

# NEWS LINE

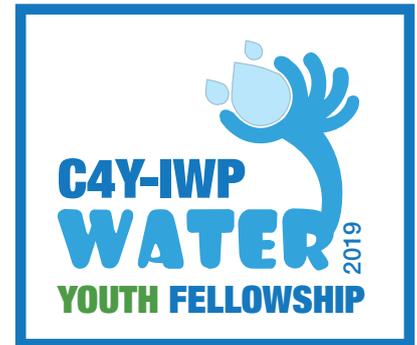
## Mobilising Youth for Water Resource Management

### Background

#### Sustainability and Youth

Youth population in India is expected to reach 34% of its total population in 2020. Youth have a huge potential for innovation and their voice has to be taken into account. Sensitisation and education of youth about water concerns and related issues imbues a sense of responsibility among young population for managing the water resources towards the goals of sustainability and self-reliance. In order to ensure that the actions made towards sustainable development including water management, the inclusion of a dedicated water goal like the SDG-6 (water security for sustainable development in an increasing water stressed world) becomes important.

To foster and empower **Sustainable Youth Leadership in the country**, and build their capacities on developing sustainable solutions for water security, Centre for Youth (C4Y) and India Water Partnership (IWP) collaborated to initiate "C4Y-IWP Water Champions Youth Fellowship Programme 2019".



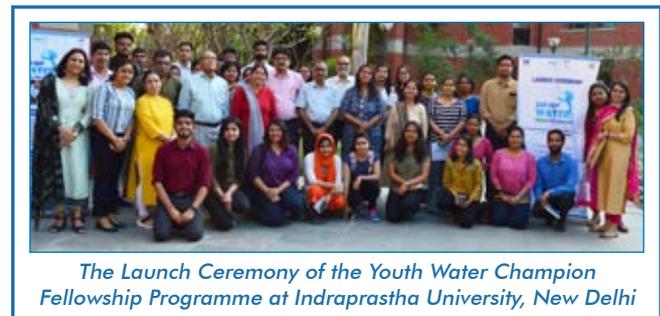
### Water Champion Youth Fellowship 2019

The purpose of this yearlong endeavour was to provide opportunity for the young fellows to engage intensively with India's premier environmental organisations working on water as its priority. The programme engaged the youth with the IWP partner organisations who have been working in the water resource management sector.

The initiative was focused on students pursuing bachelor and master degree in subjects related to environment, sustainability or water issues in universities across Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR).

Five students were selected from a pool of twenty shortlisted applicants to form the first cohort of Water Youth Champions. The journey of the five Fellows from their selection process followed by the orientation workshop on water issues and placement with partner organisations and the mentoring support, working professionally on water conservation issues and developing or implying water smart solution has been an impact driven change process for the young Fellows.

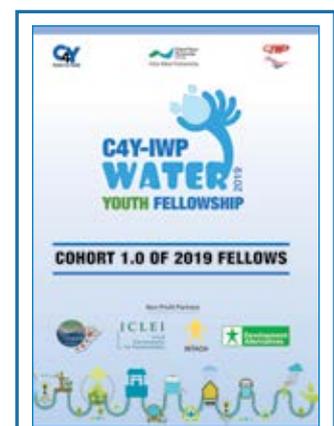
Development Alternatives, ICLEI South Asia, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and Tree Craze Foundation were the prominent sector specialist partner organisations. The Fellows were placed with the partners and the mentors facilitated the process of development of Innovative 'Water Smart Solutions' by the Fellows on issues such as lake conservation, accessibility to safe drinking water for low income families and developing awareness tools for Delhi and NCR.



### Programme Design

The inaugural edition was launched to build young leaders capacities to understand and appreciate the issues of water conservation. The capacity building & practical orientation, mentoring, contributing in proposing water smart solution, monitoring, documenting and communicating the learnings were the key components of this programme.

- Orientation Workshop
- Mentorship
- Progress Mapping Workshops
- Project Brief Frameworks and Communication & Documentation Collaterals
- Felicitation Ceremony



## Cohort 1.0 of 2019 Fellows

1. **Anjali Yadav** (MSc Environmental Studies, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi was placed with ICLEI South Asia). Her project was titled 'Implementation of Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) process to support the rejuvenation of Bhalswa lake'. She leveraged on IUWM principles and Sustainable Water Management in the City of the Future (SWITCH) toolkit process to support the rejuvenation of Bhalswa Lake located in North-west Delhi. The implementation of the IUWM project will lead to effective integration of water resources across all the three sectors of water, wastewater and storm water.

2. **Deepa Sharma** (M.Sc. Environment Science & Management, Amity University, Haryana was placed with Tree Craze Foundation). Her project titled 'Water and Environment Quest for School and University Students' contributed in development of a questionnaire to assess water awareness among school children at primary, secondary and higher level. This online tool intend to increase participation amongst school and university students for the Jal Shakti Abhiyan of Government of India. The quiz will be used to raise awareness and improve water practices as well.

3. **Kiran Khokhar** (MSc Natural Resource Management, University School of Environmental Management, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University was placed with Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage - INTACH). Her project titled 'Revival of Hauz-i-Shamsi lake' which is a water storage tank built by Iltutmish of the Slave Dynasty in 1230 CE in Mehrauli area of Delhi. The project proposed a plan which is based on the replication efforts made for rejuvenation of the Hauz Khas Lake by INTACH using tertiary treated water from Vasant Kunj Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).

4. **Nidhi Dahiya** (B.Tech, Environmental Engineering, Delhi Technological University was placed with Development Alternatives). Her project titled 'Transparent Jerry Can - An unconventional Water Smart Solution' was to lab test Transparent Jerry Can. It is a cost effective and easy to use disinfectant which works on the principle of Solar Water Disinfection for access to safe drinking water.

5. **Shaivya Rohella** (MA, Environmental Studies, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi Placed with Development Alternatives). He project titled 'Jal-Tara Slow Sand Filter' was to create innovative solutions in the field of water purification, management and improving drinking water quality. The filter is identified as the perfect approach to address both issues of water accessibility and water quality.



*Felicitation Ceremony held at India International Centre, New Delhi*

## Outcomes

The empanelled Fellows have gone through an exponential learning curve in terms of knowledge and experience on water issues & concerns, gained from mentorship support for strategising and executing their ideas. The Fellows also explored their strengths and leadership potential over the course of the programme. Following are the key achievements and experience gained from the project over the time:

- **Wider engagement:** Outreach to around 300 students for the Fellowship. 50 applications were received for shortlisting.
- **Problem statement and recognition:** The five Fellows worked with location specific sectoral approach to address a range of water related issue in the Delhi-NCR region. The water smart solutions focussed on water body pollutions, lack of sanitation & drinking water and lab testing of water quality techniques.
- **Empowering youth for creating a sustainable future:** Developed a cohort of young Fellows as Youth Water Champions. Every fellow worked and prepared their project reports addressing a critical water issue in Delhi-NCR.
- **Holistic exposure for youth:** Fellows got a 360-degree on ground exposure to water concerns and solutions as they learnt and implemented new skills. The Fellows were asked to hone their reading, communication, documentation and observation skills to prepare blogs, video journals and a full-fledged final report documenting their water smart solutions.
- **Nurturing of confident future leaders:** Fellows gained in terms of confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills. Fellows were sent to the field to advance an insight and experience of the problems on-ground.

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