**Student Thesis Competition**  
**on**  
**RE-IMAGINING URBAN RIVERS**  

**Finale**  
10th - 11th August 2023, CEPT University, Ahmedabad

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**Day 1 - 10th August 2023**

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<td>09.30am - 10.00am</td>
<td><strong>REGISTRATION FOR DAY 1 (WITH HIGH TEA)</strong></td>
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| 10.00am - 11.00am | **SOFT OPENING**  
                  Context Setting and Explanation of the Format                  |
| 11.00am – 02.00pm | **PITCHING INNOVATIVE PROJECT IDEAS**  
                 This will include presentations by 9 undergraduate students finalists.  
                 It will also have two brief audience engagement activities.       |
| 02.00pm – 03.00pm | **LUNCH BREAK**                                                     |
| 03.00pm – 06.00pm | **SPECIAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS**                                     |
|                 | **Session 1: River Forum with Students**  
                 Around 90–100 students from different universities in Ahmedabad and nearby areas will join this session. The overall objective of the session is to sensitize the students – through exercises, games, and team competitions – to a systems approach for managing urban river stretches. |
|                 | **Session 2: Roundtable with Academia**  
                 Around 30–40 faculty members (including the thesis supervisors of the STC students) from different universities will participate in this round table. The overall objective of the roundtable will be to have concerted discussions on how to mainstream river thinking and considerations into academic activities—studio exercises, group projects, summer/winter schools, elective courses, among others. It is expected that a roadmap of potential activities with different universities will emerge from the discussions of the roundtable. |
Student Thesis Competition

Finale

Day 2 - 11th August 2023

09.30am - 10.00am
REGISTRATION FOR DAY 2

10.00am - 01.15pm
PITCHING INNOVATIVE PROJECT IDEAS
This will include presentations by 10 postgraduate students finalists. It will also have two brief audience engagement activities and a coffee break.

01:15pm–02:15pm
LUNCH BREAK

02:15pm–03:30pm
OPEN HOUSE WITH STUDENTS
This session will invite students in the audience to provide their reflections on various aspects of river management. Especially, how they can contribute to the management machinery.

03:30pm–04:00pm
COFFEE BREAK

04:00pm–06:00pm

Context Setting (5 minutes)
National Institute of Urban Affairs

Welcome Remarks (5 minutes)
CEPT University

Vriksharopan (5 minutes)

Signing of MoU - Urban Strategy Unit-NIUA and CEPT (10 minutes)

Role of Youth in NIUA’s Mandate (10 minutes)
Hitesh Vaidya, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs

Opening Address (10 minutes)
Dheeraj Joshi, Deputy Secretary, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India

Video Presentations of the Student Project Ideas (20 minutes)

Felicitation of Jury Members (5 minutes)
S. Vishwanath, Biome Environmental Solutions
Manvita Baradi, Urban Management Centre
Mona Iyer, CEPT University
Nitika Bhakuni, CEPT University

Leveraging Power of Youth in Restoration of Water Bodies (10 minutes)
Ramveer Tanwar, Environmentalist & TEDx Speaker

New Paradigms in Riverfront Design and Implementation (30 minutes)
Bimal Patel, President and Acting Director, CEPT University

Announcement of Winners and Prize Distribution (10 minutes)

Group Photograph (5 minutes)

Vote of Thanks (5 minutes)
Did you know that the different bugs found in a waterbody can be a measure of the health of that waterbody? Let's dig into how these bugs scientifically known as macroinvertebrates can become an indicator of different quality aspects of any water body.

What are your thoughts on managing urban rivers? Let's think river as a system and brainstorm on different challenges as well as instruments for sustainably managing these precious resources.

What do we currently observe in the floodplains of rivers in our cities or do we even see and acknowledge floodplains? Let's think on how to plan for floodplains, the very essential 'room for a river'.

Did you know that the different bugs found in a waterbody can be a measure of the health of that waterbody? Let's dig into how these bugs scientifically known as macroinvertebrates can become an indicator of different quality aspects of any water body.

Rivers have been lifelines of our cities since time immemorial. But how much do we really know about rivers and its different elements. For example: Did you know there are more than 400 rivers in India? Let's test our knowledge on the river ecosystems and beyond.

Show in your own creative ways, how rivers matter and more so for our cities. Let's make your ideas on rivers viral.

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**ACTIVITY 1**
(30 minutes)

**EVENT BRIEFING**

What are your thoughts on managing urban rivers? Let's think river as a system and brainstorm on different challenges as well as instruments for sustainably managing these precious resources.

**ACTIVITY 2**
(20 minutes)

**MAKE ROOM FOR RIVERS**

What do we currently observe in the floodplains of rivers in our cities or do we even see and acknowledge floodplains? Let's think on how to plan for floodplains, the very essential 'room for a river'.

**ACTIVITY 3**
(20 minutes)

**MACROINVERTEBRATES: WHEN BUGS TELL YOU THE HEALTH OF YOUR WATER BODY**

Did you know that the different bugs found in a waterbody can be a measure of the health of that waterbody? Let's dig into how these bugs scientifically known as macroinvertebrates can become an indicator of different quality aspects of any water body.

**ACTIVITY 4**
(20 minutes)

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT RIVERS**

Rivers have been lifelines of our cities since time immemorial. But how much do we really know about rivers and its different elements. For example: Did you know there are more than 400 rivers in India? Let's test our knowledge on the river ecosystems and beyond.

**ACTIVITY 5**
(60 minutes)

**RIVER MATTERS: FEEL IT, REEL IT**

Show in your own creative ways, how rivers matter and more so for our cities. Let's make your ideas on rivers viral.

**ACTIVITY 6**
(30 minutes)

**CONCLUSION & WAY FORWARD**
Roundtable with Academia
10th August 2023, Thursday, 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Auditorium FP 103, CEPT University

OPENING SESSION
03.00pm - 03.50pm
Context Setting
Breaking the Ice
Reflections from Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Chief Technical Advisor, NIUA

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

PLENARY DISCUSSION ON: CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS OF RIVER-RELATED ASPECTS IN ACADEMIA
03.50pm - 04.15pm

HIGH TEA
04.15pm - 04.30pm

BREAK-OUT GROUP DISCUSSION

SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS THAT UNIVERSITIES CAN TAKE UP FOR PUSHING THE AGENDA FOR URBAN RIVER MANAGEMENT UNDER:

- RESEARCH
- ACADEMIC DELIVERY
- NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

04.30pm - 05.15pm

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GROUPS
05.15pm - 06.00pm

WAY FORWARD
06.00pm - 06.10pm