

India Water Partnership Monthly Report for January, 2012

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Activity-1: Promoting Community Participation in few selected cities to create environmental awareness and generate demand for cleaning Ganga river under National Ganga Action Plan (Outcome Challenge 3; Goal-2 of GWP)

India Water Partnership in 2012 is supporting its partner organization; Society for Promotion of Waste Lands Development (SPWD), for undertaking the above activity.

For the purpose, SPWD with its key partners Sach Sach Society and Shramik Bharti have been engaged in dialogue with stakeholders and community based organisations across the Ganga river on the need to engage meaningfully with the National Ganga River Basin Authority and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) consortium who are coordinating the knowledge base for the same. As part of this process, SPWD initiated a process and organized a Consultation meeting in Kanpur City on 17th January 2012 for the facilitation of an Independent civil society forum.

The following issues were discussed in the meeting:

- There is practically no Himalyan Ganges water river reaching Ganges in Kanpur – all the water is diverted into upper Ganga canal system- this is the biggest challenge for Kanpur
- In 1990s, the Ganga river was flowing 2-3 km away from Kanpur Ghats. A barrage project was planned to divert the Ganges so that it should flow along the ghats. This was completed in the year 1995. However, despite this project, the Ganga is still flowing at the same place. What flows along the ghats are the sewer water and the effluents from the newly constructed housing settlements along the ghats.
- The diversion of sewerage for irrigation has led to destruction of agriculture land at least in 15 villages. People are suffering from serious diseases and ailments. There is no respite for them.
- There is an impression that whole underground water in Kanpur is polluted and it is not of potable quality any more.
 - During consultation, it was felt by the SPWD to engage different stakeholders for forming a independent civil society forum, seek consultative partnership between civil society organizations and Kanpur Nagar Nigam(KNN) and establish mechanisms for the same.
 - Extend the civil society network to ward and zone levels.
 - Establish linkages with other networks in the Ganga basin

Formal discussions and meetings among key stakeholders are proposed between March and June 2012 . Some of the major issues which would be taken up are:

1. The need to develop an active stakeholders' forum at the ward level to facilitate a dialogue with stakeholders on issues affecting them for activating water governance issues with local bodies (ward, area and urban bodies).

2. To understand issues related to centralization of sewage treatment and how to actively facilitate a decentralized sewage treatment process.
3. To provide a science people interface between the scientific body of knowledge on the one hand and local communities on the other.

Activity-2: Formation of Area Water Partnership namely “Shivana Area Water Partnership” in Madsaur Town, Madhya Pradesh (Outcome Challenge 1, Goal-4 of GWP)

India Water Partnership is supporting Central Zone Water Partnership Coordinating Agency-Navadeep, a voluntary organization to start the process of formation of **Shivana Area Water Partnership” in Madsaur Town, Madhya Pradesh.**

Background for Formation of Shivana Area Water Partnership

Originating from a place known as Shavan-Salamgarh in Rajasthan, the east flowing river Shivana is a tributary of river Chambal of Yamuna river system. Considered as lifeline of Mandsaur and Neemuch districts of Madhya Pradesh, and other neighboring areas, as well; it requires projects and programmes to rejuvenate to fulfill developmental needs of the area which has, on one hand, has prosperous agriculture land with major crops like wheat, sorghum, corn, tuwar, groundnut etc. and fast growing industrial belts, on the other. Both sectors are facing acute water shortage mainly due to indiscriminate extraction of ground water and non implementation of projects to conserve river water. In summer, people in both the districts face acute shortage of drinking water.

Initiation Process

To initiate the activity, Mr. Ravindra Shukla, Chairman of Navadeep and Coordinator of Central Zone Water Partnership visited Mandsaur on **17th January, 2012** and met representatives of many organizations/institutions. Most important among them was Mrs Kusum Gupta, President, Municipal Committee, Mandsaur. Mr. Shukla, apprised her on functioning of GWP and IWP and approaches adopted by them to resolve water related issues. He also dwelt on IWRM and the “tool box”, a set of case study/success stories prepared by GWP. He emphasized the need to bring all stakeholders together on one platform called “Shivana Area water Partnership”. Taking the government and its local administration into its fold and allowing peoples’ opinion to come up, is a precondition to solve water related problems of the area. All the participants stressed for awareness campaigns to conserve water resources.

Mrs Gupta, while appreciating the views and presentation of Mr. Shukla, expressed her firm resolve to develop river Shivana. She welcomed the idea of establishing Shivana Area Water Partnership.

Others participants were Mr. Narendra Sipani, Agricultural entrepreneur and Chairman of Micro Chemicals Ltd. Mr. Sipani promised to provide all help to establish Shivana Area Water Partnership. Mr. Vikram Vidyarthi, senior journalist and water conservation campaigner; Mr. Yogesh gupta , President , Narsinghpura Sewa Sahakari Samiti; Mr. Gopal Pancharia , Chaiman, Anurag Svaichhik Sanstha (voluntary organization) and Mr. Ashok Agrawal also expressed their views and promised support for the new partnership.

Activity-3 : Participation in Workshops, Seminars, Meetings (GWP Goal-4)

As a member of Technical Committee of India Water Week-2012 which is going to be organized by Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India from 10th -14th April, 2012 at New Delhi, Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP participated in the 4th Meeting of Technical Committee of India Water Week-2012 held on 19th January, 2012 at Central Water Commission, New Delhi. The following major points were discussed as per the agenda:

- (i) Review of progress of confirmations from Theme Leaders and Key Note Speakers;
- (ii) Identification of officers for review and approval of abstracts session-wise;
- (iii) Progress on mobilization of funds from sponsorship;
- (iv) Information about road show at Mumbai and Hyderabad and curtain raiser function at Delhi;
- (v) Status of review of draft special publication submitted by CBIP to CWC;
- (vi) Mobilization of international level participation through ICID and other national organizations; and ;
- (vii) New facilities made available on website. Convening brief familiarization session on the utilities available on website

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