

Interactive Session on Local Action for Climate Change in Pune City
Report from 5th of March 2024
VB Auditorium, S.B. Road

Guests:

1. Prof. Jyoti Chandiramani, *Director-SSE, Head-SCUS, Dean-FoHSS*
2. Prof. Vanesa Castan Broto, *University of Sheffield*
3. Prof. Gurudas Nulkar, *Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE)*
4. Mr. Sarath Babu, *National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)*

Attendees:

1. Nine Faculty Mentors
2. 220 Second Year BSc (Eco Hon) Students

The session commenced with an introduction to the topic of climate change from global, national, and regional perspectives, as well as an introduction to the panelists involved.

In her opening remarks, Prof. Chandiramani provided a detailed background of Local Action for Climate Change in Pune City. The presentation included an analysis conducted by SSE's students, highlighting resilience and environmental reports specific to Pune. The current objectives of the research project, highlighting the level of awareness of various stakeholders, were stressed.

Prof. Vanesa elaborated on the relationship between urbanization and climate change. She introduced the concept of climate urbanism and mundane innovation, citing examples from cities like Davao, PH, and Livingstonia, Malwa. She emphasized the importance of recognizing local actions, particularly in adaptation and water management, and the role of national governments in supporting these initiatives.

Mr. Sarath discussed Pune's climate change journey, focusing on emissions from buildings, water scarcity, and vulnerability to flooding. He highlighted the significance of Pune's green cover and the need for both adaptation and mitigation strategies. He also addressed the issue of water stress and the importance of data collection and budget allocation for climate change initiatives.

Prof. Gurudas emphasized the diverse nature of India's climate and its impact on various aspects such as soil quality, rainfall patterns, and biological diversity. He stressed the importance of localized climate action plans due to India's physical and cultural diversity. He also discussed the historical centralization of natural resource management and the need for decentralized, locally relevant solutions.

Key takeaways from the interactive session are as follows:

1. Importance of Local Action: There was a consensus among the panelists on the critical role of local actions in addressing climate change, considering the diverse nature of India's climate and vulnerabilities.
2. Mundane Innovation: The concept of mundane innovation, characterized by routine actions contributing to climate resilience, was highlighted as essential for sustainability at the local level.
3. Data Collection and Budget Allocation: The need for comprehensive data collection and budget allocation for climate change initiatives emerged as crucial factors in effective climate action planning.
4. Role of National Governments: While local actions were emphasized, the role of national governments in supporting and scaling up these initiatives was acknowledged as essential for success.

PHOTOS:







Workshop on Local Action for Climate Change in Pune City
Report from 6th of March 2024
Sandipani, Lavale

Strategically situated among the Western Ghats, Pune City, known for its rich tapestry of history, education, and industry, coupled with its moderate climate, is known to be a pleasant place to live and work. A leader in the field of urban development, with an estimated population of around 4,436,000 within the city and approximately 7,184,000 throughout the metropolitan area, Pune City stands out as a crucial hub of implementing climate action at the local level - right down to ward-wise action.

Nevertheless, the undifferentiating and direct impact of climate change immediately threatens biodiversity, air quality, agriculture, and water availability in the city - with, of course, the concern of increasing temperatures and heat waves. In light of the pressing need to tackle these challenges, a number of prominent organizations have joined forces to lead a comprehensive plan for adapting, mitigating, and building resilience in Pune City. The attempt was undertaken by the Symbiosis Centre for Urban Studies and Symbiosis School of Economics in collaboration with Symbiosis Centre for Climate Change & Sustainability, JEAN MONET CHAIR EUC-LAMP Law Governance Management and Policy, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) India, and the University of Sheffield, UK.

The two-day interactive session and a Consultative Workshop on "Local Action for Climate Change in Pune City" was held on March 5th and 6th, 2024, at Symbiosis International (Deemed University) to initiate, deliberate, and reiterate this global yet local issue. The workshop convened important stakeholders in the various aspects of Climate Action to discuss and analyze the historical, present, and prospective urban climate initiatives in Pune. Insights were presented by a set of academicians, civil society members and founders, research scholars, and other experts, who not only contributed to the discussion at hand but also answered questions posed by students about the dynamics of Local Climate Action.

The workshop hosted three tracks that were representative of the key elements of climate action - Adaptation, Mitigation, and Resilience. Insights that were expressed included those by Professor Vanessa Castan Broto (University of Sheffield), Professor Gurudas Nulkar (Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics), Mr. Sarath Babu (National Institute of Urban Affairs), Dr. Jyoti Chandiramani (Symbiosis School of Economics), Professor Prakash Rao (Symbiosis Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability), and Dr. Sanskriti Menon (Centre for Environment Education).

Professor Vanessa Broto highlighted the consequences of mundane innovation in urban development while highlighting the importance of taking the view of citizens in climate action in the form of participatory processes that are directly converted to projects. Professor Broto

additionally spoke about the role of local governments in facilitating the mitigation of climate change as well as the individual accountability and responsibility of citizens to secure the future.

Mr. Sarath Babu, with his team - Ms. Nidhi and Ms. Ankita - presented their Climate Action Plan for Pune, which was developed in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the National Action Plan on Climate Change by conducting primary and secondary research on the various targets of the eight specific missions of the NAPCC. Their discussion highlighted Pune's Decarbonization Plan and the importance of integrating the dynamics of climate action with individual intervention and responsibility and government facilitation.

Dr. Jyoti Chandiramani expressed the importance of road safety and increased public mobility measures as a part of adaptation, the need for increased awareness among stakeholders of climate action, and the insufficiency of a one-glove-fits-all approach to climate action. Dr. Jyoti also laid emphasis on the unpreparedness of public transit to support the population of Pune City, which would require further perfected mobility plans, especially including the measure of capacity building of the manufacturing sector and refined governance.

Professor Prakash Rao chaired and moderated the first track - Adaptation. Professor discussed the importance of net zero initiatives. In further discussion, Professor Rao highlighted the key dimensions of climate action as technology changes, regulatory changes, and behavioral changes. Professor also emphasized the need for ecologically resilient cities with natural conservation and rejuvenation of biodiversity.

Dr. Sanskriti Menon chaired and moderated the second track - Mitigation. Dr. Menon covered points regarding energy poverty and the importance of making the right choice in terms of habits by individuals in their fight against climate change. Dr. Menon also spoke of the strength of awareness and the importance of including theoretical and practical courses on climate action and sustainability in the curriculums of schools and colleges. In further discussion, Dr. Menon highlighted the importance of participatory processes in a jury-like system for climate action at local levels such that the voices of stakeholders are heard at the central level.

Professor Gurudas Nulkar chaired and moderated the final track - Resilience - emphasizing that we as citizens must be tenacious enough to recover from climate impacts. The problems are twofold - Existential, that is, those concerning the human body and life, and Operational, that is, those concerning cities as a whole. Professor Nulkar highlighted the difference between the climate impact and the implementation of the Riverfront Development Projects on the Sabarmati River and the Mula-Mutha River. In additional discussion, Professor also highlighted the perils of maladaptation to challenges posed by climate change.

The other experts that were present were Ms. Pournima Agarkar, Dr. Milind Majumdar, Ms. Shailaja Deshpande, Mr. Ashok Srinivas, Mr. Ameet Singh, Ms Pratima Joshi, Ms. Dhanashree, and Ms. Ashwini Keskar. The key takeaways over the two days include the role of data and the importance of institutionalizing data for better research and analysis of persistent issues, the need for net-metering of water and electricity, especially that is provided via renewable sources, and the need to establish a legislative approach for arbitration and dispute resolution regarding climate action for citizens, as well as the need for proactive participation by the Pune Municipal Cooperation.

PHOTOS:







A Collaborative Workshop on
**LOCAL ACTION FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE
IN PUNE CITY**



Prof. Vanesa Castan Broto
Department of Geography
University of Sheffield



Prof. Jyoti Chandiramani
Director - Symbiosis School of Economics
Head - Symbiosis Center for Urban Studies



Prof. Debolina Kundu
Director - National Institute
of Urban Studies



Prof. Prakash Rao
Head - Symbiosis Center for
Climate Change and Sustainability



Prof. Shashikala Gurpur
Director - Symbiosis Law School
Head - Symbiosis Climate Change
Policy and Law Center

Date : 6th March 2024

Time : 9:00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Venue : Sandipani,
Symbiosis International (Deemed University)

News Articles from the Workshop on “Local Action for Climate Change in Pune City” 5th and 6th of March 2024

Interactive Session on Local Action for Climate Change in Pune City - A Symbiosis International University Initiative

By ANI | Published: March 7, 2024 04:16 PM



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Local Action for Climate Change in Pune City - A Symbiosis International University Initiative

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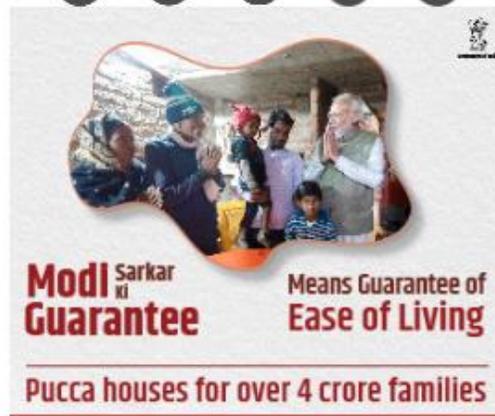
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Business News | Interactive Session on Local Action for Climate Change in Pune City - A Symbiosis International University Initiative

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