

ARISE Cities Forum 2025: FROM BHARAT to BELEM

8 - 9 October 2025 | The LaLit, New Delhi, India

Detailed Programme

Day 1: Wednesday | 8 October 2025

08:00 onwards	Registration and Tea
09:30 – 11:00	Opening Ceremony
Venue: Plenary Hall, The Lalit The Crystal Ballroom	Welcome Speech: Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI & Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia Introductory Remarks: Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI Special Remarks: Dr. Debolina Kundu, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs Special Remarks: Norio Saito, Senior Director, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Asian Development Bank Special Address: Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in India Report Launch - ICLEI South Asia @ 20 Year Book Inaugural Address: Hon'ble Minister of State Tokhan Sahu, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India Special Guest on Dais: Hansa Patel, Chairperson, ICLEI South Asia Vote of Thanks: Soumya Chaturvedula, Director, ICLEI South Asia Master of Ceremony: Sayli Mankikar, Associate Director - Knowledge Management and Advocacy, ICLEI South Asia
11:00 – 11:10	Interval
11:10 - 12:00	Plenary 1: High-level dialogue: Accelerating Climate Action in South Asia
Venue: Plenary Hall, The Lalit The Crystal Ballroom	The plenary will examine the operational gaps between national ambition and local delivery, identify policy and institutional levers for sub-national integration, and examine how multi-level governance can be reimagined to mainstream urban action. Moderator: Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI Panelists: • Ravi Shankar Prasad, IAS, retd., Distinguished Fellow, CEEW, ex-Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India • Hemanthi Goonasekera, Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, Sri Lanka • Tijs Van Balen, Deputy Economic Counsellor, Embassy of Netherlands in India • Andreas B. Schei, Counsellor, Climate and Environment, Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi • Philippe Sas, Head of International Cooperation and Counsellor, Embassy of Switzerland in India and Bhutan • Takashi Ariyoshi, Minister & Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in India Master of Ceremony: Soumya Chaturvedula, Director, ICLEI South Asia Launch of Building Climate Resilience in Indian Cities Compendium of Case Studies by dignitaries
12:00 – 12:30	Coffee/Tea break 

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12:30 – 13:30

Parallel Session 1: Circularity at the core of Urban Futures: Zero Waste Approach for Water and Waste

The session will explore how linear “take–make–waste” economies drive emissions, biodiversity loss, and mounting waste and how a transition to circularity can extend the utility and life of materials and resources as it finds application in several sectors such as water, food, energy and materials.

Moderated Panel Discussion: Waste and Water Circularity – Towards Circular Cities

Moderator: Soumya Chaturvedula, Director, ICLEI South Asia

Panelists:

- Jai Kumar Gaurav, Senior Advisor, Climate Change and Circular Economy, GIZ India
- Dr. Sunil Kumar, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute
- Chandana Abeyratne, Public Health Inspector, Kandy Municipal Council, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Nupur Bahadur, Director, NMCG-TERI Centre of Excellence on Water Reuse
- Montgomery Simus, Global Director of Public Affairs, Policy, and Blue Finance, The Ocean Cleanup
- Rohit Sissoniya, IAS, Additional Commissioner, Indore Municipal Corporation
- Manisha Khatri, IAS, Commissioner, Nashik Municipal Corporation

Q&A with audience

Venue:
Crystal Ballroom 1

12:30 – 13:30

Parallel Session 2: Cities and Food Futures: Pathways for Inclusion and Sustainability

The session convenes experts to share insights on urban food environments, agroecology, market systems, and policy shifts essential for embedding food into urban governance. It will also explore the lack of connection between food system transitions and farming realities, sustainability, and nutrition.

Keynote Address

- Meeta Punjabi, Senior Food Systems Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Thailand

Moderated Panel Discussion: Sustainable Food Futures

Moderator: Bedoshruti Sadhukhan, Associate Director, ICLEI South Asia

Panelists

- Nivedita Varshneya, Regional Advisor, Welthungerhilfe
- Jyoti Awasthi, CEO and Co-Founder, Satat Sampada Climate Foundation
- Kalanidhi Devkota, Executive Director, Municipal Association of Nepal
- Pawan Agarwal, IAS, retd., Chief Executive Officer, Food Future Foundation
- Dharmendra Kumar, Founding Secretary, Janpahal

City Presentations

- Sambhav Ayachi, Deputy Commissioner, Jabalpur Smart City Limited, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- Azlan bin Abdullah, Senior Deputy Director, Department of City Planning, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Malaysia

Q&A with audience

Venue:
Crystal Ballroom 2

Co-organised with GIZ India

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12:30 – 13:30	Parallel Session 3: A Nature First Approach: Harnessing Ecosystems for Resilience
Venue: Regency IV & V	The session will explore how Nature-based Solutions contribute to low-carbon, climate-resilient development in cities, with a focus on sharing insights into current practices and perspectives on their future role in urban contexts. Keynote Address - Dr. Achalendra Reddy, IFS, retcd., Former Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority Moderated Panel Discussion: A Nature First Approach: Harnessing Ecosystems for Resilience Moderator: Dr. Monalisa Sen, Associate Director, ICLEI South Asia Panelists - Dr. Vishwas Chitale, Fellow – CEEW - Purna Mehta, Associate Director of Urban Development, WRI India - Prof. S. Kanmani, Director, CCCDM, Anna University, Chennai - Palwe Girish Haribhau, IFS, Assistant Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission V. Krishna, IFS, Conservator of Forests, Research & Development Circle, Hyderabad; Dean, Forest College and Research Institute, Mulugu, Hyderabad City Presentations - Dipin Dileep, Councillor, Kochi Municipal Corporation - Uttar Kumar Rai, Hon'ble Mayor, Phuentsholing Thromde, Bhutan Q&A with audience <i>Co-organised with WRI India</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Networking Lunch organised by UTMC/UTM - The Crystal Ballroom
14:30 - 16:00	Parallel Session 4: Heat, Health and Urban Planning: A systems approach to tackling urban heat risk in cities
Venue: Crystal Ballroom 1	The session will explore how effectively addressing extreme heat requires a regionally coordinated, multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach that bridges science, policy, and action across national, state, and local governments. Introduction and context setting - Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI & Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia Keynote Speaker - Anshul Mishra, IAS, Additional Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi Youth Hackathon Presentation Moderated Panel Discussion: Driving Inclusive Urban Heat Resilience Moderator: Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI & Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia Panelists: C. Divakar Reddy, Chairman, Tirupati Urban Development Authority - Ajit Kawade, Deputy Secretary and Mission Director PMAY-2, Housing Department, Government of Maharashtra - Dr. Sivananda Damodara Pai, Program Head - Mission Mausam & Additional Director General of Meteorology, IMD - Bijal Brahmbhatt, Director, Mahila Housing Trust - Dr. Sunita Purushottam, Chairperson of the Board, Global Buildings Performance Network - Dr. Ambarish Dutta, Professor, Public Health Foundation of India - Neha Awasthi, Expert – Heat Resilient Urban Planning, Cities Unit, Mitigation Branch Climate Change Division, United Nations Environment Programme Q&A with audience

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14:30 - 16:00

Parallel Session 5: Net-zero, Climate Resilient Cities: From Planning to Implementation

The session will explore how urban areas in spite of being the epicentre of GHG emissions, also present opportunities to bolster inclusive and innovative climate action. A convening of key stakeholders will explore policies, governance, finance, and innovations for inclusive, people-centric climate action to thrive in cities.

Dialogue on Urban Climate Action

Moderator: Gino van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI

Panelists:

- V. Madhubalan, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation
- Mirant Parikh, IAS, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation
- Ridhima Sud, Senior Advisor for Climate Change, Embassy of Switzerland in India and Bhutan
- Sebastian Markart, Project Head Urban Act India, GIZ

Showcasing Climate Action in the Asia-Pacific: Mainstreaming climate-resilient urban planning and implementation in South Asia and Southeast Asia

- Nikhil Kolsepatil, Program Coordinator (Energy and Climate), ICLEI South Asia

Advancing Climate-Resilient Urban Planning and Action in Penang, Malaysia through the Penang 2030 Agenda

- Dr. Vishanthini Kanasan, Advisor to CM and Under Secretary, Penang

Youth for Climate Hackathon Winner Presentation

Moderated Panel Discussion: Unlocking Climate Action: Governance, Finance, and Innovation for Urban Implementation

Moderator: Gino van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI

Panelists:

- Hemanthi Goonasekera, Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, Sri Lanka
- Swapnil Shukla, Executive Engineer, Vadodara Municipal Corporation
- Naim Keruwala, Regional Director, South and West Asia, C40
- Nicola Iezza, Finance & Funding Helpdesk Manager Urban Transitions Mission
- Venkat Jayagopi, Senior Manager (Cities), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation
- Karthik Ram, Head of India Portfolio, Clean Air Fund
- Dr. Vishanthini Kanasan, Advisor to Chief Minister and Under Secretary, Penang, Malaysia

Q&A with audience

Co-organised by SDC and UTM

14:30 - 16:00

Parallel Session 6: Strengthening Global South Leadership in Locally-led Adaptation for Climate Resilience

This session will explore how cities can create enabling policy and regulatory environments for locally-led governance and planning, ensuring voices of women and marginalised communities are embedded in formal decision-making structures.

Breaking the Ice: Card Game

Keynote Address: Locally Led Adaptation in practice

- Vishwanath S, Founder & Director, Biome Environmental Solutions

Venue:
Regency IV & V

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Moderated Panel Discussion: Localising Adaptation for Urban Resilience

Moderator: Nivedita Mani, Secretary, Research and Communications, Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group

Panelists:

- Dulari Parmar, Project Lead - Climate Justice, YUVA
- Saikat Pal, Executive Director, Prasari
- Adam Azim, Hon'ble Mayor, Malé City, Maldives
- Ganesh Paudel, Member Secretary, President Chure Terai-Madhesh Conservation Development Board, Government of Nepal

Q&A with audience

Launch of Local Power, Global Change: A City Leader's Handbook for Climate Action

Context Setting:

- Shreya Samant, Manager, ClimateRISE, Dasra
- Anuja Sirohi, Senior Manager, Councillor Leadership Development Program, Janaagraha

Councillor Presentations:

- Laxmi Karhadkar, President, Panchgani Hill Station Municipal Council
- P.M. Brindhha Shri, Councillor for Alandur, Chennai

Co-organised by CDKN and DASRA

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee/Tea break



16:30 – 17:30

Plenary 2: From Disaster Risk to Readiness: Cities as First Responders

The plenary will delve into the unique and complex challenges of managing disaster risk in urban settings, highlighting the urgent need to mainstream disaster risk considerations into urban planning, project design and implementation, and institutional frameworks.

Keynote Address

- Amit Prothi, Director General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

Video Message

- Marco Toscano-Rivalta, Chief, UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Moderated Panel Discussion: Localising Global Approaches to DRR in Urban Areas

Moderator: Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta, Principal Investigator, Integrated Centre for Adaptation to Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainability; Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee

Panelists:

- Krishan Kumar, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Disaster Management Authority
- Puja Karki, Head DRR Section, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Nepal
- E. M. L. Udaya Kumara, Deputy Director, District Disaster Management Coordination Unit, Badulla, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Epaminondas Christophilopoulos, President of the Metropolitan Organization of Thessaloniki Museums of Fine Arts (MOMus) and Head of the UNESCO Chair for Future Research
- Karel Van Oordt, Project Coordinator, EUROCITIES, Belgium

Co-organised by CDRI, ICARS and UTM

Venue:
Plenary Hall,
The Lalit
The Crystal

Ballroom

19:30 onwards

Celebratory Dinner - 20 Years of ICLEI South Asia - The Regal 

Day 2: Thursday | 9 October 2025

08:00 onwards	Registration and Tea
09:30 – 11:30	Plenary 3: Financing Climate Action: Shaping Instruments, Policies, and Institutions for Urban Transitions in India
Venue: Plenary Hall, The Lalit The Crystal Ballroom	The session will explore the instruments, policies and institutions that shape India's climate financing landscape and highlight some of the key challenges cities face in mobilising climate finance such as deliberating innovative financing mechanisms and stronger institutional collaboration between public and private stakeholders. Keynote Address - Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez, Sr. Advisor Sustainable Development, Infrastructure, and Climate; non-resident Sr. Fellow Brookings, former World Bank Sr. leader Panel Discussion: Financing India's urban transition Moderator: Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI & Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia Panelists: - H.E. Juan Antonio March Pujol, Ambassador of Spain to India, Embassy of Spain in New Delhi S. Suresh Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Andhra Pradesh - Michael Steidl, Head of Regional Representation to South Asia, European Investment Bank - Ulka Kalaskar, Joint Municipal Commissioner, Chief Accounts and Finance Officer, Pune Municipal Corporation - Santosh Tiwari, Chief Finance Officer, Vadodara Municipal Corporation - Kiran Kumar Avadhanula, Senior Urban Sector Specialist, KfW Development Bank - Pratyush Kanth, Senior Project Officer, Project Development Unit, Asian Development Bank - Sujatha Srikumar, Director, Powertec Infrastructure and Financial Advisory Services, Powertec Engineering Pvt Ltd - Debal Mitra, Senior Manager, Climate Policy Initiative Q&A with audience
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee/Tea break 
12:00 – 13:30	Parallel Session 7: Building Sustainable Urban Mobility Ecosystems for a Low-Carbon Future - E-mobility and Eco-logistics
Venue: Crystal Ballroom 1	The session will highlight how policy innovation, infrastructure planning, and community engagement can enable clean transport promotion and broader sustainable mobility transition. Drawing on Himachal Pradesh's pioneering initiatives, this session will further explore how diverse geographies can design and implement low-emission, equitable, and accessible transport ecosystems. Welcome & Introduction: Divya Prakash Vyas, Associate Director, ICLEI South Asia Presentation on Maharashtra EV Policy 2025 - Bharat Kalaskar, Additional Transport Commissioner and Joint Transport Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra Presentation on Himachal Pradesh EV Initiatives - Manish Kumar Soni, Regional Transport Officer, Kangra, Department of Transport, Government of Himachal Pradesh Moderated Panel Discussion Moderator: Aniruddhe Mukherjee, IAS, Panelists: - Ugyen Dorji, Hon'ble Mayor, Thimphu City Corporation, Bhutan

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- RVS Kapur, IAS, Special Secretary, Department of Sundarban Affairs, Government of West Bengal
- Gaurav Kumar Singhal, IAS, Additional Secretary/Director, Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand
- Bharat Kalaskar, Additional Transport Commissioner and Joint Transport Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra
- Stanzin Rabgais, Executive Officer, Municipal Committee in Leh, Ladakh
- Peter Martin Premananth, Engineer, Nuwara Eliya Municipal Council, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Gajendra Singh, Assistant Professor, IIT Mandi, Himachal Pradesh
- Aswathy Dilip, Managing Director, ITDP India
- Priti Shukla, Programme Manager, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation

Q&A with audience

12:00 – 13:30

Parallel Session 8: Climate Financing for Cities: Bridging Plans and Investments

The session examines the disengagement between project planning and financing by identifying gaps within the process such as capacity constraints, data gaps, and institutional barriers. It will delve into how early engagement with financiers and stakeholders can improve project design and increase the likelihood of securing funding.

Moderated Panel Discussion: City insights-Experiences, Successes and Best practices from a practitioners' perspective

Moderator: Nikhil John, Head – Climate Finance, Sustainable Cities, World Resources Institute

Panelists:

- Anamika Ramesh, IAS, Joint Commissioner Municipal Administration, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Tamil Nadu
- Bhupender Kumar Attri, Municipal Commissioner, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- Arun Vyas, Project Director (UI), RUDSICO, Jaipur
- Sayeed Rezaul Haque, Deputy Town Planner & Project Manager (CRGAP), Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK)

Q&A with audience

Panel Discussion: Bridging the Gap: Overcoming Project Preparation Challenges to Unlock Urban Investment

Moderator: Hans-Peter Egler, Senior Director, Sustainable Infrastructure /Public Sector, South Pole

Panelists:

- Jazlyn Lee, Engagement Lead for Southeast Asia and South Asia - The City Climate Finance Gap Fund, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
- Soumya Chaturvedula, Director, ICLEI South Asia; GCoM South Asia Technical Coordinator
- Ruslan Zhechkov, Climate Finance Expert, Global Covenant of Mayors
- Bhatnagar, City Engagement and Planning Lead, Climate Project Preparation Facility (CPPF), National Institute of Urban Affairs

Q&A with audience

Co-organised by GCoM South Asia and GCoM Gap Fund

Venue:
Crystal Ballroom 2

Day 2: Thursday | 9 October 2025

12:00 – 13:30	Parallel Session 9: National Local Dialogue on Transitioning Towards Innovative Cities - Session I
Venue: Regency IV and V	The deliberations during the session will focus on understanding the readiness of cities in adopting innovation while building infrastructure. The session will also showcase successful pilot examples from the Indian context with a focus on innovation. Welcome Address - Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI Special Address - Dr. Debolina Kundu, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs, India Keynote Address (video message) - Aloke Barnwal, Thematic Lead for Urban and Infrastructure, Global Environment Facility (GEF) Setting the Context and Presentation - Avantika Arjuna, Assistant Program Coordinator, ICLEI South Asia - Rodrigo De Souza Corradi, Deputy Executive Secretary and Director, ICLEI South America Moderated Panel Discussion: UrbanShift Executing, Implementing agencies and cities sharing insights about the innovative scalable solutions Moderator: Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI Panelists: - Aarti Nain, Senior Advisor, UNEP z Dr. Nand Pal Singh, Senior Technical Advisor, UNIDO - Mohan Kumar, Regional Administrator, Mahe and Commissioner, Mahe Municipality, Puducherry - Anil Kumar, Environment Engineer, Guntur Municipal Corporation z Manish Chaube, Sr. Manager, Technical (Engineering), Bhopal City Link Limited/Bhopal Municipal Corporation Q&A with audience
13:30 – 14:30	Networking Lunch - The Crystal Ballroom 🎧

Day 2: Thursday | 9 October 2025

14:30 - 16:00

Parallel Session 10: Digital Solutions for Sustainable Energy Planning

Venue:
Crystal Ballroom 1

This session will explore how cities can leverage digital solutions, artificial intelligence, and advanced analytics to strengthen resilient energy planning, ensuring efficient, low-carbon systems that safeguard against climate and infrastructure risks. It will highlight opportunities for inclusive, community-driven energy transitions, fostering collaboration between policymakers, technology providers, and urban practitioners to enable fair access, smart decision-making, and climate-ready urban energy futures.

Moderator: Karel Van Oodrt, Project Coordinator, EUROCITIES

Panelists:

- Prof. Ashish Verma, Convenor, IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab (IST Lab) & Professor of Transportation Systems Engineering, Indian Institute of Science
- Soohyung Kim, Economic Affairs Officer (Technology and Innovation), Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), UNESCAP
- Nikhil Kolsepatil, Program Coordinator (Energy & Climate), ICLEI South Asia
- Stanzin Rabgais, Executive Officer, Municipal Committee in Leh, Ladakh
- Rohit Sen, Head of Sustainable Energy, ICLEI
- Kanak Gokarn, Officer, Sustainable Energy, ICLEI
- Elli B. Tzatzanis-Stepanovic, Environmental Economist, Senior Project Manager, Austrian Research Promotion Agency
- Nicola Iezza, Finance & Funding Helpdesk Manager Urban Transitions Mission

Q&A with audience

Organised by UTMC and Co-organised by ICLEI SA

14:30 - 16:00

Parallel Session 11: Shaping Urban Climate Futures: Media Narratives, Citizen Participation, and the Youth Perspective

Venue:
Crystal Ballroom 2

The session examines how storytelling, digital platforms, and participatory culture can drive climate resilience and civic action. It stresses upon the importance of extending change beyond policy to include media, youth, and citizen engagement in an effort to combat climate stress and inequality.

Moderated Panel discussion: Narrative-building as a Tool for Climate Resilience

Moderator: Sayli Mankikar, Associate Director, ICLEI South Asia

Panelists:

- Aditi Agrawal, Lead, Narrative Building, DASRA
- Meenakshi Ramesh, Founder, Oorvani Foundation
- Lovlesh Sharma, Head - Urban Youth Unit, National Institute of Urban Affairs
- Shivani Singh, National Urban Editor, Hindustan Times
- Rohit Kumar, Co-founder, Young Leaders for Active Citizenship
- Sampada Tewari, UNICEF Youth Foresight Fellow

Group Activity: Kaivalya Plays and DASRA

Co-organised by DASRA

Day 2: Thursday | 9 October 2025

14:30 - 16:30

Parallel Session 12: National Local Dialogue on Transit Oriented Development in Indian Cities - Session II

Venue:
Regency IV and V

The session will focus on understanding the concept of Transit Oriented Development (ToD), its principles in the Indian context, along with the need of walkable corridors for accessing gender friendly public transport. The session will also showcase successful examples from India and abroad, with a focus on policy development, walkable streets specific to ToD in Indian cities

Welcome & Session Context

- Karishma Asarpota, Senior Officer, Climate Action, ICLEI

Learnings from the City - Presenting their Work on Transit Oriented Development (ToD)

- Nikhil Mijar, Urban Transport Planner, Technical Consultant, Pune Municipal Corporation

Moderated Panel Discussion 1: Promoting Transit Oriented Development in Indian Cities

Moderator: Avantika Arjuna, Assistant Program Coordinator, ICLEI South Asia

Panelists

- R. Srinivas, Urban Planning Expert, ADB TOD Cell, Institute of Urban Transport, India
- Dr. Rutul Joshi, Sr. Associate Professor, CEPT University
- Kanika Kalra, Assistant Vice President, Urban Mass Transit Company
- Ritu Agarwal Sharma, Joint General Manager, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
- Nikhil Mijar, Urban Transport Planner, Technical Consultant, Pune Municipal Corporation
- Varsha Singh, Project Coordinator - UrbanShift, National Institute of Urban Affairs

Q&A with audience

Moderated Panel Discussion 2: Building Inclusive Transport Systems: The Role of Data, Technology, and Governance

Context Setting and Moderation:

- Krishna Desai, Gender Focal Point, Technical Advisor, SUMACA-GIZ India

Panelists:

- Manjunath Sekhar, Director – SUMACA, GIZ India
- Dr. Kalpana Viswanath, Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder, Safetipin
- Parul Sharma, Expert on Disability inclusive urban development, Ex-Advisor at UNESCAP
- Veda Bharadwaj, Programme Lead, Safe and Inclusive Public Spaces, UN Women India

Q&A with audience

Co-organised by GIZ

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee/Tea break



Day 2: Thursday | 9 October 2025

16:30 – 17:30

Closing Ceremony

Venue:
Plenary Hall,
The Lalit
The Crystal

Ballroom

ARISE Cities Forum – Summary and Outlook

- Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI, Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia
- Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI

Address

- Dr. Debolina Kundu, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs

Youth Hackathon: Introduction and Announcement of Ritu Thakur Memorial Awards 2025

- Shinjini Saha, Knowledge Management Expert, ICLEI South Asia

Delhi Declaration: Handover to Brazil contingent by

- Shri Shankar Lalwani, Member of Parliament, Indore & Mentor, Climate Parliament India
- Rodrigo De Souza Corradi, Deputy Executive Secretary and Director, ICLEI South America

Chief Guest Address

- Shri Shankar Lalwani, Honourable Member of Parliament, Indore & Mentor, Climate Parliament India

Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks

- Bedoshruti Sadhukhan, Associate Director, ICLEI South Asia

ARISE CITIES FORUM 2025

8 - 9 OCTOBER 2025
NEW DELHI, INDIA

Organisers



Supporting Partners



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ARISE
CITIES
FORUM 2025

8-9 OCTOBER 2025 NEW DELHI INDIA

From Bharat
to Belem:

**Ideas to
Implementation**

ARISE, the urban resilience flagship forum of local governments, to collect, collaborate and co-create solutions, & capture voices from the Global South for urban resilience.

Led by **ICLEI South Asia** and **NIUA**, the Forum will convene **climate leaders from cities across South Asia and the Global South** to shape a bold urban resilience agenda.

ARISE — Adaptive, Resilient, Innovative, Sustainable, and Equitable — will serve as the region's **premier platform for dialogue, collaboration, and climate ambition.**

The forum includes **two transformative days of dialogue, innovation, and collaboration with more than 200 delegates** consisting of — governments, thought leaders, urban practitioners and stakeholders from the Global South.

It will feature **multi-stakeholder discussions around thematic sessions encompassing climate finance, innovation, adaptation funding, loss and damage, circularity, urban heat, healthy cities, food systems, mobility, gender and equity, multi-level and data-based governance, community and youth leadership etc.**

The deliberations will culminate in the **'Delhi Declaration'** — a collaborative outcome document which will be formally released at the forum's conclusion and handed over to the **COP30 Presidency in Belém, Brazil**, as a collective statement of urban ambition and commitment to accelerated climate action.