

RIVER CITIES ALLIANCE

Updates about the alliance activities

*I chatter, chatter as i flow to join the brimming river, for men may come
and men may go, but i go on forever*

-Alfred Tennyson

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URBAN RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN (URMP)

The city of Aurangabad (Maharashtra) and Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) is preparing an 'Urban River Management Plan (URMP)' for the city with the support of NIUA. The URMP is a comprehensive effort towards holistic planning and management of all the water resources within the city with focus on urban river stretch. The plan will focus on the restoration of the river, rejuvenation of the water bodies and revival of the lost water heritage structures, for ensuring water-sensitive development in the city.

Ayodhya Nagar Nigam is working towards the revival and rejuvenation of the Sarayu river, nexus of waterbodies including ponds, lakes, kunds and strengthening the citizen river connect through means of the URMP. The work for the same is in progress. This initiative will expand the scope of the urban river planning and management narrative, with a view to target practical on-the-ground transformative action. The URMP will help the city in systematically planning for interventions to revive and maintain the Sarayu river stretches and other water bodies within its limits, in a sustainable manner.

AYODHYA



Inception meeting with the Ayodhya Nagar Nigam for the preparation of URMP

Aurangabad Municipal Corporation has been actively involved in the planning and implementation of interventions for river-sensitive development within the city. The URMP Aurangabad is unique on several counts. It is one of the first URMPs being prepared for a city outside the Ganga basin. Further, it is intended to address specific challenges associated with seasonal rivers and most importantly, it is being designed to complement and synergise with the ongoing works within the city. In order to facilitate the preparation of this plan in consultation with city stakeholders, a working group was formed comprising of representatives from all the relevant agencies. Subsequently, baseline is being prepared to understand the current scenario of rivers and their associated elements within the city. On the basis of this baseline assessment, a set of possible interventions for river management will be identified to address the city's concerns.

AURANGABAD

Inception meeting with the Aurangabad Municipal Corporation for the preparation of URMP



CELEBRATING 75 RIVER INITIATIVES OF THE RIVER CITIES ALLIANCE

Compendium Launch
31st August 2022



To celebrate the urban rivers, a virtual meet and greet between the RCA cities was organised on 31st Aug 2022. On this occasion, a compendium titled "Celebrating 75 river initiatives of the River Cities Alliance" developed by NIUA-NMCG was launched as part of India's 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The compendium presents some interesting and unique initiatives undertaken by the alliance member cities. Along with the launch of the compendium, a dedicated session was held wherein Shri. Vishal Singh, Commissioner - Ayodhya, Shri. Vikram Kumar, Commissioner - Pune, Shri. Ravindra Kumar, Executive Officer - Farrukhabad, Shri. Aditya Tiwari, Lead (Climate change, Smart City Mission) - Aurangabad shared the interventions taken by respective cities for the rejuvenation of the River. The session was chaired by Shri. G Asok Kumar, DG, NMCG in the presence of esteemed guests Ms. D Thara, Additional Secretary, MoHUA and Mr. Hitesh Vaidya, Director, NIUA.

A glimpse of the compendium - 75 River Rejuvenation interventions taken by River Cities

TAPPING OF SISAMAU NALLAH KANPUR

Nature of the Intervention	Location of the Intervention	Implementation Agency	Finance
Interception and diversion of untreated wastewater flow in drains for pollution abatement	Sisamau Nallah	UP Jal Nigam	Namami Gange

Brief description of the intervention
The 12 kilometres long and 6 metres wide Sisamau Nallah used to discharge 140 MLD (million litres daily) of sewage and contaminated water into the Ganga. The drain was tapped under the Namami Gange mission by introducing the interception and diversion scheme. After providing a tapping point at Bakramandi in Kanpur, 80 MLD of wastewater of the Sisamau Nallah is sent to the Bihagonj sewage treatment plant (STP). From there, the treated wastewater is directed to the Pandu river. Another 60 MLD is being sent to the newly-built pumping station near the riverside powerhouse by making a tapping point downstream of Sisamau Nallah, which is further pumped to the Jagnou STP.

Unique/Key Feature of the Intervention
This is the country's largest open drain, built by the British in 1891 that passes through 40 mohallas and inhabited by close to 1.5 million people.

Key highlights of the event



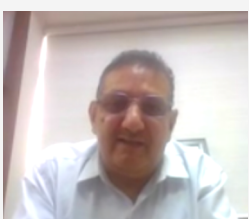
“ RCA focuses on sharing best practices among cities and treating the river as a blessing. ”

G. Asok Kumar, Director General, NMCG



“ An ideal way to collaborate with other cities as part of the River Cities Alliance is through technological platforms. ”

D Thara, Additional Secretary, MoHUA



“ The beauty of River Cities Alliance lies in the notion of learning from each other as we embark on the journey of conserving our rivers. ”

Hitesh Vaidya, Director, NIUA



“ While NIUA and NMCG have established RCA, it is now upto the member cities to take ownership of the alliance. ”

Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Chief Technical Advisor, NIUA

ONBOARDING MORADABAD CITY IN THE RIVER CITIES ALLIANCE

WWF India office is implementing an ambitious program 'Rivers for Life' in the Ramganga River basin to demonstrate an integrated and holistic approach to manage river basins using a hybrid top-down and bottom-up approach and engaging with diverse stakeholders. Moradabad is an important urban centre within the Ramganga River basin with a population of 8,87,241 (Census 2011) have a significant impact on the river's health. Recognizing the value of URMP for river cities, WWF India has partnered with the NIUA to prepare dedicated URMPs for the two major cities Moradabad and Bareilly of the Ramganga River basin. This would reduce the adverse impacts of urbanization on the health of the Ramganga River.

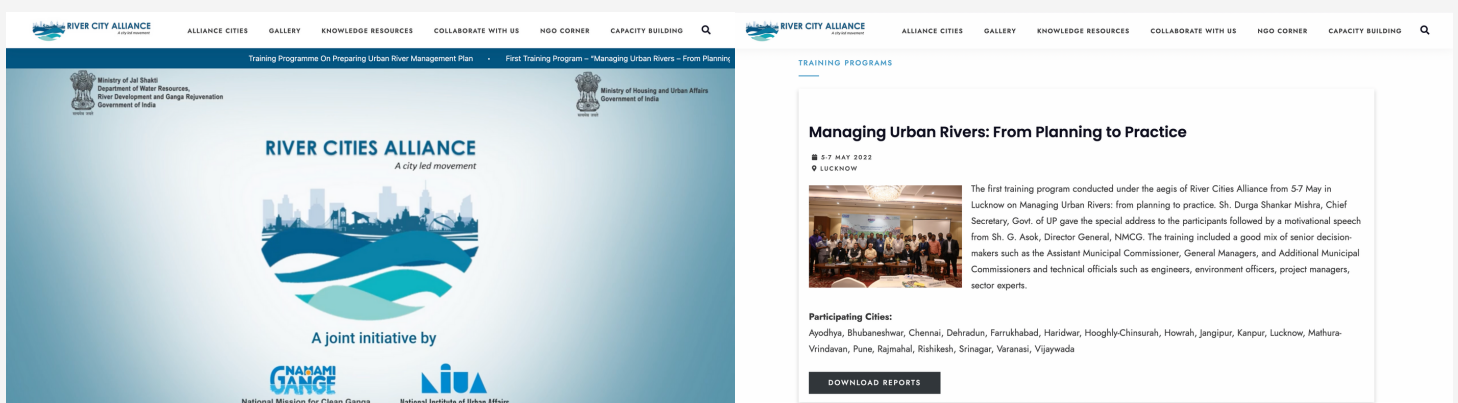
Realising the value of being a part of River Cities Alliance, Moradabad formally requested to be part of the prestigious alliance and we are glad to welcome Moradabad city as a member of the alliance.



Signing of RCA declaration by Shri. Sanjay Chauhan, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Moradabad Nagar Nigam

LAUNCH OF RIVER CITIES ALLIANCE WEBSITE

A dedicated website for River Cities Alliance has been developed by NIUA-NMCG for showcasing the work done under the alliance.



NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Namami Gange mission was launched in 2014-15 for the rejuvenation of Ganga and its tributaries with assured funding of Rs 20,000 crores. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the implementing agency. Unlike previous efforts, it is not limited to cleaning or piecemeal selected city interventions but follows river centric, basin-based approach for comprehensive rejuvenation. Namami Gange has holistic multi-sectoral, multi-agency and multi-level approach in five broad categories-Nirmal Ganga, Aviral Ganga, Jan Ganga, Gyan Ganga and Arth Ganga. In this newsletter, we will cover the projects under the Nirmal Ganga category. A total of 160 sewerage infrastructure projects have been sanctioned to create 5024 treatment capacity in the Ganga basin. In 2014, only 28 projects existed for only 462.85 MLD,

Uttarakhand

The sewerage treatment capacity has been increased in the state from 61.5 MLD in the year 2014-15 to 214.5 MLD in 2022. Additionally, it has also resulted with the water quality of the River Ganga in Haridwar to reach class A, i.e. the highest quality category.

Uttar Pradesh

A total of 53 projects, at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,563 crore has been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh to create 1379 MLD new STP capacity, 320 MLD through rehabilitation old STPs and laying of 1834.96 Km sewer network. 100-year-old Sisamau Nala (140 MLD wastewater generation) fully tapped and other sewerage Project at Kanpur

Bihar

A ten fold increase in treatment capacity in Ganga towns from 65 MLD to 648 MLD. 89.90 km sewer network in Zone IV-A Patna Pahari, Bihar has also been successfully laid.

Jharkhand

3 projects were sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 217.17 Crores. Two STPs have been completed in Sahibganj creating 12 MLD of treatment capacity.

West Bengal

24 projects have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 4099.98 Crores. 6 STPs of a cumulative capacity of 109.53 MLD have been completed in the towns of Gayeshpur, Bhatpara, Kalyani, Halishahar, Budge Budge and Barrackpore. 839.58 km sewer network has been successfully laid.

Glimpse of infrastructure created under Namami Gange Mission



The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is the leading conservation organization working to make a positive impact around the world in more than 76 countries and territories. Founded in 1951, the mission of TNC is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. As a science-based non-profit, TNC in India has been advancing projects since 2017 to support India's efforts to develop win-win solutions for people and nature. TNC - India works closely with the Indian government, research institutions, NGOs, private sector organizations and local communities to develop science-based, on-the-ground, scalable solutions for securing food, water and clean air.

To know more visit: <https://www.tncindia.in/>

Climate Adaptation - Building Sustainable Cities Chennai

Chennai, the fourth most populous metropolis of India has undergone rapid urbanisation with an evident increase in built-up area by 174 % in the period between 1988 to 2017, accompanied by the loss of wetlands and green spaces. The project approach in Chennai involves conservation and integration of natural infrastructures such as wetlands, forests and other permeable areas in the city's development process which will help in absorbing flood waters, and improved groundwater recharge while also supporting biodiversity and other ecosystem services.

The Sembakkam lake restoration project in Chennai is being carried out by TNC-India. The project is distinguished in its way of scientific approach where essential baseline surveys including on watersheds, hydrology, biodiversity and community survey conducted informed the restoration plan for the wetland. Key steps include - silt removal thus improving the carrying capacity, strengthening of embankments, eco-friendly landscape for the community connectivity and improvement of biodiversity habitat, creation of constructed wetlands, strong stakeholder engagement, long-term monitoring, evaluation and maintenance and Internet of Things (IoT) based lake water quality monitoring system.



Weed removal at Sembakkam Lake

