



The state of lakes and waterbodies of southern India: Threats, Challenges and Opportunities

Date: February, 29, 2016

Venue: Alliance Francaise, Puducherry



9.00 – 9.30 Tea and registration

Inaugural session

9.30 – 9.45 Welcome note

Probir Banerjee, All for Water for All

9.45 – 10.00 Overview

Chandra Bhushan, Deputy Director General, Centre for Science and Environment

10.00 – 10.15 Briefing note

Dr. A. Vaidyanathan, Former Member, Planning Commission

10.15 – 10.20 Release of e-book

Why urban India floods – A publication by Centre for Science and Environment

Session 1: State of urban lakes in India: The crisis

Chairperson: Dr. A. Vaidyanathan, Former Member, Planning Commission

10.30 – 11.00 Loss of urban sponges and consequent flooding

An analysis by Centre for Science and Environment:
Sushmita Sengupta, Centre for Science and Environment

11.00 – 11.15 Role of wetlands and lakes in Chennai and current threats of flooding

Dr. Indumathi M. Nambi, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai

11.15 – 11.30 Hyderabad's lost waster wealth: Dr. Jasveen Jairath, Save our Urban Lakes, Hyderabad

11.30 – 11.45 Can Bengaluru avoid urban floods

Dr. T. V. Ramachandra, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

11.45 – 12.00 Madurai tank crisis and restoration: N. Venkatesan, Dhan Foundation, Madurai

12.00 – 12.15 State of Puducherry lakes: Aravindan Govindassamy, Sebadugai Nanneeragam, Puducherry

12.15 – 13.00 Q & A

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

Session 2: Policies and laws: Loopholes

Chairperson: Dr. R. S. Lal Mohan, Conservation of Nature Trust, Nagercoil

14.00 – 14.20 Fighting lakes in court

Existing laws to save the waterbodies:
Leo F. Saldanha and Bhargavi S. Rao, Environment Support Group, Bengaluru

14.20 – 14.40 Government initiative on conservation and protection of waterbodies in Puducherry

V. Radhakrishnan, Puducherry Water Resources Organisation

14.40 – 15.00 Legal protection of the Tamil Nadu lakes: T. K. Ram Kumar, Advocate, Chennai

15.00 – 15.45 Q & A

15.45 – 16.00 Tea break

Session 3: Panel discussion

Chairperson: Chandra Bhushan, Deputy Director General, Centre for Science and Environment

Panel Members

Dr. A. Vaidyanathan, Former Member, Planning Commission

Architect A. K. Lavanya, Crescent School of Architecture, Chennai

Architect Suhasini Ayer, Auroville Design Architect, Auroville

M. Dwarakanath, Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Puducherry