmonized



As we have signed the GCoM commitment letter, we are looking to work alongside all organisations that are part of this project.”

**Onkar Singh Nehria**  
Mayor, Dharamshala Municipal Corporation

reporting standards and technical assistance in preparing climate action plans as well as increased access to finance. In addition, GCoM’s global

research and innovation agenda on cities and climate change will support cities in developing the science and knowledge needed to help evolve urban areas into transformative agents of change. GCoM SA will also aim to facilitate collaboration with multilevel governance actors to allow Indian cities to implement the climate action plan in an integrated way, collectively raising global climate ambition to deliver on the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Golagani Hari Venkata Kumari Mayor of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal corporation, Andhra Pradesh also signed the GCoM commitment letter on September 13, 2022.

Till now, 28 cities in India have joined the list of signatories. Apart from above mentioned cities the list includes Patna, Rajkot, Gwalior, Shimla, Panaji, Nagpur, Surat, Gangtok, Vadodara, Gandhi Nagar, Bhavnagar, Mumbai, Amdavad, Kochi, Junagadh, Jamnagar, Siliguri, Udaipur, Thane Coimbatore, Dehradun, Tiruchirappalli, Pune, Kolkata, Tirunelveli and Leh.

In India, GCoM SA is engaging with various partners such as – All India Institute of Local Self-Government, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives South Asia and National Institute of Urban Affairs. AIILSG is the Networking and Governance Coordinator South Asia for the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.

As a GCoM South Asia Networking and Governance Coordinator, AIILSG will be working closely with concerned ministries and all the relevant stakeholders in coordination with the EU Delegation to ensure the outreach and involvement of cities in GCoM activities, representation to various climate events, and providing administrative and logistical support to signatory as well as potentially interested cities. AIILSG also host the helpdesk for GCoM SA and cities can contact for any queries at [apandey@globalcovenantofmayors.eu](mailto:apandey@globalcovenantofmayors.eu)

# GCoM Cluster Meet for Indian Cities

MUMBAI : A Cluster Meet of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy South Asia was organized by AILSG on September 06, 2022 at Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai. Mayank Meena, Programme Officer, moderated the meeting. The meeting was attended by over 10 municipal commissioners and senior officials from the potential and signatory cities in India. These officials were from the local governments of Madhya Pradesh,

Maharashtra and Haryana. The agenda of the cluster meeting was to brief the potential cities about the benefits of signing the GCoM commitment letter and also hear the experiences of the already signed cities. Ashish Verma, National Coordinator GCoM South Asia, presented the details of the project, joining process and benefits offered by GCoM to cities for making cities more climate change resilient and climate-friendly. Hitsh Vaidya, Director NIUA shed some light on the

various capacity-building programs organized by NIUA under the GCoM project for assisting cities for their GHG emission inventory mapping and preparation of climate action plans. Tikender Panwar, former deputy mayor of Shimla, shared the experience of working with the GCoM during his tenure and taking climate actions in the mountain city.

The delegates also participated in the panel discussion on India@75 organised by AILSG.



## Delhi govt launch action plan for air pollution

NEW DELHI: Delhi Govt launched 15-Point Climate Action Plan on October 01, 2022. It is focused on curbing the toxic pollution levels and improving the air quality index in Delhi.

In 2021, the action plan was focused on 10 factors impacting the climate of the city. These include stubble burning, dust pollution, vehicular emission, garbage burning, smog tower, supervision of pollution hot spots, firecrackers ban, e-waste park, 24x7

green war room, grievance mechanism app and working with border states for cross border transport emissions. This year five additional steps were introduced to address the air pollution from industrial activities, Graded Response Action Plan, pollution monitoring, environment volunteers and afforestation.

The plan will include spraying of bio-decomposer over 5,000 acres of farmland to prevent stubble burning.

## Less Solar, Wind Energy potential from climate change

NEW DELHI: A study recently published in the journal Current Science revealed that India's solar and wind potential is anticipated to fall in the future owing to climate change. While the yearly wind and seasonal wind speed is predicted to fall over North India, it will rise in South India. Conducted by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune, the study titled "Analysis of future wind and solar potential across India using climate models" states that the southern coast of Odisha and the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu show potential for wind energy in the case of climate change. Low energy producing winds are expected to increase, while high energy producing winds will decrease. There will be a decline in solar radiation throughout the year over most of the country.

## Climate Change to increase mortality rate

NEW DELHI: In a study published in The Lancet Planetary Health Journal, it has been found that climate change will increase mortality rate six times by the end of the century. The study, conducted by the University of North Carolina, United States of America, said that high temperatures at night may disrupt normal sleep. Lack of sleep can, in turn, cause damage to the immune system and cause cardiovascular diseases, chronic illnesses or mental health issues. The temperature rise could go up from 20.4 degrees Celsius to 39.7 degrees Celsius in 2090, across 28 cities from East Asia, increasing the risk of disease. The results of the study indicate towards a troubling future for the planet. The researchers were able to predict that the probability of death from exceptionally hot nights will nearly double between 2016 and 2100.

## Webinar on 'Integrated Climate Action Planning, Reporting for SA Cities'

NEW DELHI: International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) held a webinar on September 28, 2022, under the title 'Integrated Climate Action Planning and Reporting for South Asian Cities'. The webinar aimed at facilitating capacity and knowledge building for GCoM signatory cities in South Asia to ensure effective climate action planning, implementation and reporting. The webinar recorded the participation of officials from the Government of Gujarat and Maharashtra, 15 city representatives from South Asia, municipal engineers, administrative officials, town planners, technical officers, climate and policy experts and other key stakeholders.

In the webinar, Edwin Koekoek, Counsellor, Energy and Climate Action, EU Delegation to India, highlighted the significance of GCoM in combating climate change. While, Ashish Verma, GCoM India Coordinator, underlined the benefits of the GCoM alliance for the member cities. Later, Nikhil Kolsepatil, Senior Manager and Keshav Jha, Manager ICLEI South Asia, outlined a roadmap for climate action planning for South Asian cities and the Common Reporting Framework guidelines and requirements for cities to adhere to these guidelines. Keshav also introduced the CDP-ICLEI Track, a climate reporting tool for cities to update their greenhouse gas emission inventory.

## GCoM conducts two-days training for city officials



AHMEDABAD: The Climate Centre for Cities of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, in collaboration with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Asia, organised a two-day 'National Training cum Workshop for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation' at Ahmedabad on August 29-30. Over 24 city officials from 17 cities participated in the workshop. The workshop began with the opening remarks of Kamila Kristensen Rai, Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to India, and Shwetal Shah, Technical Advisor, Climate Change Department, Government of Gujarat. Sandy Morris and Anshul Bharna from CDP, Hong Kong, set the outline of the GHG inventory and Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment in the city. Later they introduced the common reporting framework and City Inventory Reporting and Information System. It was concluded with a visit to GIFT City Gandhinagar to understand the district cooling system, waste management system and the Centralised Command and Control Centre.

## Pune's strive towards sustainable urbanisation

PUNE: The Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA), International Urban and Regional Cooperation Programme (IURC), and the city of Karlsruhe of Germany signed three memorandums of understanding (MoU) to promote concrete cooperation for sustainable urban development and innovation customised to the needs of Pune Metropolitan Region. The MoUs are valid till 2023. The IURC programme



aims to promote multi-city cooperation on sustainable urban development and

to build partnerships between cities of the European Union and non-EU cities.

The programme is funded by the EU and the participating local governments will be enabled to implement pilot projects by engaging research, civil society and business partners. This collaboration will span varied themes including urban planning, mobility and transport, business and innovation, tourism and heritage, circular economy, and nature-based solutions.

## Climate challenge: Floods in Pakistan & drought in China

NEW DELHI: The neighbouring countries of India, Pakistan and China are facing the challenges posed by extreme weather events. On one hand, Pakistan is witnessing devastation due to floods, not seen in decades and on the other hand, China is facing severe drought and a prolonged spell of heatwave. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan has declared 72 districts as calamity-hit out of a total of 160 districts. NDMA has also highlighted that at least 1 million houses, 3,500 kilometers of roads and over 162 bridges have been damaged or destroyed by the recent

flood in Pakistan. China, on the other hand, is undergoing its longest and most intense spell of heatwave, in the last 60 years. According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the heatwave is being witnessed over 4.5 million sq km of land area that constitute more than half of the total land area of the country. Earlier four government departments of China issued a joint warning regarding the autumn harvest in the country. Over 75 per cent of the annual grain production of the country is produced in the autumn harvest that was under "severe threat" from drought.



# Siliguri: Building strategies for a sustainable city

SILIGURI IS THE third largest urban agglomeration in the state of West Bengal, India. With rapidly growing urban population, the city, with support from partner organisations, has initiated some focused strategic interventions to ensure sustainable and climate-resilient development.

## A roadmap to build a liveable city

Cities account for more than 70 per cent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. By 2030, it is projected that over 60 per cent of global population will live in cities. Carbon footprint of cities is bound to go up. Siliguri realised the need for building climate-resilient city hence it started reconsidering carbon-intensive activities and shifted focus on actions on mitigation to reduce emission. A Climate Resilient City Action Plan (CRCAP) was developed for Siliguri by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) supported by CapaCITIES project on September 14, 2018, after deliberation with the stakeholder. After a positive response from the council, the plan was presented at the Board Meeting of Siliguri Municipal Corporation and was unanimously adopted. Siliguri thus became the first city in the country to adopt the CRCAP.

## Climate Resilient City Action Plan

CRCAP was developed to face climate change stresses and enhance sustainability through mitigation and adaptation actions. A baseline analysis was carried out to check the vulnerability of the urban systems on the basis of which drainage, sewerage, water supply, and transportation in Siliguri were identified as vulnerable. CRCAP for 2018-2023 for Siliguri proposes actions with an annual GHG emission mitigation potential of 14.6 per cent by 2022-2023, over the 2015-16 financial year baseline.

Sector	Total Mitigation Potential (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent)	Resilience interventions	Overall Resilience impact
Buildings	57261.75 (37% of total)	Solar PV systems	Improvement in ambient micro-climate conditions, reduction of GHG emissions, and increase in social adaptive capacity through the promotion of climate actions
Residential	44218.32	Energy efficient fixtures	
Commercial & institutional	12850.03	Tax incentives	
Municipal Corporation	193.40	Green building designs	
Water supply	5633.45 (4% of total)	Installation of captive Solar PV plants, water pumping stations, and intake point through RESCO mode  Reduction in the proportion of non-revenue water from 78% to 20%	Improved water resource management, reduced water scarcity, better health and lower GHG emission  Reduction in NRW will ensure water savings which can be used for additional consumers in the city or provide more water to the existing consumers
Transport	2108.44 (1% of total)	Introduction of 30 electric buses to replace diesel-operated city buses Measures for providing infrastructure for traffic decongestion Improved air quality, reduction of GHG emissions from public and private vehicles, and reduced traffic congestion	Improved air quality, reduction of GHG emissions from public and private vehicles, and reduced traffic congestion
SWM	86472.49(56% of total)	Scaling up SUNYA Improved waste processing at end point-composting, recycling, RDF pelletization, etc	All waste generated within the city will be treated, reducing GHG emissions and improving socioeconomic co-benefits through improved health and livelihood of vulnerable sections
Street lights	2376.21 (2% of total)	Replacement of street lighting with LED lamps through ESCO Solar PV Systems	Reduced GHG emissions with improved safety and better visibility
<b>Total</b>	<b>154173.99</b>		

## Sunya initiative

With a specific focus on the reduction of GHG emissions from waste disposal, the initiative aims to support the city in its larger objective of sustainable waste management.

After preliminary discussions and reconnaissance surveys with stakeholders, regarding the existing waste management practices, a

characterization and quantification study was carried out to assess the quantity and composition of the waste.

Receiving positive results in a GHG emission mitigation impact of 86,742 tonnes of Carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e), the project has potential for scaling up. Finances can be mobilized under various National and State level programmes.

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