

## Planning cum Consultation Workshop for CSE - NMCG initiative on 'Making Water Sensitive Cities in Ganga Basin'

The CSE organized a Planning cum Consultation Workshop on 2nd July 2021 to bring cross-sectoral experts on a single platform and learn about the ongoing research, as well as identify key experts from this cohort. The workshop was spade work before the launch event of 'Making Water Sensitive Cities in Ganga Basin' aimed at Improving River Health under the capacity building initiative of the NMCG.

The discussion in the workshop was focused on the following themes:

1. **Water Sensitive Urban Design and Planning (WSUDP)** including rainwater water harvesting, water efficiency and conservation in urban areas as well as decentralized wastewater treatment and local reuse.
2. **Groundwater and Lake Management in Urban Areas.**

The workshop was started with a welcome address by Dr Suresh Rohilla, Senior Director, CSE. He welcomed the Experts and set the context for the workshop. He further discussed in detail the present status of water in cities mainly in Ganga basin. After that he invited the experts to put forward their views, finding & researches, and in whatever capacity they can contribute towards this program.

Some important deliberations put forward by the eminent experts are as follows:

1. A holistic approach towards the issues and challenges of the Urban water sector is required.
2. The solution and strategies should be focused on the sustainability of the water.
3. The research and management works need to be shifted from engineering to ecological paradigm.
4. There is a need for integration of urban land panning and water supply planning (surface as well as ground).
5. Along with supply-side management, demand-side management should be also ensured.
6. More space should be allocated for green and blue infrastructure in the planning of the city.
7. Traditional water conservation structures need to be promoted for river & lake rejuvenation and water management.
8. Mapping and record of water bodies should be maintained.
9. Capacity building and training programs for the sensitization of citizens on the importance of urban wetlands should be conducted.
10. For water quality management, emerging pollutants and contaminants in water should be taken care of.
11. A decentralized approach should be acquired for the treatment and reuse of wastewater.
12. Incentives should be proposed for the promotion of green infrastructure in urban area.
13. Development of groundwater sanctuaries in urban areas.
14. The technical knowledge should be available in the general language for easy learning and understanding.
15. We should now more give more focus on MAR (managed aquifer recharge) which have a water storage goal.
16. Strengthening and Implementation of laws and bylaws are important for better water management. etc.

The expert committee has agreed to meet at 3 months interval for a more detailed discussion on the respective topics. The workshop was concluded with a thank you note by Dr. Suresh Rohilla, Senior Director, CSE.

The workshop witnessed the presence of following eminent experts and researchers from the mentioned themes

**Water Sensitive Urban Design and Planning (WSUDP) including rainwater water harvesting,**

1. Dr. Himanshu Joshi (Professor)  
Department of Hydrology Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee
2. Dr. Venkatesh Dutta (Professor)  
School of Earth & Environmental Sciences (SEES), BB Ambedkar University, Lucknow
3. Prof. Somnath Sen (Associate Professor)  
Department of Architecture and Regional Planning, IIT Kharagpur
4. Mr. Nadeem Khalil (Professor)  
Environmental Engineering Section, Department of Civil Engineering, Aligarh Muslim University
5. Prof. Sumit Sen (Head and Associate Professor)  
Centre of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation and Management, Department of Hydrology, IIT Roorkee
6. Mr. Manu Bhatnagar (Principal Director)  
Natural Heritage Division, INTACH, New Delhi

**Groundwater and Lake Management in Urban Areas**

7. Mr. S.K. Sharma (Groundwater Expert)  
Former Member (Technical), Central Ground Water Board
8. Prof. Somnath Bandopadhyay (Associate Professor)  
Nalanda University, Bihar
9. Mr. Mohit Ray (Environmental Consultant and activist)
10. Dr. Rajiv Sinha (Professor)  
Department of Earth Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur
11. Mr. K.J. Anandha Kumar (Scientist D, Hydrogeologist, (Retd.),  
Central Ground Water Board
12. Prof. Shashank Shekhar (Professor (Geology),  
Delhi University
13. Ms. Meenakshi Dhote (HOD)  
Dept. of Environment Planning, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
14. Prof. Deepak Khare (Professor)  
Water Resources Development & Management, Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee
15. Mr. Faiyaz Khudsar (Scientist In-Charge)  
Yamuna Biodiversity Park, New Delhi
16. Mr. Ritesh Kumar (Conservation Programme Manager)  
Wetland International, South Asia, New Delhi