EARTHDAY.ORG

Star Municipal Leadership Awards

Earth Day Network India (EDN) is a trust registered in India since 2011. Our work is inspired by the global environmental NGO EARTHDAY.ORG, which grew out of the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, and today engages with over 50,000 organisations in some 190 countries to take the environmental movement forward.

We regularly produce eBooks to showcase ways stakeholders effectively 'Invest in Our Planet' by adopting innovative sustainable practices.

This eBook focusses on municipal bodies that have positively impacted the environment through their initiatives.
Each of the 53 highlighted in this eBook is a recipient of our **Star Municipal Leadership Awards.**

Read about how municipal bodies help protect and increase our natural wealth; manage various categories of waste; grow the green cover; switch to renewable energies; and support green mobility. In addition, also read about systems to encourage constituents to adopt sustainable lifestyles as delineated in the Government of India's LiFE Mission.
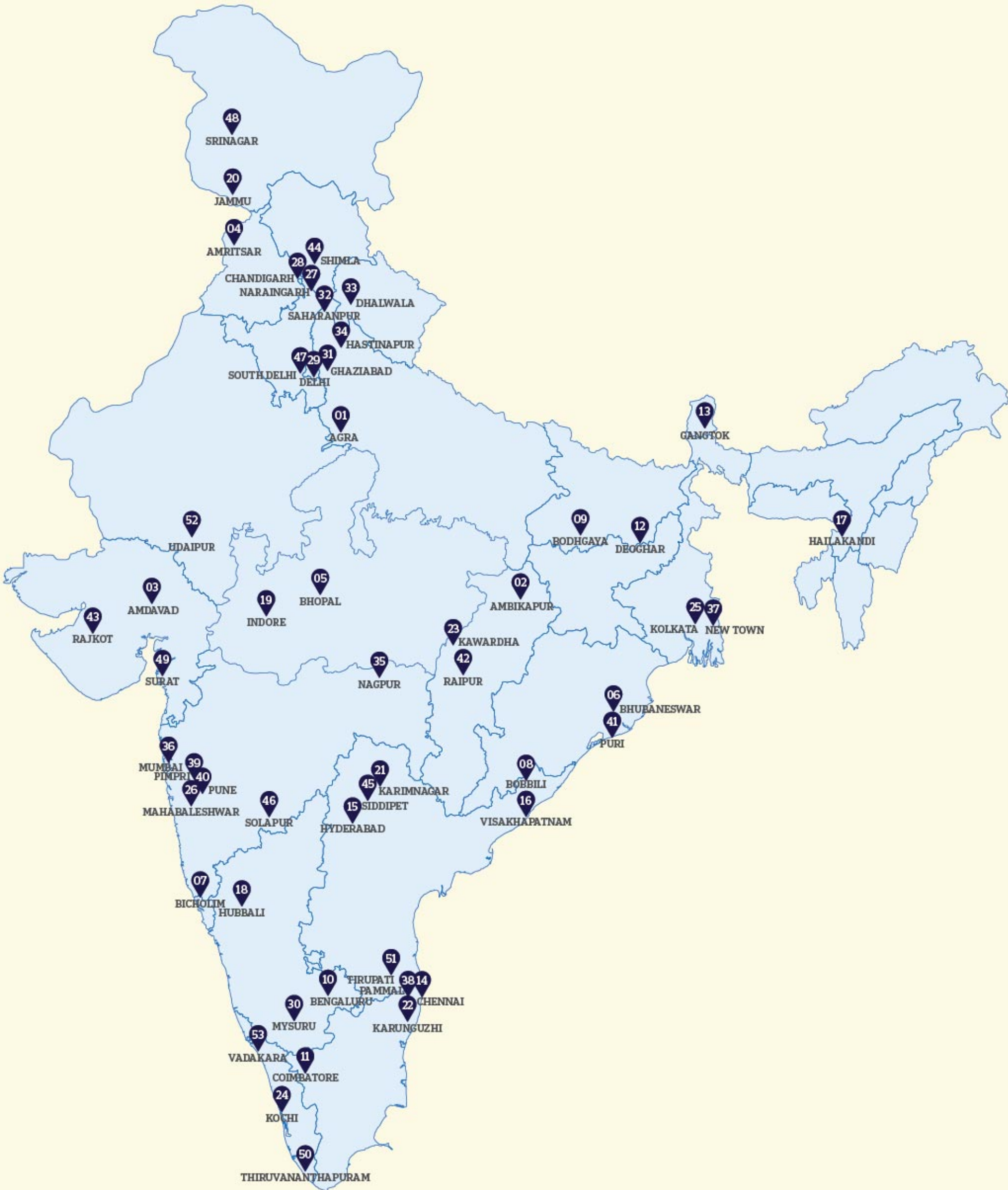
The eBook will be released around the 53rd anniversary of Earth Day (April 22, 2023). We hope the 53 examples in the eBook inspire readers to be stewards of the environment.

We welcome nominations for our next lot of **Star Municipal Leadership Awards.** Details of the nomination process are available here. For any clarifications, do write to us at officeofregionaldirector@earthday.org

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Agra Nagar Nigam

Awarded for
Its 'Umeed Badlav ki, Shudha Avo-Hawa Ki' campaign to mitigate air pollution

Civic body teams in Agra sensitise drivers to switch off vehicle engines at red lights to help reduce the emission of fumes that add to air pollution. They encourage all residents to plant saplings so that the city's green cover is increased, leading to greater sequestration of ambient carbon dioxide. The Agra Nagar Nigam authorities also ensure that dust mitigation norms mandated by the National Green Tribunal are followed.

Agra, located in Uttar Pradesh state, with a population of around 1.5 million, has three UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Taj Mahal, the Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri. It is one of the foremost tourist attractions in India. The city lies on the banks of the Yamuna River.

Ambikapur Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Motivating women to be Swachta (cleanliness) entrepreneurs

Dressed in green and orange saris, groups of women go around town collecting waste and sorting it, with the result that the small town of Ambikapur is spotlessly clean. Called Green Warriors, these women have become part of the identity of the city, which is ranked the cleanest in India in the less than 200,000 population category.

Ambikapur is a small city with a population of around 113,000, mainly comprising tribals, in the Surguja District of Chhattisgarh state. Before India's independence, it was the capital of the princely state of Surguja. Forested areas surrounding the city, flowing rivers and other natural beauty combine to make Ambikapur's landscape refreshing. Agriculture is the primary source of revenue for this region.

Amdavad Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Restoring Tankas (traditional rainwater harvesting systems) to fill the gap in the municipal water supply

With growing water problems, the Amdavad Municipal Corporation (AMC) considered reviving the novel water storage system, known as 'tanka'. This uses ancient wisdom pertaining to hydrology and rainfall patterns. The quality of the saved water, surprisingly conforms to international standards. The AMC plans to restore 10,000 dormant tankas in the walled city of Amdavad. Even by a conservative estimate of 25,000 litres of water per tanka, there is potential to harness 250 million litres per year in the city.

Amdavad is located in Gujarat state, on the banks of the Sabarmati River. Its ancient walled city (recognised as India's first UNESCO World Heritage City), has now spread beyond the core to make it the largest city in Gujarat, with a population of around 5.6 million. The city's incredible architecture ranges from centuries-old mosques and mausoleums to cutting-edge contemporary designs. Famous sites include the Sabarmati Ashram where Mahatma Gandhi lived.
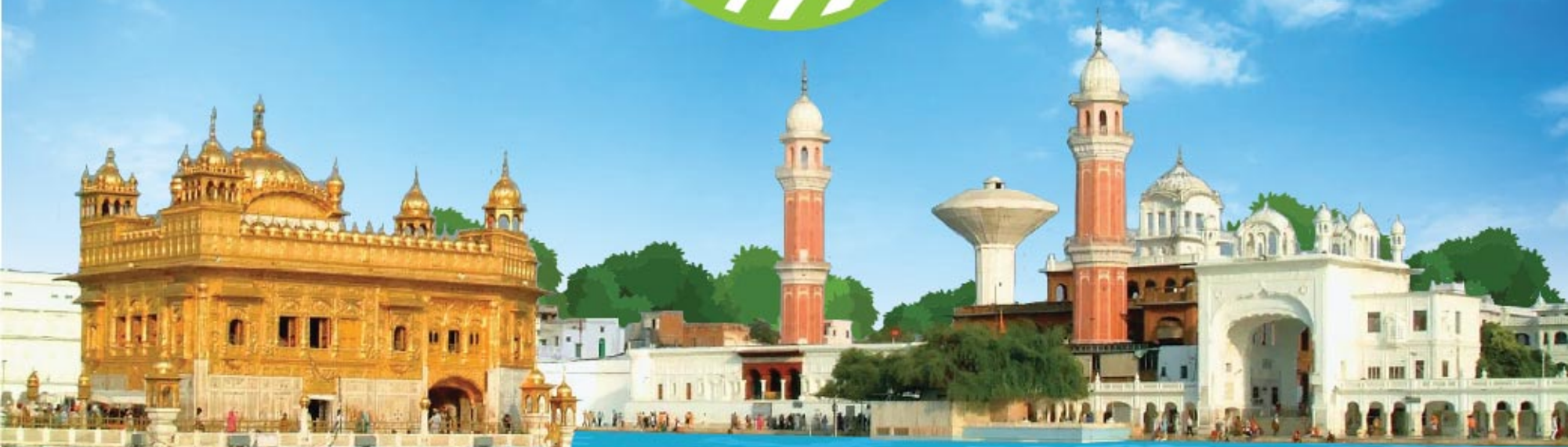
Municipal Corporation Amritsar

Awarded for

Supporting farmers' markets as spaces where city dwellers can buy organically grown produce

The first Organic Farmers' Market was set up in Amritsar in 2016. With the Municipal Corporation's support, it is today a regular weekend feature that provides city residents with an opportunity to purchase chemical-free produce. The platform is a meeting point for responsible consumers and progressive farmers. The increase in demand for organically grown produce makes it profitable for farmers to convert more and more of their fields for organic cultivation. This has also helped reduce health issues from exposure to chemical sprays, and consumers are glad that they have less 'poison' in their food.

The name Amritsar translates to 'Pool of Nectar'. This city in Punjab state is the foremost spiritual and cultural centre for Sikhs. The famous Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib) and many other historical Sikh shrines are here. The very air of Amritsar nourishes the soul and its innumerable eating houses are filled with delicious, authentic Punjabi food steeped in rich tradition. The city's population of around 1.1 million witnesses a constant flow of pilgrims from all over the world who come to pay their obeisance at Harmandir Sahib.

Bhopal Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
An efficient waste-collection system that ensures the collection of 100% of the city's waste, including biomedical

Bhopal is the capital of Madhya Pradesh state. It has the distinction of being one of India's cleanest cities. Bhopal Municipal Corporation's solid waste management strategy has reclaimed 37 acres of land from what was a former dump site for over 30 years, having accumulated over 750,000 tonnes of waste. Currently, the Bhopal Municipal Corporation uses GPS-based tracking technologies to ensure that waste is collected, segregated and processed at every step. The Corporation also works with NGOs that have helped wastepickers turn their collection of plastic waste into an enterprise.

The city is a confluence of scenic beauty, old-world charm, and modern urban planning. Its mixed profile includes the natural beauty of lakes and gardens and the architectural grandeur of old marketplaces, mosques and palaces that still bear the aristocratic imprint of former rulers. Bhopal is considered to be amongst the greenest and cleanest cities in India. It has a population of around 1.8 million.

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
The 'Plant a Sapling' campaign that has helped increase the city's green cover

To combat the ever-growing environmental problems caused by industrial pollution, soil erosion, deforestation, rapid industrialisation, urbanisation and land degradation, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) pledged to restore its ambient environment by kick-starting the 'Go Green' drive. To inaugurate this campaign, the BMC distributed 2,200 cotton bags and 2,600 saplings at various points in the city, encouraging citizens towards making more sustainable choices. Through this distribution, the BMC aims to motivate citizens to adopt greener practices in their day-to-day lives.

The capital of Odisha state, Bhubaneswar, is a planned city with a rich cultural life. Known for its temples, it is considered a city that enables an authentic overview of the evolution of Hindu temple architecture. It is also the largest city in Odisha, with a population of around 1.3 million.

Bicholim Municipal Council

Awarded for
Implementing zero waste initiatives that also benefit areas beyond their municipal limits

Bicholim Municipal Council (BMC) is in Goa, a state tourists love. The BMC area alone generates about 6.5 tonnes of waste daily. What sets Bicholim apart from other towns and cities is the efficiency with which the BMC ensures material recovery from segregated waste. It manages non-biodegradable waste within its jurisdiction and waste from neighbouring panchayats, institutions, and bulk waste generators as well. The accumulated waste is then transferred to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for sorting into 13 categories, including 4 types of plastic. BMC has allotted part of its land free of cost for operating this MRF. The Facility ensures that Bicholim recycles or processes all of its non-biodegradable waste, including plastic, to achieve 100% material recovery, resulting in health and environmental benefits to the city and its outreaches.

Bicholim, also known as Divchal or Dicholi, is a semi-urban town in the north Goa district of Goa state. It is home to several temples, churches, mosques, and the Pandava caves steeped in history. The population within the Bicholim Municipal Council is about 23,200.

Bobbili Municipality

Awarded for
Setting up one of the country's best biodegradable waste management systems

About a decade ago, Bobbili was a garbage-littered town and a hub of water and vector-borne diseases. Today, this small historical town in the Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh state, processes 100% of its biodegradable waste. The city generates about 7.4 tonnes of biodegradable waste daily. This is first pulverised, shredded and its volume reduced, then placed into composting units. The municipality also encourages home composting and is happy to provide interested households with instructions on techniques.

Bobbili was founded in the seventeenth century. It is popularly referred to as 'Veera Bobbili' (Brave Bobbili) to remember the bravado of its people in a historic battle against the French that almost wiped the town out. The Bobbili Fort is majorly in ruins but a few sites remain to marvel at. Bobbili is famous for crafting the Indian musical instrument, the 'Veena', a profession that generations have carried down over the past century. The population is around 60,000.
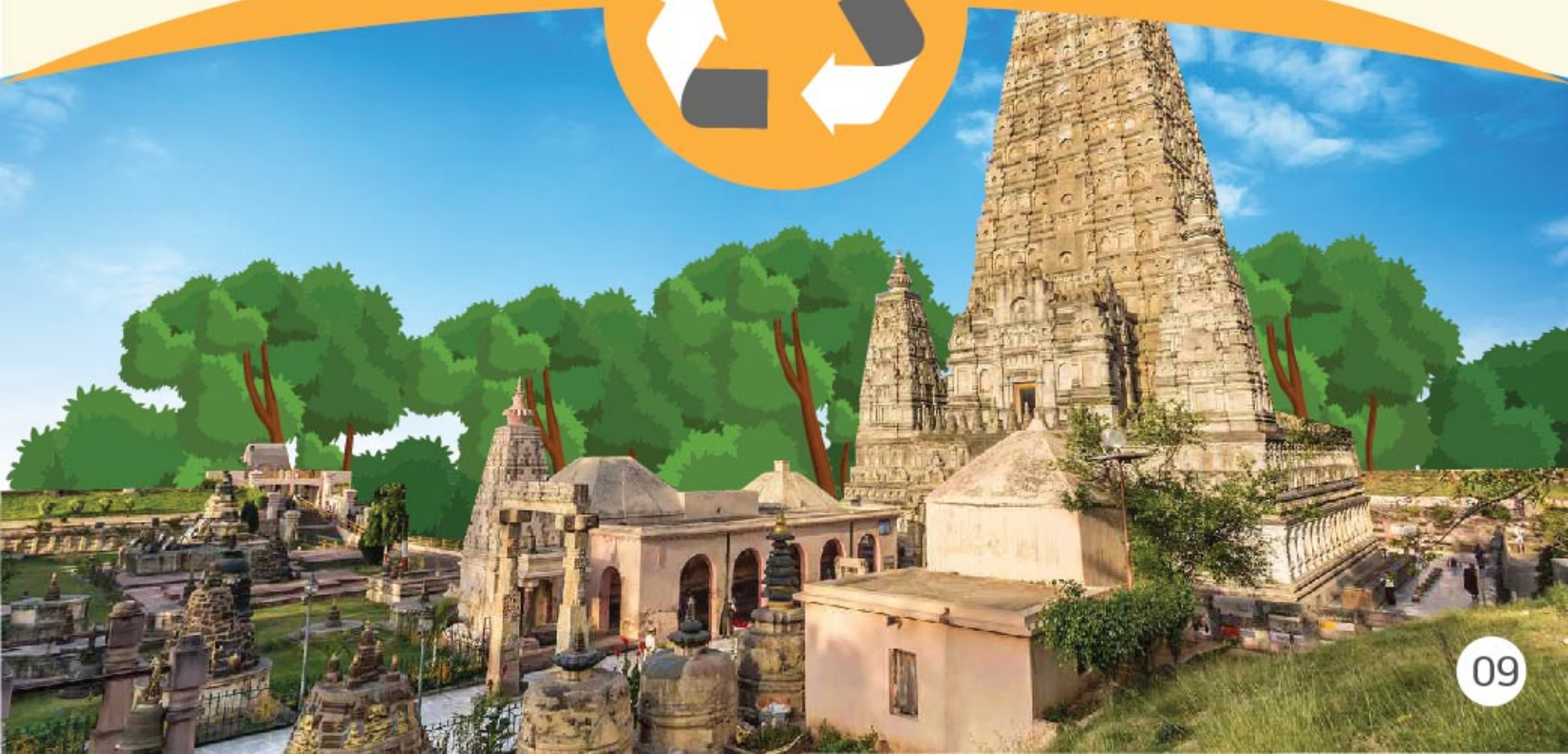
Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee

Awarded for
A zero-waste initiative that upcycles flower offerings by devotees into useful products

The Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee at Bodhgaya, Bihar state, is the custodian of the World Heritage Site of the Mahabodhi temple. The Committee has initiated a zero-waste policy that includes converting discarded floral offerings into useful items such as incense sticks and fabric dye. The Committee has a tie-up with a local NGO that provides women with employment to do this. The petals from the marigold garlands are separated, dried, pounded, and then processed. Any residue is composted. This ensures that every part of the flower is well used. The benefit of this policy is huge: during the festive periods, an average of 300 kg of floral waste is upcycled daily.

Bodh Gaya is one of the world's most important and sacred Buddhist pilgrimage centres. Here, under the Bodhi Tree, many years ago, Siddhartha attained supreme Enlightenment and became known as 'The Buddha'. The shrine is an UNESCO World Heritage site. It attracts thousands of pilgrims from around the world every year.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Awarded for
Its collaborative model to rejuvenate lakes in the city

Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka state, was once a city with over a thousand lakes. Today, unfortunately, a majority of them are infringed upon, dried up or have turned into cesspools. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has taken up the task of rejuvenation of the 167 lakes under it. One of its successful models is collaborative action in association with people. The first lake revived through the joint efforts of the citizens and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is the Puttenhali Lake, where BBMP formally handed over the maintenance of the rejuvenated lake to a neighbourhood trust.

Cosmopolitan Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore) is one of India's most progressive and developed cities. Its must-see sites include Cubbon Park, which is a well-maintained 120-hectare garden in the city's heart. Kempe Gowda I, who built a mud fort at the site in the sixteenth century, founded the city. Today it is referred to as the 'IT capital of India' as companies located in it lead the export of information technology-related services. The population is around 8.4 million.

Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Establishing walkable and cyclable paths to help reduce city traffic congestion and air pollution

To create ample space for pedestrians, joggers and cyclists, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation will construct 30 km of lush green pathways and skywalks over busy roads to serve as tracks. Certain streets have also been declared closed to motorised vehicles. Facilities such as seating arrangements, drinking water fountains, designated bike paths and ramps for the differently abled are also planned. Facilitating non-fossil fuel-fed travel modes will help reduce the city's ambient Air Quality Index.

Coimbatore is the second-largest city in Tamil Nadu state. It is located on the banks of the Noyyal River and is surrounded by the Western Ghats. It is a textile industry hub fed by the surrounding cotton fields and is famous for 'Kovai' cotton, which has a Geographical Indication by the Government of India. Coimbatore's population is around 1 million.

Deoghar Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Converting a barren garbage dump into
the green and vibrant Suratilona Park

The Deoghar Municipal Corporation (DMC) cleaned up a huge dump site in a residential area and transformed it into the verdant Suratilona Park. The DMC first set up a new dump site on the city's outskirts for receiving new waste. The dry waste at the existing site was transported for further processing, while biodegradable wet waste was converted into fertiliser to rejuvenate the infertile land. People of all ages now regularly visit the park to enjoy the refreshing green vista and its many recreational facilities. Plans are drawn to further improve the space by transforming it into a botanical garden.

Deoghar is in Jharkhand state. Its name means 'The Abode of Deities'. Each year, over 5 million devotees visit it in the Hindu month of Shravan (June–July). The pilgrims undertake a rigorous 100 km journey on foot from Ajgaibinath (Sultanganj) in Bhagalpur district to offer holy water from the Ganges River at the temple. The population of Deoghar is around 200,000.

Gangtok Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Eliminating the menace of single-use plastic by mobilising the community through awareness programmes

Gangtok, located in Sikkim state, generates nearly 50 tonnes of waste daily. Since 2016, the Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC) has banned the use of thermocol plates, plastic cutlery and packaged drinking water in government offices and at official events, setting an example for citizens. The ban was effective because the GMC followed it up with awareness programmes and enforcement activities. These were held at schools and colleges and for Resident Welfare and market associations. Through repeated programmes, the negatives of plastic were dinned into citizens' minds, leading to their voluntary avowal not to use plastic. Taxi drivers were trained to inform tourists of the prohibition against non-biodegradable materials. Bin bags were installed at all public transport points to reduce littering.

Gangtok is a town of picturesque beauty, with views of lush green valleys. Buddhist prayer flags flutter in the breeze while chimes from several monasteries combine to create an atmosphere of peace and calm. Gangtok serves as a base camp for trekkers. The town's population is about 136,000.

Greater Chennai Corporation

Awarded for
Vertical gardens on flyovers/bridges in the crowded metropolis that have helped expand the green cover

The Greater Chennai Corporation works to grow vertical gardens on about 108 pillars of 14 flyovers in the city with red, purple and golden coloured plants that are sustainable in the shade. The vertical gardens create green facades that help reduce noise and air pollution and cool the city through its many months of sweltering heat.

Chennai, a port city on the Bay of Bengal, is the capital of Tamil Nadu state. It is home to Fort St George, built in 1644, which now serves as a museum showcasing the city's roots from a trading outpost for The East India Company, to a British Garrison town. Religious sites include Kapaleeshwarar Temple, adorned with carved and painted idols, and St Mary's, a seventeenth century Anglican Church. One of the largest metros in South India, with a population of around 4.6 million, Chennai (formerly Madras) is recognised as a repository of South India's artistic, religious and culinary traditions.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Constructing public buildings with natural bamboo material and plastic waste instead of cement and mortar

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has commissioned the construction of functional buildings in public spaces using half-plastic and half-bamboo. Bamboo House India was commissioned to construct the first low-cost, eco-friendly structure at Kukatpally Public Park to serve as an office space. It has floor tiles made from recycled plastic (an estimated 1 million polythene covers were upcycled to do this). The roof is made of sheets of recycled polythene. The construction is fireproof, waterproof and termite-proof. Tests were also conducted to double-check that no toxic fumes were released while processing the plastic.

Hyderabad is the capital of Telangana state in South India. It is also known as 'The City of Pearls'. Many traditional and historical bazars are located around the city. Hyderabad is one of the most populous cities in India, with a population of about 10 million.

Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Helping develop Nutrition Kitchen Gardens in schools

The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation is in Andhra Pradesh state. The Nutrition Kitchen Gardens set up in schools have helped youth learn how to grow vegetables and fruit in limited city areas as well as on terraces and rooftops. Hands-on training is provided to students on ways to compost biodegradable waste. The entire process of preparing the soil for seeding, the various stages of growth and harvesting is done without any use of chemicals.
An on-site laboratory helps the students comprehend the science of cultivation and that it is not dependent on chemicals. Some schools also use their organically grown vegetables and fruit as ingredients for school meals.

Visakhapatnam is located on the south-eastern coast of the Indian peninsula. Also known as Vizag, it has grown from a small fishing village to be one of India's busiest ports. Its population is around 2.3 million.

Hailakandi Municipal Board

Awarded for
Establishing 'Plastic Banks' to manage plastic waste

The Hailakandi Municipal Board, Assam state, has opened plastic banks where citizens can deposit plastic items. The Board sends the collected items to cement plants for fuel (plastic has four times the calorific value of coal), or as road-building material to ensure durable roads. It says that banning and penalising is the easier part of managing single-use plastics. The bigger challenge is bringing about behavioural changes that lead citizens to opt for eco-friendly lifestyles.

Hailakandi, a small town with a population of only about 34,000, is located in the Barak Valley of Assam state. It is famous for its beautiful wooden handicrafts, such as masks and other carved items exclusive to it. Hailakandi is a treasure trove of natural and cultural splendour steeped in vast scenic croplands and a meandering river expanse. Tea is the primary industry of the area.

Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation

Awarded for

The establishment of the Hubballi Dharwad Biodiversity Programme at Nrupatunga Betta, which helps conserve and preserve biodiversity

A single municipal corporation unifies the twin cities of Hubballi and Dharwad in Karnataka state. Its Hubballi Dharwad Biodiversity Programme at Nrupatunga Betta, works to conserve and protect the rich biodiversity of this area. The first step was to declare the area a 'Biodiversity Heritage Spot.' Efforts continue to preserve the existing waterbodies, flora and fauna. Trees with a projected life span of over 500 years have been planted to provide continuous safe havens for birds, animals and insects, and also help draw in rainclouds to lower temperatures.

Hubballi is a historical city that has metamorphosed into an important commercial centre and business hub of North Karnataka. The city is noted for its handloom textile units, while cotton and groundnuts (peanuts) are grown aplenty in the farms surrounding it. Dharwad is a seat of learning. The population of Hubballi and Dharwad is around 950,000.

Indore Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
The innovative strategy of creating floating islands
that have helped restore the city's lake

In the crowded urban city of Indore, in Madhya Pradesh state, its Municipal Corporation has created natural beauty by commissioning floating islands in the city's main lake, the Nalanda Sarovar. These mimic a natural wetlands ecosystem. The result is a water filtration plant devoid of machines, and one that uses no chemicals, as the islands stimulate the development of friendly bacteria and plants to effectively filter pollutants and other harmful elements from the water. The islands also provide sanctuary for several species of insects, birds and fish. The flowers, fruit and vegetables organically grown on these floating islands delight the citizens of Indore, who vie for a share of the produce.

Indore is ranked one of the cleanest cities in India. It is known for its 7-storey Rajwada Palace and the Lal Baag Palace, both of which date back to the city's nineteenth-century Holkar dynasty. Its night market, Sarafa Bazar, is famous for its street food. The city's population is around 2 million.

Jammu Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Setting up a 'Material Recovery Facility'
for the processing and disposal of plastic waste

In an endeavour to make Jammu plastic free, the Jammu Municipal Corporation signed an MOU with the Indian Pollution Control Association to establish a first-of-its-kind Material Recovery Facility (MRF), featuring various aspects that make it economically viable. It helps establish best practices regarding resource efficiency, environmental compliances, basic amenities, health and safety procedures and well-being. It also acts as a support system for capacity building of the waste collection system for waste pickers, waste aggregators and associated recyclers.

Jammu is the winter capital of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The city is located on a hillock beside the Tawi River. It is known as the 'City of Temples', which tends to overshadow its palaces, forts, and other historic buildings. The population of Jammu is about 700,000.

Karimnagar Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Mandating rooftop solar panels for all large buildings

Karimnagar Municipal Corporation has passed a resolution making it compulsory for all new commercial establishments, houses, apartment complexes and community halls to install solar panels on rooftops if their built-up area exceeds 2,700 sq ft. Property owners can earn from the extra power they generate as the distribution company purchases units at ₹3.50 per unit.

Karimnagar is a city in the Indian state of Telangana. It is situated on the banks of the Manair River, a tributary of the Godavari. Karimnagar is an agricultural centre for millets, rice, oilseeds and cotton. It also has granite industries and is known for its intricate filigree silverwork. The city has a population of around 400,000.

Karunguzhi Town Panchayat

Awarded for
Installing systems for the proper management
of biodegradable and non-degradable plastic waste

Karunguzhi is a town in Tamil Nadu state. Its urban body faced problems in disposing of the plastic carry bags and multi-layered packaging collected from households, as storing these was a fire hazard. To solve the problem, the Town Panchayat installed a pyrolysis plant that can process 50 kg of plastic waste daily and convert it into solid, liquid and gaseous fuels. Karunguzhi is the first small urban local body to achieve this.

The town has a population of around 12,000. The average literacy rate of its people is 68%, which is higher than the national average. Tourist attractions around it include the Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, an ancient fort built by a Pallava ruler and temples on hillocks.

Kawardha Municipal Council

Awarded for
Converting organic waste to liquid fertiliser and promoting it through its brand 'Sudha Sanjeevani'

To put the great potential of food waste to use, the Kawardha Municipal Council in Chhattisgarh state processes wet waste into useful items via its 'Sudha Sanjeevani' initiative. This helps convert the waste discharged into organic detergents for cleaning, natural pesticides for plants and medicine to treat skin diseases. Women from Self Help Groups are employed in the enterprise.

Kawardha is a small town in the Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh state with a rich history and an equally vibrant present. From being a flourishing kingdom to an erstwhile princely state and a prominent site for Sant Kabir, Kawardha has come a long way. Set against a backdrop of breathtaking hills and lush greenery, local tribes add to its captivating cultural ethos. The population is around 45,000.

Kochi Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Introducing systems that minimise carbon
emissions produced by urban freight vehicles

The Kochi Municipal Corporation in Kerala state aims to reduce carbon emissions in the city by lessening congestion and pollution caused by freight transport. It has procured a fleet of 18 electric Light Commercial Vehicles (e-LCVs) to ferry cargo to and from markets, for use by caterers, among other uses. Each of these can carry a load of 600 kg. The relocation of warehouses from cities to well-planned logistics hubs is also on the cards.

Set on a magnificent estuary, Kochi has drawn traders, explorers and travellers to its shores for over 600 years. Its history has resulted in a city that is a blend of medieval Portuguese and Dutch influences along with an English village grafted onto its tropical Malabar Coast. Kochi is also an important centre for Kerala's arts, such as the national dance form 'Kathakali' and the martial art form 'Kalarippayattu'. The population of Kochi is about 2.1 million.

Kolkata Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Installing Electric Vehicle charging stations

The Department of Energy of the West Bengal Government has resolved to promote electric mobility in the state. To facilitate this, 1,000 charging stations will be established by 2026. Plans are underway for one charging station every 25 km on four-lane highways, and one within 3 sq km in urban areas, most of which will be close to car parking lots. The charging stations will address the infrastructure concerns of potential buyers of Electric Vehicles (EVs). More and more people opting for EVs will likely serve as a game changer for a city with the ignoble distinction of having one of the worst air pollution indices in the world.

Kolkata is the capital of West Bengal state. It is situated on the eastern bank of the Hooghly River. As a former capital of British India, it is home to a colonial-era architecture, that contrasts starkly with some recently developed areas and new-town suburbs. Amongst all the cities in India, Kolkata is associated with the highest number of Nobel Laureates, including St Teresa. It has a population of around 15 million.

Mahabaleshwar Municipal Council

Awarded for
Its initiative to return entry fees to visitors
if they collect and deposit plastic waste
when they leave the hill station

To ensure the region retains its pristine environment and ecological diversity, the Mahabaleshwar Hill Station Municipal Council has initiated a unique policy. There are toll gates to enter the city at which tourists must pay a deposit. Here the visitors also receive bar-coded garbage bags to collect any plastic waste they might generate during their visit. When leaving, the bags must be deposited at the toll gates, where the waste is scanned and weighed. Based on how much plastic waste is collected, entry deposit amounts are returned

Mahabaleshwar is a hill station located in the Western Ghats range of Maharashtra state. It is situated about 4,500 ft above sea level on the Sahyadri spurs. The city's population is only around 13,000. However, it attracts close to one million tourists annually.

Municipal Committee Naraingarh

Awarded for
Converting fallow areas of the city into beautiful parks

The Municipal Committee Naraingarh sites in Haryana state have increased the green cover in the town by promoting plantation and converting open spaces into beautiful parks. This has improved the overall environmental health and quality of life in Naraingarh. It also enhances the town's aesthetic appeal and provides numerous benefits, such as improving ambient air quality, reducing noise pollution, and mitigating the urban heat island effect.

Naraingarh is located near the foothills of the Sivalik range of the Himalayas. Its parks are named after Sardar Jassa Singh Ahluwalia, a celebrated Sikh leader who played a significant role in the history of India. This gesture not only adds cultural significance to the parks but also serves as a tribute to his legacy. The population is about 29,000.

Municipal Corporation Chandigarh

Awarded for
Waste management in public parks
by installing 66 aerobic compost pits

The Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh has set up 66 aerobic compost pits in various parks and green belts of the city. The pits generate between 20 to 100 kg of compost per day. Chandigarh Municipal Corporation has framed strict rules for bulk waste generators, commercial, institutional and multi-storeyed buildings, as well as religious and government undertakings that produce over 100 kg of waste daily must compost this at site.

Chandigarh is a city and Union Territory that serves as the joint capital of Haryana and Punjab states in northern India. Picturesquely located at the foothills of the Shivaliks, it is often cited as perhaps India's best example of urban planning and modern architecture from the twentieth century. The city has a population of around 1 million.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi

Awarded for
Leading a movement that inspires citizens
to end plastic pollution

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi launched a 100-day campaign to make areas under the Municipal Corporation free of plastic. The campaign culminates on Earth Day 2023 (April 22). The Lieutenant Governor urged the people to pledge not to use plastic. The campaign's mascot is 'Nivaran Dadi' (Preventive Grandma). During the initiative, activities planned by the Municipal Corporation include periodic inspections of all shops and markets to seize single-use plastics, plogging drives with brand ambassadors such as India's Athlete for the Earth Ripu Daman Bevli, the opening of additional 'Vikalp' stores where cloth bags are available for a small deposit, wall art, installations to generate awareness and outreach events to reduce single-use plastic.

New Delhi is the capital of India. It is a city steeped in rich history reflected in the beautiful heritage buildings tucked around the sprawling metropolis. Its population is around 15 million.

Mysuru Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Transforming garbage dumping sites
into functional areas for public use

Mysuru is a historically famous city in Karnataka state.
Its Corporation plans to convert over 70 solid waste dumping
sites into 'useful' areas. This was done by bringing about
a reduction in waste through appeals to the public. The city,
famed for its palaces, runs regular campaigns, including
morning radio jingles, WhatsApp campaigns, street plays
and pamphlets. Government employees go door-to-door to
create awareness among residents. Volunteers are encouraged
to set up recycling units and cover their costs by selling scrap
and compost. Around a quarter of the waste generated
in Mysuru is processed by these centres while around half
is treated at the compost plant.

The historic settlement of Mysuru is one of South India's
most enchanting cities, famed for its glittering royal heritage
and magnificent monuments and buildings. Its World
Heritage-listed palace, rich tradition, beautiful gardens
and lakes make it a very special place. The city's population
is around 1 million.

Nagar Nigam Ghaziabad

Awarded for
Introducing India's first Green Municipal Bonds

Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam successfully listed India's first Green Municipal bond issue. It succeeded in raising ₹1.5 billion at 8.1% interest. The money raised will help fund the tertiary sewage and water treatment plants and support piped water supply through water meters.

Ghaziabad is in Uttar Pradesh state. It borders the Indian capital, New Delhi and is called the Gateway to Uttar Pradesh. With a population of around 1.6 million, it is a fast-growing metropolis with a plethora of shopping malls and industrial units. Ghaziabad is primarily a manufacturing city. Many of India's freedom fighters came from here.

Nagar Nigam Saharanpur

Awarded for
Growing the city's green cover
with innovative strategies

The Municipal Corporation of Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh state has pioneered major greening initiatives to make the metropolis carbon neutral. These include developing two large green corridors within the municipal limits and green belts at 50 locations around it.

Saharanpur is a regional centre for wholesale and retail trade, agro-based industries and industrial products. It is well known for its agricultural produce such as sugar, mangoes and rice. Saharanpur woodcraft is GI certified. The Saharanpur Botanical Park is one of the oldest of its kind in India, dating back to the early eighteenth century. The city's population is around 450,000.

Nagar Palika Parishad Muni Ki Reti-Dhalwala

Awarded for
Banning the use of plastic and Styrofoam
plates at all large functions

Muni Ki Reti town has an area of 6 sq km and a population of around 12,000. This small locality is close to the religious sites of Rishikesh and Haridwar in Uttarakhand state, resulting in a daily floating population of around 10,000. Muni Ki Reti's far-sighted officials have banned plastic and Styrofoam plates and cutlery at all wedding receptions and other large public events. The caterers could lose their licences if they are found using these.

Muni Ki Reti (sand of the sages) is the gateway to major pilgrimage sites. It is also mentioned in the epic Ramayana as the place where King Bharata performed penance. The area is dotted with many hermitages.

Nagar Panchayat Hastinapur

Awarded for
Their work to clean and green the Draupadi Ghat and its surrounding areas resulting in benefits to people, birds and animals

Thanks to the clean-up by the Nagar Panchayat, the water at the city's famous Draupadi Ghat (river bank), is now suitable for bathing. The desilting of the river bank has resulted in additional water supply to the nearby Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, where the once lush greenery was becoming parched, adversely affecting the wildlife living in it.

The town is situated on the banks of the Ganges River in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh state. In Sanskrit, Hastinapur means 'City of Elephants' from 'hastina' (elephant) and 'pur' (city). Its significance dates back to the ancient epic, the Mahabharata, which mentions it as the capital of the Kauravas. Even today, hundreds of women come to bathe at its Draupadi Ghat. Tradition has it that bathing at the ghat can rid a person of all skin ailments. The population of Hastinapur is around 58,000.
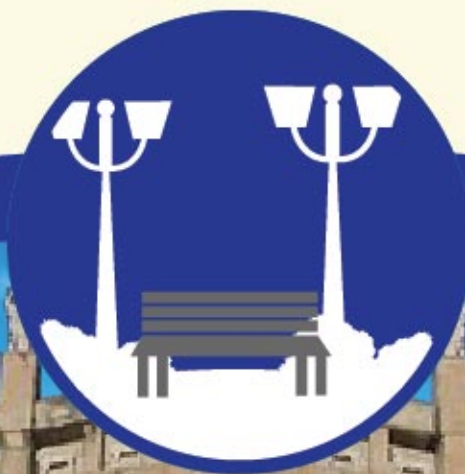
Nagpur Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Its 'Poornima Diwas' campaign, which saves energy by taking advantage of the moonlight on full moon days

The 'Poornima Diwas' campaign is conducted every Poornima (full moon). The Nagpur Municipal Corporation has estimated the luminosity of moonlight and in ratio, dims the streetlights. Shopkeepers, households and citizens have also been sensitised to turn off their non-essential lights during Poornima. The campaign has led to considerable savings in power use for the city. It is estimated that over 2,50,000 units of energy have been saved, leading upto savings of 125,000 kg of coal and around 1.9 million litres of water. Above all, it has lowered the release of carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

Nagpur is the third largest city in Maharashtra state. It is named after the Nag River that flows through it. Nagpur is a major commercial and political centre. In popular parlance, Nagpur is also called the 'Orange City', in recognition of the special variety of oranges that grow in abundance around it. The city's population is about 2.9 million.

Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Leading by example with its 'single-use plastic-free' office

Navi Mumbai is in Maharashtra state. Its municipal corporation leads by example, with a head office declared a plastic-free building. This is a powerful message for all constituency residents to do likewise and stop plastic pollution.
The municipal corporation strongly believes that legislation to ban single-use plastic needs to be accompanied by strict enforcement and carries out regular drives to achieve this. Reports indicate that the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation has seized over 300,000 kg of plastic bags and articles and collected over ₹3 million in fines during raids in 2022.

Navi Mumbai was set up as a satellite township on the coast to take the pressure off the overcrowded islands that form Mumbai. Navi Mumbai is primarily residential and separated from Mumbai by the inlet known as Thane Creek. It offers a refreshing vista of nature to those who come to get some respite from the teeming Mumbai metropolis. Navi Mumbai has a population of around 2 million.

New Town Kolkata Development Authority

Awarded for
Reducing carbon emission by promoting electric motorbikes and bicycles, along with battery-operated 'totos' (rickshaws) in the city

New Town is a satellite city of Kolkata, in West Bengal state. It was built around the philosophy of work–life balance and walking to work. In 2020, the New Town Kolkata Development Authority launched an app-based public bicycle-sharing system. Its over 400 pedal and 100 electric-powered bicycles that facilitated more than 200,000 rides, helped solve the last-mile connectivity problem and contributed significantly towards reducing the carbon footprint. Over the last two years, pedal power in New Town has reduced 1,400,000 kg of carbon emissions. Environmental gains from the Authority promoting the concept of app-based battery–operated totos (rickshaws) and the several electric vehicle charging stations add to this.

New Town comprises a blend of residential developments, commercial cum retail complexes, corporate parks and institutional entities. The population is about 37,000.

Pammal Municipality

Awarded for
Helping reduce carbon emissions by encouraging cement plants to use discarded plastic as fuel in place of coal

The Pammal Municipality bales the plastic waste collected and transports it to the Ariyalur Cement Factory for co-processing of plastic waste in cement kilns. This is a more environmentally friendly and sustainable method of using high calorific waste compared to disposal by landfilling and incineration owing to reduced emissions and no residue after treatment. A total of 7–8 tonnes of plastic is sent to the cement factory every week. Steps to reduce plastic usage below 50 microns are also encouraged.

Pammal Municipality is in Tamil Nadu state. It is located close to the state's capital, Chennai. Its Siddhi Vinayagar temple is much visited. The municipality has a population of about 100,000.

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Being the first Municipal Corporation in India to adopt GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) standards

Pimpri-Chinchwad is the urban conglomerate of Maharashtra state's second-largest city, Pune. Its municipal corporation has taken a proactive initiative to reduce the environmental footprint generated by the building industry in this industrial township. The municipal corporation incentivises builders and owners to encourage the construction of green buildings. Developers can avail of tax discounts in ratio to the GRIHA rating of the structure. Owners too are eligible for a 10% reduction in property taxes. These initiatives help save potable water usage, manage solid waste and put grey water to use.

Growing from a patchwork of four sleepy villages, the township is today recognised as the 'Detroit of the East' with many national and multinational automobile companies. It is also home to several other industries and top-of-the-line IT units. Its population is around 1.8 million.

Pune Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Its 'Indradhanushya' initiative which encourages citizens to adopt green practices

The Pune Municipal Corporation has set up 'Indradhanushya' as a multi-functional space that helps create environmental awareness and stewardship for the environment. The area is surrounded by rich greenery; each tree has a signboard with its common and scientific name and usefulness. The Interpretation Centre draws attention to environment-related issues with the help of 3D exhibits, films and other communication material. The Municipal Corporation also offers the space for citizens to conduct like-minded programmes.

Pune is Maharashtra's second-largest city. Its history dates back 1,600 years. This thriving, vibrant metropolis is a centre of academia and business epitomising 'New India' with its mix of capitalism and culture. It has a population of about 4 million.

Puri Municipality

Awarded for
The 'Mo Beach' (My Beach) campaign, which engages the general public in helping keep its beaches clean

The 'Mo Beach' campaign aims to keep Puri's beaches clean by involving the community in the initiative. With massive local support, the Puri District Administration initiated campaigns, cleanliness drives and other programmes. The result is visible with the Golden Beach, Puri, receiving the coveted Blue Flag certification in 2020. This status is earned when the concerned beach meets as many as 33 guidelines on cleanliness, tourist-friendly amenities and eco-friendliness. This is granted by the Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education.

Puri, in Odisha state, is one of India's most visited places. Its religious life revolves around the great Jagannath Temple and its famous Rath Yatra (Chariot Festival). Thousands from across the globe visit it daily. The word 'juggernaut' derives from Jagannath–Lord of the Universe. The town's other attraction is its long sandy beaches. Puri's population is about 260,000, which doesn't include the visitors to the city.

Raipur Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
A three-tier waste segregation initiative
that begins at residents' doorsteps

Raipur's smart waste management action plan makes it possible to dispose of waste more effectively in less time and by deploying minimal human resources. The pilot project has 50 smart bins at 30 locations in Raipur. The system has the technology to notify its Waste Bin Ultrasonic Centre immediately when a garbage bin is full.

Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh state, is a fast-developing city. It is often called the 'Rice Bowl of India' as hundreds of rice varieties are grown in this region. The bustling capital also has over 200 steel mills and several coal and aluminium plants. Raipur is home to many stunning lakes, ancient temples and a thriving terracotta industry. The town has been in existence since the ninth century. The population within the Municipal Corporation area of Raipur is about 1 million.

Rajkot Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Promoting eMobility in the city

The Rajkot Municipal Corporation in Gujarat state is adding 100 electric buses to be operated on Rajkot's BRTS corridor. These 9-metre electric buses have advanced features such as CCTV cameras, air suspension, RTMS (Real Time Monitoring System) and several safety provisions. The buses will add to Rajkot's already existing fleet of 50 electric buses. To facilitate an accelerated transition to electric vehicles (EVs), Rajkot plans for EV-ready buildings and electrifying of intermediate public transport, among other measures.

Rajkot is located in the centre of the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. It has many historical landmarks. The city contributes to the state's economy with heavy and small-scale industries. In yesteryears, its artisans catered to royalty and now utilise their metal work and wood carving expertise to create small ornamental articles. Rajkot is well–known for its textile printing industry. Its native musical genre, 'Dayro', is used to convey folk stories and adages. Rajkot also inherited the 'Kathiyawadi' folk music tradition. The population of Rajkot is around 1.4 million.

Shimla Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Helping conserve and grow the city's green cover

Over the years, Shimla, the capital of the verdant Himachal Pradesh state, saw a rapid decrease in its green cover with increasing urbanisation. To mitigate this, its Municipal Corporation set strict procedures to protect the existing natural wealth. Initiatives to afforest degraded spaces (even small patches) and convert these into groves were also taken up. Rigorous protocols ensure that permission to fell a tree is only granted in rare cases. Procedures to get permission to cut down a tree is a daunting task. Every request is subjected to multiple on-the-ground inspections by officials to ascertain whether it falls in the 'absolutely necessary' category. The officials' findings are then placed before a municipal corporation committee headed by the mayor. Even if the case makes it through this stage, a committee comprising senior elected members of the state's constituent assembly examine each pro and con of the case before the final verdict is given. All these efforts by the Municipal Corporation have resulted in an increased green canopy for Shimla.

This once Summer Capital of the British Raj is a popular holiday resort. The population of Shimla is about 1 million.

Siddipet Municipality

Awarded for
Setting up a 'Swachha Badi' (cleanliness school) to train citizens on ways to reduce and manage waste

Siddipet is in Telangana state. Its municipal corporation aims to reduce around 40 tonnes of waste generated daily with the active participation of its citizens. To this end, it established a 'Swachha Badi' (cleanliness school), the first of its kind in the state. This one-stop learning centre has experts on hand to teach people efficient ways of collecting waste, segregating it, producing compost at home and reducing the use of plastics. Additionally, they are taught ways to start rooftop gardens where the compost created can be used to grow produce. The initiative has been envisaged to create a multiplier effect in society, leading to sustainable changes for the entire ecosystem

Siddipet is named for the African Siddi people who had a historical presence there. It serves as a commercial and educational centre for surrounding villages. Its main tourist attraction is the Komuravelli Mallanna Jaathara temple. Siddipet's population is around 41,000.

Solapur Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Replacing diesel-fueled waste collection vehicles with electric ones

Solapur is a city in Maharashtra state. The city's waste is collected with the help of 'Ghanta Gaaris' (vehicles with bells) that go from door to door, collecting around 420MT per day of waste generated in the city every day. Earlier, diesel-powered 'Ghanta Gaaris' that emitted carbon fumes were used. The Municipal Corporation is phasing these out in favour of electric ones. This switch will facilitate an estimated 1,800 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year in the city, leading to savings of around ₹65 million annually in fuel costs. In addition, noise pollution in the city will get lowered as moving electric vehicles make less sound than diesel-fueled ones.

Located in the southeastern part of Maharashtra state, Solapur is a historic and religiously significant city in the Seena and Bhima Basins. It shares its borders with Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh states and is home to famous temples, a fort, and wildlife and bird sanctuaries. Shoppers flock to Solapur to purchase its renowned garments and jewellery. The city's population is around 1.3 million.

South Delhi Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Creating the 'Waste to Wonder Park' which
features models of famous buildings created out
of scrap and waste material

The 'Waste to Wonder Park' has stunning replicas of the 'Seven Wonders of the World'. What's unique about these is that they are all sculpted using waste products, such as iron sheets, rods, fans and automobile parts. Another wonderful thing about the 'Waste to Wonder Park' is that it uses renewable energy (such as solar and wind) for lighting up the park and the monuments, post-sunset.

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation was previously an independent body in India's capital, New Delhi. It has since amalgamated with the city's other two municipal corporations to form one mega body named the Delhi Municipal Corporation. Its population is about 3.2 million.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Enforcing a blanket ban on single-use plastic
and for campaigns to do away with polythene
use in Srinagar

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation has an anti-polythene initiative named the '6R Campaign'. In addition to the usual R's–Reduce, Reuse, Recycle the other three added asks citizens to Remove polythene from their daily lives; encourages traders to Refuse to sell it and to Report all persons selling, stocking, or carrying polythene bags.

Srinagar is the summer capital of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and is India's northernmost large city. It is located at a height of 5,200 feet at the centre of the Kashmir Valley. Srinagar is dominated by the Dal Lake and its twisting waterways, Nagin Lake, the Jhelum River, as well as forest reserves and tree-lined avenues. Its population is around 1.6 million.
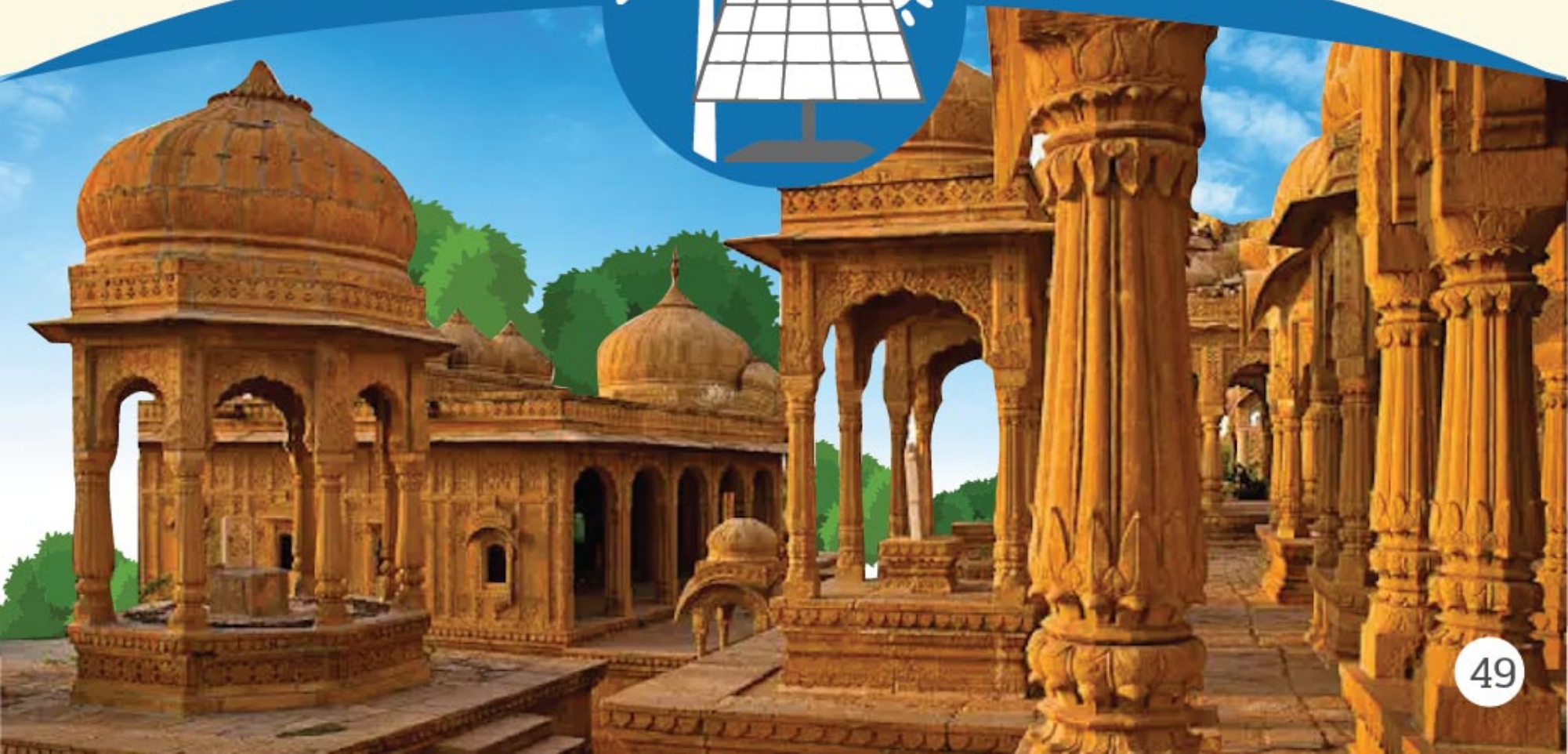
Surat Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Generating a third of its energy requirement
from renewable energy sources

Surat in Gujarat state is among India's fastest-growing cities. Its Municipal Corporation is an energy–conscious body that fulfils more than 36% of its energy requirement using wind, solar and biogas. Together these generate around 51 MW of energy annually. By producing renewable energy, the Surat Municipal Corporation has brought down annual greenhouse gas emissions by 70,000 tonnes and effects huge savings in expenditure.

Surat is a port city on the side of the Tapi River. It is a major centre for diamond trading with over half of the world's diamonds cut and polished there. Surat's finely carved mosques, Parsi agiaris, European tombs and colonial houses are a testament to the eclectic mix of communities that call it home. The population is 6 million.

Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Achieving total waste management with the implementation of a decentralised system that engages self-help and other volunteer groups

The corporation devised a decentralised, cluster-level, organic waste management system using the 'Thumburmuzhy Model' of aerobic composting. A few units were first established along streets but away from residential areas. The officials then worked to eliminate public aversion to composting and demystified myths regarding it by introducing 'Portable Compost Bins'. Repeated demonstrations have led citizens to accept the placement of permanent composting units.

Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) is the capital of the South Indian state of Kerala. It is distinguished by its colonial architecture and many art galleries. Its Kuthira Malika (or Puthen Malika) Palace is adorned with carved horses. It houses exhibits related to the Travancore royal family, whose regional capital it was from the eighteenth to the twentienth century. The population is about 2.6 million.

Municipal Corporation of Tirupati

Awarded for
The use of solar energy to pump its water supply

The Municipal Corporation of Tirupati has installed a 4MW Floating Solar PV Plant that pumps water for the city's use. The installed solar capacity will help avoid 5,586 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually (the equivalent of planting 3,300,000 trees). Additionally, it will help Tirupati save ₹1.16 billion in energy bills over 25 years.

Tirupati, in Andhra Pradesh state, is home to the Tirupati Balaji temple, one of the holiest sites for Hindus in India. It is considered to be the earthly abode of Lord Vishnu. The temple is the world's most-visited religious location, with 50,000 to 100,000 pilgrims visiting it daily, increasing to 500,000 during important festivals and celebrations. Tirupati has a population of about 700,000.

Udaipur Municipal Corporation

Awarded for
Electrification of shared mobility

Over the years, this popular tourist destination's need for public transport has grown exponentially. Udaipur's auto rickshaws run on traditional internal combustion engines (diesel or petrol), which leads to higher emissions and vehicular pollution, resulting in an increased risk of its residents to respiratory diseases and other ailments. Over 40% of these auto rickshaws are over ten years old, contributing substantially to pollution. To mitigate the adverse impacts of transportation, the Udaipur Municipal Corporation has facilitated a shift to eRickshaws. It has worked with experts to deploy these first on routes that service locations of frequent public use.

Udaipur, located in Rajasthan state, is a magical setting that exudes romance. With its tranquil Lake Pichola, the purple ridges of the Aravalli Range stretching away in every direction, historic palaces, temples, havelis (traditional, ornately decorated residences) and countless narrow, crooked, timeless streets, the city is a must-see destination that draws tourists in droves. Udaipur's estimated population is 500,000.

Vadakara Municipality

Awarded for
Reducing waste with recycling and upcycling components for electronic items

The Vadakara municipality has set up 'Green Shops' that stock eco-friendly products such as cloth bags. while, its 'Repair Shop' facilitates the repair and reuse of electronic waste. Its 'Swap Shop' makes discarded clothes fit for use and its 'Rent Shop' supplies usable utensils. Citizens, particularly students, are encouraged to visit their 'Cleanliness Centre', where demonstrations are regularly held on various methods of composting at home.

Vadakara, in Kerala state, is located on the western coast of India. Its name comes from the local word 'Vadakkekara', (north bank), which describes its location in relation to the Kuttiyad River. Vadakara has a population of around 75,000.

Disclaimer: Both primary data from the nomination forms and that available in the public domain helped us compile the texts for this eBook to showcase examples of how municipal bodies 'Invest in Our Planet', the global theme for **Earth Day 2023.** Our apologies in advance for any inadvertent inaccuracies.

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