

ROADMAP

Sustainable urbanisation in Madhya Pradesh, India

Contributor : developed from a collaborative process bringing together key constituencies in Madhya Pradesh for a dialogue on Sustainable Urbanisation 2-4 February 2026 in Bhopal convened by the CSCC and the AILSG.

**COMMONWEALTH
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
COALITION**

 **UK International
Development**
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

The Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Coalition is an initiative led by the members of the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Initiative working in collaboration with The King's Foundation.



The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities



**COMMONWEALTH
ASSOCIATION
OF ARCHITECTS**



Commonwealth Association of Planners



**Commonwealth
Engineers' Council**



**COMMONWEALTH
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM**

clgf



**THE
KING'S
FOUNDATION**

Contents

Background	1
Sustainable Urbanisation in Madhya Pradesh	3
Key Cross-cutting Issues in Madhya Pradesh	5
Outcome Matrix	6
Key Dates and Next Steps	15

The Roadmap for action on sustainable urbanisation in Madhya Pradesh is the outcome of a three-day dialogue 3-5 February 2026 in Bhopal. The in-person meeting, and follow up sessions, brought together a multi-stakeholder group from across state and local government, built environment professional, academic and civil society, and reflected on the key challenges and priorities for the state’s ongoing urbanisation.

The outcome roadmap reflects the key governance, climate, equity and economy priorities drawn from the expert group and frames these with the specific environments, policy and social context of Madhya Pradesh. As a multi-stakeholder document the roadmap is intended as a tool to mobilise across a wide set of local, state, national and international actors, and to support coordination and joint working towards key goals.

Background

Sustainable urbanisation in the Commonwealth

Commonwealth Heads of Government adopted the Commonwealth Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation in 2022. At its heart the Declaration recognised that rapid urbanisation and the increasing impacts of climate change mean that there needs to be a stronger emphasis on ensuring sustainable and inclusive urban development across the Commonwealth. It also highlighted that the complexity of the actions needed to achieve this requires a shift towards multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder/multi-sectoral cooperation.

This declaration came out of multi-year work and advocacy by a set of key Commonwealth organisations. The Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Initiative, which brings together the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP), the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA), the Commonwealth Engineers Council (CEC) and The King’s Foundation (KF). The CSCI have been working together to promote and implement the Declaration since its adoption.

With support from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), UK, the CSCI have been working to pilot strategies to enable effective implementation and to build a long-term coalition of organisations and partners active in strengthening knowledge, good practice, data and implementation capacity across the sector. Following a successful cross-Commonwealth dialogue in March 2025 at Wilton Park (UK) it was agreed to pilot a more localised multi-stakeholder process in a key Commonwealth country.

Madhya Pradesh Dialogue on Sustainable and inclusive Urban Development

Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Coalition project (CSCC)¹ worked with one member state – Madhya Pradesh in India, to better understand and map existing challenges and good practices, particularly with respect to multi-level governance and multi-sectoral/multi-level cooperation across all aspects of urban development. It provided an important platform to bring actors together and to collectively work to agree on and understand key challenges and bottlenecks, highlight interlinkages between them, and to map the associated actions to form the basis of the road map for action.

The roadmap is designed to be a tool to support the State Government, urban and rural local bodies and other key state and non-state partners, including specialist agencies, professional organisations, universities, training bodies, civil society bodies, and the private sector in Madhya Pradesh as they work to strengthen urban development at a time of rapid urban growth; rural to urban migration, the growth of tier 2 and tier 3 cities; water scarcity; increasing frequency and severity of climate events; and significant resource and capacity gaps.

The three day dialogue, held 2-4 February 2026 in Bhopal, included plenary and panel sessions, as well as working groups and a facilitated roundtable to highlight existing progress and good practice on urban development in the State, and to understand/draw out key gaps and challenges; in order to make recommendations for action.



L1 – Hon Pratima Bagri, Minister of State, Ministry of Urban Development & Housing, GoMP and Dr Sudhir Krishna, Advisor, Karnataka L2 Sanjay Dubey Adl. Chief Secretary Urban Development and Housing Department, GoMP, R1 – Meeting participants during plenary session

¹ The Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Coalition (CSCC) is a project funded by the FCDO and implemented from November 2025 - March 2026 by the members of the CSCI (CLGF, ACU, CAP, CAA, CEC and KF). For more information on the CSCC visit the [CSCI Website](#)



Urban transport systems, India

Sustainable Urbanisation in Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh is undergoing a critical phase of urban transition. Its cities—ranging from rapidly growing urban centres and peri-urban areas (tier 2² & 3³ cities) and census towns⁴—are becoming key drivers of economic growth, social transformation, and climate resilience. However, this growth is uneven and often unplanned, placing pressure on infrastructure, public services, natural resources, and institutional capacity.

The coming decade presents a strategic opportunity: to shape urbanisation in a way that is inclusive, climate-resilient, economically productive, and institutionally robust. This Roadmap for Sustainable Urbanisation provides a framework to support the State Government and local partners in achieving this vision.

² Tier 2 cities function as state administrative or commercial hubs, experiencing rapid growth in infrastructure, technology, and investment, similar to other emerging Tier-2 hubs in India. In Madhya Pradesh this includes Bhopal, Indore, and Jabalpur.

³ Tier 3 cities in Madhya Pradesh are generally classified as 'Z' class cities under 7th CPC standards, characterized by moderate populations, emerging infrastructure, and lower costs of living compared to major metros. Major Tier 3 cities in Madhya Pradesh include Sagar, Satna, Rewa, Narmadapuram (Hoshangabad), Ratlam, and Chhindwara.

⁴ Census towns in Madhya Pradesh are settlements that, despite being governed by rural panchayats, are classified as urban by the Census of India due to meeting specific criteria: a population over 5,000, a density of 400/km², and >75% of male main workers in non-agricultural sectors. These represent urbanizing, non-municipal areas.

National and State priorities

The roadmap was developed within the existing policy and vision framework of Madhya Pradesh which includes **Viksit Madhya Pradesh 2047** which encompasses the State's economic transformation strategy with the goal of increasing Gross State Domestic Product from approximately ₹15 lakh crore to ₹250 lakh crore (USD 2 trillion) by 2047, as well as increasing per capital incomes and rebalancing the State's economy to reduce dependence on the Agricultural sector (moving from 43% to 24-28% of the GSDP) and increasing the Industry and Service sectors. Sustainable urban development will be key in achieving these priorities at both the macro and micro levels.

The roadmap also looks to reflect and support the key reform agendas being taken forward by Government of India such as the five working groups put in place by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MoHUA) to recommend reforms for better city management. These working groups are making proposals around political reforms, administrative reforms, redefining the role of parastatals, transition systems for rural urban continuum and capacity building at the local level. These reform areas run through the proposed action areas of the road map both in terms of the guiding ethos of multi-sector, multi-level collaboration, but also in the specific themes of governance, capacity building and built environment.

A key reflection of both of the above, which also came out clearly from the multi-sector dialogue, is the need to understand urban systems as part of the wider regional system. With urban areas dependent on but also feeding peri-urban areas, smaller cities and rural areas. The economic, social and environmental flows between these different areas need to be considered and accounted for in planning the built environment, environmental changes (such as water system management), jobs and housing.

Municipal governance in MP

In Madhya Pradesh the principle legislation governing cities is the State Municipal Corporation Act (1956) and the State Municipalities Act (1961) which lay out the key responsibilities for urban governance, which includes **core civic functions** such as water supply; sanitation and waste management; public health and hospitals; roads, street lighting, infrastructure and urban planning and land use regulation. The act also includes the **regulatory functions** of municipalities which include: building approvals and zoning; trade licenses and encroachment control. In addition, the Act includes the **financial provisions** of the authority to levy taxes, which include property tax, water tax and advertisement tax, as well as other revenue sources such as fees, fines, and user charges and the main grants from state and central governments. The Act frames municipal budget preparation and financial accountability mechanisms, outlines the municipal structure, including standing committees and ward committees, and defines roles, responsibilities, and powers of officials.

In addition the Madhya Pradesh Bhumi Vikas Niyam (Land Development Rules) (1984) provides technical regulations for building construction, setbacks, and land development, and the MP Investment Facilitation Act (2008, amended 2023) facilitates investment by simplifying land and building management rules.

More recently the Madhya Pradesh Metropolitan Planning and Development Act (2025) was introduced to create metropolitan planning committees for aligning land use and infrastructure in large metro areas, and the Madhya Pradesh Integrated Township Policy (2025) which encourages private sector participation in developing townships and urban infrastructure.

National Missions also continue to play important roles in the State's Urban development with the Smart Cities Mission (2015-2025) having placed a focus on spatial planning, data and economic development and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) (2015-2026 with additional phase expected) working to provide universal water and sewerage connections in 34 ULBs. These have been key initiatives in addressing issues around water security which is a major challenge in the State. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-Urban) is a flagship

mission of the Government of India, launched in June 2015, with the vision of "Housing for All". Madhya Pradesh has been a leader in terms of approvals, completions, and beneficiary-led construction under this mission, working to address the urban housing shortage and providing eligible urban households (economically weaker section, low-income group, and middle-income group) with an all-weather *pucca* (durable) house.

Poverty reduction and social inclusion are also major state priorities, with programmes such as "Mukhya Mantri Jan-Kalyan Yojana" (Chief Minister's Welfare Scheme), working to reduce poverty and support the marginalized sectors of society, and "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) campaign working to reduce gender-based discrimination and improve the enrolment of girls in schools.

Key Cross-Cutting Issues in Madhya Pradesh

Participants at the February dialogue and follow-up meetings highlighted a number of cross cutting issues that should be mainstreamed across future work on sustainable urbanisation in Madhya Pradesh.

Promoting Collaboration and Transformation

Sustainable urbanisation can only be delivered through a full system approach. Working collaboratively across different sectors and thematic areas will be key to maximising impact and ensuring a multiplier effect from specific actions and interventions. Strengthening coordination between levels of government and between government and non-state actors in areas of common work can identify barriers and roadblocks, and maximise the impact of limited resources. Acknowledging the need to include economic impact, environmental protection and social inclusion across all action area will reinforce sustainability.

Strong policies and legal frameworks exist. Their implementation needs to be strengthened, considering both human and skills capacity gaps across action areas and implementing transformational system reform will be key to success.

Situating cities within their wider regional context

The trends, drivers and impacts of urbanisation do not end at the city boundary. Ensuring that policy and action take the wider region into consideration both in terms of environment (such as considering watersheds and hydrological cycles) and economy (considering job locations and the impact on informal settlements), as well as the interlinkage of urban, peri-urban and rural areas in supporting urban development (for example in ensuring food security or the supply of workers) is vital.

Addressing inequalities

There are stark inequalities within cities and also between cities. Ensuring that policies and activities do not inadvertently make specific services, areas or sectors inaccessible for specific sections of society (women, disabled, slum dwellers, etc). Gender transformative approaches and pro-poor methodologies can be used to increase equity in access to the prosperity of urbanisation. The needs and capacity of different types of cities must also be considered, building up a network of cities (T2, T3, census towns) across the State where local people can access key services and opportunities in smaller cities and towns (including training and job opportunities, housing, green space etc) would be valuable.



Fostering Innovation

Capitalising on the spirit of innovation and the emerging good practice both within the key sector present at the dialogue as well as in national, regional and international networks is key. Digital transformation is one opportunity that should be capitalised on to strengthen sustainable innovation, and improve service delivery, outreach and data collection. Peer-to-peer exchange and capturing good practice were also stressed to ensure actions build on past experience of both successes and failures.

Outcomes Matrix

With the above cross cutting issues in mind, meeting participants discussed key issues and highlight the areas that for them were essential for collaborative multi-sector multi-stakeholder work to move the dial on sustainable urban development.

The matrix of action of which follows breaks these issues and actions identified in the meeting into six core issue areas:

- Governance and decentralisation
- Municipal finance
- Capacity, skills and knowledge systems
- The built environment and inclusive urban development
- Climate resilience and disaster risk resilience (DDR)
- Economy, participation and implementation

The matrix recognises the need for the roadmap to operate at multiple levels, and with multiple organisations. It proposes key actions; as well as level of urgency; possible time frames; and lead and supporting entities. Critically it recognises the co-benefits of strengthening integration in urban development to meet the twin challenges of rapid urbanisation and climate change.

Matrix of Action for Sustainable Urbanisation in Madhya Pradesh

A. Governance & Decentralisation

	Key issue & Impact on SU	Urgency H/M/L	Actions	Cost H/M/L	Timeframe	Lead entity/ies	Supporting entity/ies	Co-benefits
1.1	Need to review the State Municipal Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pace and extent of implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment have differed across contexts, leading to uneven decentralisation outcomes. - Need to empower local government as well as maximise what is already possible within the framework of the Municipal Act 	H Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify areas of discretionary power for States for devolution of funds and functions - Centre has to review the implementation with wider consultations and prepare plan for follow up 	M L	2 Year Ongoing	State gov Central gov	ULBs & multi-stakeholder coalition	Overall urban sustainability
1.2	Need for more participatory planning and decision making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening downwards accountability to citizens 	H Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ward Committees should be used and/or put in place to consult and communicate with citizens - Stakeholder and needs mapping at local level 	L	Short	Government	Professional institutes NGOs Private partners CSR Elected reps	Increased citizen buy-in in government programmes and work
1.3	Better coordination between municipal administration and elected representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving mutual respect and accountability 	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use ward committees - Improved internal communication 	L	Short	Elected and non-elected wing of ULB	Training institutions	Speedy implementation of schemes and programs and higher collection of revenue
1.4	Improve implementation of plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - moving from planning and reporting to action at the local level 	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase capacity/ hire officers with subject matter knowledge - Reinforce compliance through monitoring from day 1 - Improving inter-departmental coordination - Ensure availability of funds due on part of ULB - Ensure funds for O&M 	H		Government Private Sector (PPP leads)	Elected Reps LG officers Citizens	Increased tourism Increased economic opportunities/development

B. Municipal Finance

	Key issue & Impact on SU	Urgency H/M/L	Actions	Cost H/M/L	Timeframe	Lead entity/ies	Supporting entity/ies	Co-benefits
2.1	Increase levels of own-source revenue - Would enable prompt implementation of plans and increased action on sustainability	H Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve property tax base and collection with GIS application - Improve collections through digitisation of systems and auto-payments - Improve the application of advertisement fee & building licence fee - Use land / asset monetisation and TDR (Transfer of Development Rights) for higher own source revenue - Land value capture must be improved - improve service user charges while protecting the poor 	H	Regular exercise	ULB, Development Agencies and State	Gov't (focus on schemes and fiscal transfers from CFC and NFC)	Reinforced city economy through reinvestment
2.2	Need for improved public financial management - Improved PFM including accounting practices, book-keeping, asset registers, procurement practices are critical	H Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare SOPs for activities such as asset monetisation, levy and collection of various fees, fines, etc. - Scheme of matching State grants for additional resource mobilisation by the ULB - Use IT/AI for updating the property taxation records - Training of the ULB personnel 	L	Immediate	State UDD/ ULB concerned	State Finance Dept. MoHUA	Quicker response for resolution of citizens' grievances and needs
2.3	Limited fiscal autonomy at city level - Is not allowing cities to respond to the urban stresses they are experiencing in their territories	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the proportion of untied grants at State level 	M	Immediate	State Finance Commission (SFC)	State Government	Inclusion of local priorities in planning and budget allocation
2.4	Need for a holistic approach to funding urban development - Considering the financing mechanisms that are appropriate for different size of cities (Tier 1, Tier 2, census town)	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different tools are appropriate for different needs (capital vs maintenance) - Consider working toward state and national match funding (5%) for larger cities; - Consider pool financing for smaller cities 	M		State/ ULB		Increasing equity in distribution of state and national funds

C. Local Capacity, Skills & Knowledge Systems

	Key issue & Impact on SU	Urgency H/M/L	Actions	Cost H/M/L	Timeframe	Lead entity/ies	Supporting entity/ies	Co-benefits
3.1	Lack of professional and technical capacity at the local level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both local leaders and technical staff are in need of capacity building - Quality of work and service delivery is impacted, deadlines are missed, municipality functions not fully operational and there are more opportunities for corruption. - The municipality and citizens are not getting value for money. - Small and Medium towns are especially stretched for skilled staff 	H Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure proper selection and recruitment of skilled personnel in the appropriate departments. - Fill large number of municipal vacancies (consider lateral entry and other creative modalities) - Provide training for the problems of the future (e.g. polycrisis, water shortage, etc) - Implement skill-based recruitment aligned with local requirements. - Conduct regular HR audits to identify and address skill gaps. - Regular training programmes for capacity building - Update the manuals for SOPs for planning, designing, procurements and monitoring & evaluation - Prepare and adopt a transfer and posting policy 	M	Immediate	State UADD/ State Finance Department/ MOHUA/Dept. of Personnel and Training	Training Institutes like AILSG, State ATI, SPA (For Training) External experts for updating the Manuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperity and inclusive growth for all. • Better living conditions for city residents. • Optimum utilization of available resources. • Improved cost and time efficiency in implementation of schemes, programmes, and projects
3.2	Uneven use/uptake of digital technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact on ease of access to governance services - Digitalisation also has the potential to ease many capacity challenges (eg auto-updating property tax) 	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure wide coverage of technology adoption, with a special focus on small towns. - Simplify systems to make them more user-friendly. - Raise awareness among citizens and municipal staff about technology use. - Provide incentives to encourage people to adopt and utilize new technologies. - Make appropriate use of AI in digital connectivity and develop suitable Apps . - Use funds available with National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) 	M	6 Months	Local Governments and state governments	Technology provider government/private entities	Ease of access to government services for citizens.
3.3	Need to collect and increase use of data in decision making	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create portal for online database for the cities, with BSLLD as the guiding City Data Framework, and Bhuvan and 	M	Immediate	State UDD/ ULB concerned	State Dept of e-Governance/ MoHUA	Fewer disputes about the outcomes from the projects and programmes/ more sustainable

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More accurate and comprehensive data facilitates realistic planning, and sustainable results. - Including a mapping of stakeholders in Urban Sustainability at the local level 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - various e-governance platforms as the data-feeders - Involve the stakeholders in participatory budgeting 	M	Immediate & on-going	ULB	RWA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - happiness among the citizens - Urban interventions will be better aligned with citizen needs and therefore will deliver better value for money
3.4	Limited capacity for capital investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low expansion of needed infrastructure 	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for on the job training and re-skilling of staff on PPP, contracts, bonds, etc. - Increase PPPs & outsource various municipal projects (Skills and abilities outside government system in civil society, industry, business, and professionals are huge – access these to support city development) - Improve municipal creditworthiness with higher levels of municipal own revenue collection - Issue Green Bonds 	H	Regular exercise	ULB	Govt schemes, bi-lateral and multilateral assistance	City infrastructure access for social, environmental and economic development

D. The Built Environment : Inclusive Urban Development

	Key issue & Impact on SU	Urgency H/M/L	Actions	Cost H/M/L	Timeframe	Lead entity/ies	Supporting entity/ies	Co-benefits
4.1	A Regional approach to urbanisation is needed – looking at interplay between urban, peri-urban and rural, as well as the relation between tier 1, 2 & 3 Cities and census towns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural to urban migration, and from small cities to big due to lack of services, resources and opportunities. Increasing informal settlements and stress on natural systems and resources need to be addressed in a full region approach 	H Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversify urbanisation process and invest in smaller cities and towns (census towns) - Consider environmental systems as a whole (eg watershed planning) to improve management of resources - Use spatial dispersal of economic activities by promoting MSMEs in small towns - Develop upward supply chain from small towns and also use them and service centre to hinterland 	H	2 Year	State /Gol	Inter-ministry and inter-department coordination for city economy	National economy
4.2	Need for more last mile transport connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased greenhouse gas emissions and rising air pollution due to the use of private vehicles for short-distance travel. 	H Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build footpaths and other necessary infrastructure to support non-motorized transport (NMT). - Promote public transport and ensure availability for last-mile connectivity. 	M	1 Year	State government and local governments	Transport/ Traffic departments	Development of congestion-free cities. Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

			- Regulate e-rickshaws effectively, with a focus on safety standards.					Improved ease of living in small towns and cities. Reduced dependence on private vehicles.
4.3	Need to improve condition of housing for urban households - Formal housing is out of reach for the majority of urban households - Self-built housing takes place with little technical guidance or regulatory oversight - Increased focus on rental housing (was limited until recently)	H	- Mobilise City Challenge Fund (CCF) for housing investments & upgrading - Develop Creative development projects - Address issue of land title - Reinforce guidance and support for self-built housing	M	ongoing	ULB and State along with local community	Intergovernmental funds Relevant Acts and byelaws	Improve living environment and environmental base of city
4.4	Limited awareness and uptake of low carbon/resilient building materials and practices - Results in inefficient use of resources (energy/water/etc) - Lack of awareness on availability and cost	M	- Increase awareness on the benefit and cost of materials. As cost differences are often much less than people think, and builders are not aware of the low carbon/resilient options; - Gov't should require low carbon/resilient materials in their construction projects - Ensure availability of low carbon/resilient building materials at local level - Create C&D waste processing plant	M	Short	Manufacturers (need to improve marketing) Government (insist on using green products)	Building contractors & developers; Consumers	Improved micro-climate conditions Contributing to achieving national climate commitments
4.5	Greater focus on tier 3 cities and census towns needed to slow migration to big cities - will allow for a more balanced regional development	H	- Infrastructure planning and finance	H	Multi year	ULB, State government	Government schemes and funds like CCF	Reduce unsustainable development of mega cities
4.6	Need for more accessible and safe cities - Legislation and guideline are in place but not being applied	H	- Integrate accessibility and safety from a gender lens into city planning (to better reflect challenges linked to gender & climate vulnerability)	L	Multi year	ULB, State government, built environment professional	NGOs, communities	Improved economy, increased climate resilience
4.7	Need for slum upgrading - Social, health & environmental stresses can be mitigated	H	- Need an inclusive locally lead process (like the Jaga case study) - Important to focus on in-situ slum improvement - Use PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) funds	H	1-3 yrs	Urban Local Bodies NGOs Slum development board Elected Reps	Anganwadi workers; Planners & Architects; Funding partners; Slum housing boards;	Health benefits Environmental impacts

E. Climate Resilience & Disaster Risk Reduction

Key issue & Impact on SU	Urgency H/M/L	Actions	Cost H/M/L	Timeframe	Lead entity/ies	Supporting entity/ies	Co-benefits
5.1 Limited environmental protection and prioritisation - Air quality is being degraded due to pollution. - Water resources are negatively impacted, affecting both availability and safety. - Biodiversity is under threat, leading to ecological imbalance	H Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Embed climate goals in city budgets; - Conduct regular environmental audits to assess compliance and performance; - Prioritize planting of local and indigenous tree species; - Promote the development of green belts across the city; - Implement rainwater harvesting systems in suitable locations; - Ensure strict compliance with established environmental norms; - Facilitate water percolation in public spaces such as footpaths and open areas; - Encourage the use of renewable energy sources; - Promote the adoption of a circular economy at the local level covering decentralised waste management and processing plants for C and D waste. 	H	5 Years	UADD, Ministry of Environment	GRIHA, IGBC	Improvement in public health outcomes. Strengthening of the local economy. Enhancement of citizens' overall quality of life.
5.2 Increasing climate change impacts eg heat/floods/biodiversity loss etc impact human health & productivity - Human health and productivity is highly impacted - Water is an especially important resource in MP, both water stress and flooding will increase with further climate change	H Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporate plantation of trees, drainage upkeep, safety audits (footpath availability, street lighting and identification and revival of dead space like road corners, areas below flyovers etc). - Also use funds available from state and centre transfers and other schemes - Bottom-up approaches to climate action and environmental protection should be recognised, encouraged and replicated. 	M	Annual exercise within budget	ULB	State	Sustainable development & improved citizen health
5.3 Increasing climate change impacts not planned for in infrastructure &	H Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate impacts and related action must be included into master planning 	Low	S, M & L	Agencies/ Actors responsible for spatial planning	UADD, T&CP, Land-owning Agencies, Landscape	Lower costs, lower risks, improved quality of life and safety indicators

	<p>policies in place (Maladaptive infrastructure)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - infrastructure does not correctly, or entirely anticipate stressors, or increasing intensity of disasters. Increases in risks, costs, and endangers livelihoods etc. 		<p>and considered in a full system approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nature based solutions: landscape solutions such as planting and wetlands integrated into urban plans as mitigating measures - Prioritize multi-functionality: allowing spaces to fulfil several functions in support of sustainable urbanisation - Aquifer management will be key, ensuing integrated water management, drainage systems, water supply and balanced use 	Low			<p>Planners, Ecologists</p> <p>PWD, PHE, Municipal Corporations, ULBs, Landscape Planners, Ecologists</p>	Both economic and social co-benefits
--	---	--	--	-----	--	--	---	--------------------------------------

F. Economy, Participation & Implementation

	Key issue & Impact on SU	Urgency H/M/L	Actions	Cost H/M/L	Timeframe	Lead entity/ies	Supporting entity/ies	Co-benefits
6.1	<p>Barriers to economic development (Small business & Informal economy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unregulated vending spaces & encroachment on green space and/or public space (business owners don't have legal title to their business areas) - This issue has a greater impact on women who are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation 	H Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town vending committees should be strengthened - Regulation enforcement strengthened - City street-vending plan should be in place - Access ongoing scheme of PMSvaNidhi available for vendors - Create vending Zones 	M	2yrs	Government ULBs	<p>Vending associations</p> <p>Shop keeper association</p> <p>National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM)</p> <p>Planners</p>	<p>Planned vending areas provide livelihood opportunities to the poor (reduced insecurity)</p> <p>Improved sanitation</p> <p>Improved environmental protection</p>
6.2	<p>Need for a greater role for cities and ULB in enabling and supporting economic development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cities must be engines of growth and employment generation for State development 	H Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urbanisation must deliver economic growth and jobs, cities must enable this process and support equity and equality in economic development - Provide the legislative and policy framework to enable LED at city level - Undertake LED & support economic growth 	L	ongoing	GOI, State Gov Cities & ULBs	Private Sector, CSOs, NULM, Health Mission	Reinforced and inclusive local economy
6.3	<p>Citizens have unrealistic expectations of service delivery (rural/urban transition)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Citizens expect significantly more services in urban areas than in rural 	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertake awareness raising with citizens on what municipal taxes and fees deliver - Undertake participatory budgeting to build the link between municipal 	H	ongoing	State & ULB	GoI	Increased buy-in for government programmes priorities

	but are not necessarily prepared to pay for them.		budgets and the delivery of citizen wants/needs					
6.4	Integrate action on gender equity, accessibility and social inclusion - There remains significant inequalities within cities and urban areas especially impacting on women	H	- Prepare Gender Budget - Identify feasible actions on different items of infrastructure delivery like footpath(access), lighting, CCTV cameras, safety in city transport, women councillors views in governance	L	Regular	ULB	State	Cohesive city environment
6.5	Disconnection between training provision and employer/business needs - Local conditions do not always improve after delivery of training to municipal/other relevant staff	M	- Training Needs Assessment - Development of manuals - Conduct of Training of Trainers	M	6 months	State and training institutions	Government schemes – particularly XVI National Finance Commission Grants available from next fiscal year	Improve overall governance

Key Dates & Next Steps

The Roadmap is one of the key outcomes of the CSCC project which completes on 31 March 2026. In addition, three Action Groups have been convened as part of the project (on housing, integrated planning and urban finance) and will report and share research; case studies and policy recommendations to guide future implementation of the Commonwealth Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation.

The CSCI members are committed to continuing to grow and strengthen the Coalition to ensure a focus on sustainable urbanisation across Commonwealth member states. Key actions will include ongoing advocacy; awareness raising, exchange of good practice and case studies as well as direct capacity building and technical support.

Important dates for the Coalition to continue to raise awareness and share lessons of good practice include:

- African Urban Forum – April 2026
- World Urban Forum - May 2026
- AILSG – World Mayors Forum - Nov 2026
- CLGF Biennial Conference - 2026-2027
- CHOGM – Antigua and Barbuda – Nov 2026

The partners also intend to continue the Action Groups and to work with member states on practical implementation including:

- Implementation of the Roadmap
- Supporting city to city cooperation between cities in Madhya Pradesh
- Using the Rapid Planning Toolkit in a city in Madhya Pradesh
- Refining policy recommendations to strengthen national and Commonwealth action on sustainable urbanisation



**COMMONWEALTH
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
COALITION**