



The Tenth Session of the
World Urban Forum

Ganga: Re-connecting River, City and People

Monday, 10th February, 12:30-13:30pm

Hall No. 3 Room 14

Exhibition Stall - Hall No. 8, Booth No. 4

PROGRAMME



Cities across the world have most often begun their development journey on the banks of water bodies. The natural rhythms of the river were mirrored in the lifecycles of riverine citizens influencing local cultural and religious practices. 'The Connect' between River and people rapidly declined post industrialization and the stewardship and care for rivers undertaken by citizens slowly diminished. There is growing consensus that cities must prioritize the restoration and conservation of environmental and associated cultural heritage for current and future generations.

It is our pleasure to invite you to a one-hour side event organized by National Mission for Clean Ganga from Republic of India with its partner organizations to share the importance and experiences of rejuvenating River Ganga, along with support systems envisioned through traditional knowledge and public outreach. An interactive discussion on strategic interventions and urban-planning initiatives for National Governments will be the focus of the session delving into cultural aspects, the role and levels of governance, community participation and resilience. The side event will contribute and leverage the relevance of sustainable urbanization in river cities for strengthening partnerships, calls for new alliance as well as further strengthening the knowledge and awareness of opportunities that River cities possess.



Rajiv Ranjan Mishra

Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga,
Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India

“Cities have turned their back towards the river...”

Cities are competing at a global scale with increased rural urban migration trends, and massive development activities. Cities should consider their rivers and water bodies as blessings of nature which help their sustenance and accordingly take steps to keep them in good health. But cities have turned their backs to the river where maintaining healthy rivers was crucial to enhancing liveability. River management needs to be mainstreamed into city’s Master Planning process to acknowledge its importance. Mainstreaming river rejuvenation in Urban Planning will comprehensively look into preventing discharge of untreated sewage, other effluents, dumping of solid waste into flood plains and rejuvenation of water bodies. This would also ensure that as the cities grow in due course, water bodies and rivers are protected and kept clean.

Dr. Victor R. Shinde

Sector Coordinator for Water and Environment
National Institute of Urban Affairs, India



“First of its kind, innovative planning tool...”

A transformative intervention in India’s Ganga River Basin that seeks to support cities holistically mainstream river-related aspects into the long-term planning. Introduction to an innovative tool based on three pillar of sustainable development—Economics, Social, and Environment.



Manu Bhatnagar

Principal Director
Natural Heritage Division INTACH

“The river is a cultural stream embedded in the very soul of India...”

Rejuvenation of the river also requires a restoration of its cultural gravitas, an abstract concept, but essential for maintaining its role in Indian civilizational ethos. Cultural assets and events which take place in the many cities and settlements along the river are inextricably tied together. The rejuvenation of one is impossible without the other.

Prof. Dr. Meenakshi Dhote

Professor of Environmental Planning
School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi



“Bridging tradition and modernity for resource conservation...”

The role of indigenous methods of water management, featuring an ‘Urban Wetland/Water body management toolkit’, mainstreaming both traditional and modern techniques in the process of urbanization to elevate water stress and bring prosperity in the area.



Samrat Basak

WRI Director – Urban Water

“Thriving River fronts to restore and conserve riverine environmental and cultural heritage...”

A guidance note for integrating water, ecology, environment, social and climate resilience related considerations within the existing built framework of urban riverfront planning and development. A primer for all stakeholders who wish to implement urban riverfront projects, to be able to plan and develop projects which are environmentally sensitive, climate adaptive and socially inclusive and therefore sensitive towards the environmental and associated cultural heritage.

