



पर्यावरण व वातावरणीय
बदल विभाग,
महाराष्ट्र शासन

Maharashtra joins the United Nations Race to Resilience Campaign at COP26 in Glasgow

The Maharashtra Council on Climate Change and Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan to make the state resilient in the face of increasing climate disasters

Glasgow (UK) November 9, 2021: Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray announced in an interview with COP TV today that Maharashtra joined the UN Race to Resilience campaign. Over the last year, the government has incurred losses worth \$2 billion paid as compensation for those impacted by extreme weather events.

A key action has been the state's entry to the United Nations Race to Resilience campaign. "As India's most industrialized state, Maharashtra is a crucial voice in building climate resilience in the Global South. By joining the Race to Resilience, Maharashtra aims to be a leading example for regional governments, inspire climate action and sustainable development." said Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray.

What is Race to Resilience?

A GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Race to Resilience is the UN-backed global campaign to catalyse a step-change in global ambition for climate resilience, putting people and nature first in pursuit of a resilient world where we don't just survive climate shocks and stresses, but thrive in spite of them.

The Race to Resilience focuses on helping the most vulnerable, frontline communities to build resilience and adapt to the physical impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, drought, flooding and sea-level rise, in three area types: Urban, Rural and Coastal

How is Maharashtra Building Climate-Resilience?

MAJHI VASUNDHARA (MY EARTH) – CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION PROGRAMME (Urban and Rural)

The state's climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes aim to build resilience and a culture of climate action at every level of the government. Started in 2020, the mission aims to achieve climate resilience in the state by bringing together local administrations, businesses, NGOs, and the citizens of all age groups to enable climate action amongst all stakeholders. This is the first program in the world to incentivize all levels of local government to act on climate change mitigation and adaptation – making it the only program in the world with such a mandate.

The core guiding principles of this program are the five elements of nature in Indian mythology – Earth, Air, Water, Energy, and Enhancement. Together, these elements address biodiversity, waste management, water conservation, renewable energy adoption, air quality monitoring, electric vehicle (EV) uptake, green building measures, energy conservation, and creating awareness among citizens.

The local bodies are driven to take progressive climate action under the program which is driven by performance incentives and a healthy competition. At the end of its first year (2020-21), the Mission awarded USD 7.4 million (INR 55 Cr) amongst all local bodies that ranked top 5 in their respective verticals.

Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan saved 11,145.4 million litres of water in its first year of operation, which is equivalent to one day of water supply in the state. There has been a decrease of 370,978 tonnes of CO2 emissions, which is the equivalent of 17 million fully grown trees absorbing CO2.

Water conservation measures included the installation of 5,774 rainwater collecting facilities, the construction of 1,455 extra rainwater percolation pits, and the cleaning of 775 water bodies. In terms of electrification, 12.23 lakh LED lights and 70,000 solar lights were erected, as well as 736 biogas plants and 701 solar pumps in Maharashtra's rural districts. So far, 130 green buildings have been certified, with 104 electric vehicle charging stations installed. There were a total of 17,889 awareness activities held around the state.

The program has evolved from a campaign to a large-scale monitoring and evaluation framework to implement and measure the impact of multiple state and departmental policies like the Electric Vehicle Policy, the Tree Act, and other policies at all levels of government. It assists in decentralising the implementation of overall target-based governance and policy reforms.

PROJECT ON CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE (PoCRA) (Rural)

In partnership with the World Bank, PoCRA is a project to enhance climate resilience and profitability of smallholder farms across Maharashtra. The project aims to support investments in farm, community, and post-harvest agriculture infrastructure and adopt climate-resilient technologies. In its 3 years of implementation, the project has already enabled more than 400,000 farmers to adopt climate-resilient technologies in 5000+ villages.

MANGROVE CONSERVATION IN MAHARASHTRA (Coastal)

In the last year, 9800 hectares of mangrove forest has been classified as reserved forest providing them statutory protection by law. This work is undertaken by the Mangrove Cell set up by the Government of Maharashtra, with support from United Nations Development Programme and the Green Climate Fund.

Maharashtra is striving to establish a climate-resilient state by inspiring climate action at all levels of the state, districts, local, and hyperlocal levels to build a culture of climate understanding and holistic transformation through Majhi Vasundhara, Regions4, and Race2Resilience.



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