

## **CSE-NMCG Online Training Programme**

### **Urban Water Bodies Management**

#### **Issues, Challenges & Potential of Making Water Sensitive Cities**

**September 24<sup>th</sup> - 04th October, 2021**

#### **Proceedings of Training**

School of Water and Waste, CSE in partnership with National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Government of India organised the online training on *Urban Water bodies Management Issues, Challenges & Potential of Making Water Sensitive Cities*, from 27<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. This was the second training in the series of trainings planned under the CSE-NMCG capacity building initiative on developing water-sensitive cities in the Ganga basin. A total of 162 participants took part in the training overall from 27 different cities across India. The training included around 70 percent males and about 70 percent females. The participants profile was spread across various diverse background including Planners, Architects, Development authority personnel, academics, Irrigational and Public Works Department personnel from across various states.

The training started formally on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September with an introductory session with the participants. In this session an introduction to the training program was given to the participants, explaining the format of training which included virtual session and online session on the Moodle. The participants also introduced themselves in the session.

The first virtual session of the training was held on 27<sup>th</sup> of September from 11.30 am to 1.45 pm. Two eminent Experts took the session- Dr Mohit Ray, Independent Consultant on *"Socio-Economics of Urban Water Bodies/Ponds: Case Study from West Bengal"*. Dr Ray illustrated on various social and economic aspects of the urban water bodies of Kolkata. The second speaker was Dr Suresh Kumar, Director- WISA, who gave presentation on *"Regulatory framework and/or Wetlands rule with special reference to urban water bodies and Preparing Basic Documents for Wetlands Management Plans"*. His presentation outlined the important processes followed while preparing basic documents for declaring the water bodies as wetlands. He also shared various checklists which has been approved/mandated by the Government of India with respect to the Wetlands and Water bodies.

The second virtual session was held as a Webinar where Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director-General, NMCG delivered the key-note address, with presentations from Dr Suresh Kumar Rohilla, Senior Director, CSE, Shri K.S. Jayachandran, Special Secretary (Environment and Forests), Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Dr Veena Srinivasan, Director, ATREE. The webinar had a combined viewership of more than 1,130 viewers across various media platforms. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra stressed upon the need to protect and conserve urban water bodies and how these are an integral part of the river ecosystem in cities. Mr Jayachandran, who heads the Wetland Authority of Delhi, shared the workings of the authority, and the work undertaken by them in an effort to manage and protect the urban waterbodies of Delhi, and execute functions as mentioned in the Wetland Management Rules, 2017. The next speaker for the training, Dr Veena Srinivasan talked about the approach to urban waterbodies management with focus on the need to manage urban water bodies, and how we can define the vision and goal for management plans, the technical and socio-economic approaches for water body management and indicators and yardsticks to monitor success.

The third session of the training was held on 1<sup>st</sup> October, and this session was taken by Shri Manu Bhatnagar, Principal Director- Natural Heritage Division, INTACH. He took this session on "*Rejuvenation of Historical Urban Water Bodies/Lakes/Nullahs: Case study of Hauz Khas Lake*". He gave an extensive presentation on the history and the socio-economics of the lake. He highlighted the problems that existed back in time specially relating to the pollution and dumping of waste in the lake. He later illustrated how with focussed efforts and finding alternate solutions, the lake was revived. This session presented an interesting case study and analysis of the entire journey of the revival of the Hauz Khas Lake.

The last session on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October was an interactive session with the participants, where in they were given *Group Exercise* and asked to present their work. Dr Rohilla, senior Director CSE also spoke on issues relating to water sensitive planning of the urban water bodies. For the next part the participants were assembled and divided into two teams and were asked to prepare presentations specific to the issues and challenges of the identified water bodies in the case study. Later the CSE Team interacted with the participants and tried to obtain their feedback. This group exercise and interactive session not only provided as a brainstorming exercise but also provided the participants to work together on specific problems together.

With this last session, the training program successfully came to an end. The participants spoke about their experiences about the overall training. The Training Coordinators Dr Amrita Anand and Dhruv Pasricha thanked the participants for their active participation.