



IWP Newsletter

India Water Partnership (IWP)
Newsletter (September to December, 2020)

Foreword

Dear Readers,

We wish you a happy New Year and bring forth the third and final newsletter of the year 2020. In addition to focusing on various online webinars, workshops and training sessions, the current edition highlights the activities that IWP has taken up between September and December 2020. The issue also briefs about the webinar series on Urban Flooding that IWP jointly organised with the National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and the UK-India-Netherlands webinar on Water Security: Pathway to Climate Resilience and Adaptation organized by IWP. The issue also covers IWP's joint efforts with Pragya in installation of foot operated handwash stations in two slums of Gurugram, Haryana.

The by gone year had put forth various challenges in the form of lockdown, social distancing norms and curfews in place. There were delays in execution and deviations from the planned course of actions. We are thankful to our partners who have diligently and whole-heartedly worked with us to promote IWP's vision and mission in 2020.

Now that we're entering 2021, we hope that the coming year brings all our readers a lot of joy, peace and happiness.

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Core Activities

1. The Water Champions Youth Fellowship Program 2020

WP undertook this activity in collaboration with one of network partners, Centre for Youth (C4Y). The Water Champions Youth Fellowship Program aims at empowering youth by providing relevant and comprehensive work experience in water sector. During the period from September 2020 - December 2020, the following activities were undertaken:

- Five webinars were organized under #WaterSmartSolutions series on September 04, 11, 18 & 25 and on October 09, 2020 with partner organizations.
- Followed-up and monitored progress of the fellows through interactions with mentors, fellows and academic heads of the institutions.
- Reviewed the fellows' deliverables on project outlines, blog postings, bio-sketches case studies, photo slides & narratives.

#WaterSmartSolutions webinar series, August - October 2020

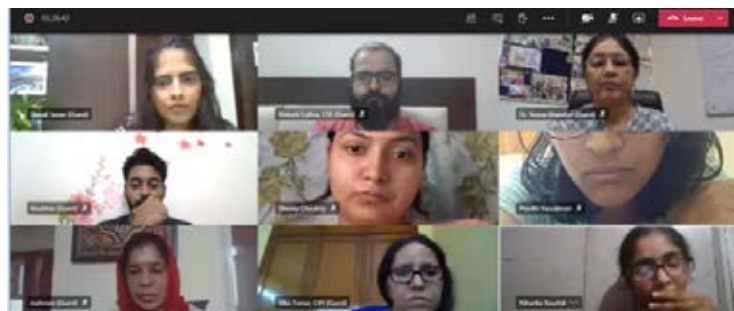
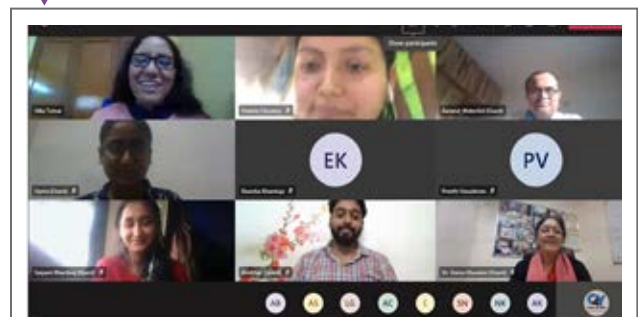
1. Webinar on technological innovations by Development Alternatives (DA) Group
2. Webinar on #WaterSmartSolutions by TARU Leading Edge Pvt Ltd
3. Webinar on #WaterSmartSolutions by Ms Ramya Pandyan on formal writing
4. Webinar on #WaterSmartSolutions by Mr. Anand Kumar, Head of Programmes and Ms. Shalini Chaturvedi, Program Coordinator, WaterAid India
5. Webinar on the series #Water Smart Solutions by the Programme Managers - Mahreen

Matto, Bhitush Luthra and Shivali Jainer from the Water Programme of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

6. Sixth Water Smart Solutions Webinar 2020

FINAL CONCLUDING WORKSHOP

Final concluding workshop was organized in two slots. In the first slot, fellows placed with Council on Energy Environment and Water (CEEW), Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Development Alternatives (DA) and J S Water Energy Life Co. presented their projects, talked about the fellowship journey and the acquired learnings. In second slot, the session was resumed with presentations by the fellows placed with Taru Leading Edge Private Ltd and Water Aid India who also shared about their project and their fellowship journey. The efforts and achievements of the fellows were highly appreciated by the mentors from partner organizations who also provided their valuable insights in the mentoring and work process.



Snaps from the webinars on water smart solutions and the concluding workshop of the Cohort 2.0 of the Water Youth Champions Fellowship.

FOLLOW UPS AND MONITORING THE PROGRESS OF FELLOWS

More than 30 telephonic, text message/WhatsApp interactions with the fellows, mentors from partner organisation to monitor the progress of the fellows during the project work and placements has been done. The regular updates helped in reviewing the progress of the fellows during the placements and submission of the deliverables.

FELLOWS DELIVERABLES

After receiving the inputs from partner organisations, IWP and C4Y team collated and edited the project outline document and the blog posts. The assessment

of the fellows were accordingly recorded. On September 18, 2020, the case studies and the photo narratives deliverables were submitted by the fellows for review and assessment by IWP and C4Y team. Final report and info graphic posters submitted by the fellows on October 21, 2020 were assessed by the partners and their feedback and inputs were received. A felicitation ceremony was organized at end of the fellowship program. A felicitation ceremony was organized for the end of the fellowship. Certificate, t-shirts and insight document on the fellows and fellowship was developed and distributed to the students.

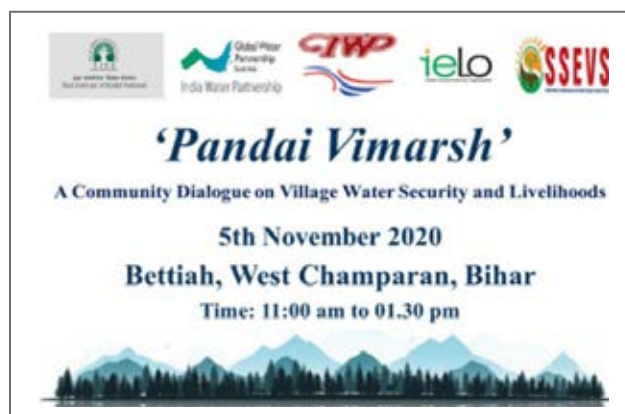
2. Mainstreaming National Water Mission by promoting Community Action for Village Water Security in the shared Gandak Basin

IWP undertook the above activity in collaboration with one of its network partners Indian Law Environment Organisation. Under this activity in the months of September - December, FGDs by the local Partner NGO in the selected project villages was conducted to understand the current scenario.

- Gram Shivar based on the need assessment and problem identification, the knowledge and information based Community Dialogue was organized among locals to enable the understanding of larger cooperation context and mediation strategies and a knowledge based dialogue was also organized among community leaders and various key stakeholders on finding an amicable solution to the water sharing dispute.
- First draft of Policy Brief has been prepared by documenting the process, perspectives and lessons from the dialogue and its potential to bring communities to terms with each other. The Policy Brief will discuss the issues in the Pandai River Basin in the overall context of India-Nepal water relations and various water agreements and treaties. The policy brief is under review by IWP Secretariat.

A webinar "Pandai Vimarsh: A Community Dialogue on Village Water Security and Livelihoods" was organized on **5th November, 2020** with the aim to inform the people about community of practice on the international nature of water challenges and the

limitations of the vulnerable communities to deal with them with the requisite support in the absence of formal cooperation frameworks on smaller rivers. Shri Girraj Goyal, Director (IEC), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India was the special guest on the occasion and given opening remarks. The key speakers were; Ms. Shilpa Chohan, Advocate, Supreme Court of India & Founder Member, IELO; Dr. Jacquleen Jacob, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP, Mr. Siddharth Kumar, Samagra Sikshan Evam Vikas Sansthan, Bettiah, Bihar (local IELO partner NGO), Mr. Eklavya Prasad, Founder - Megh Pyne Abhiyan and local community members. Mr. Girraj Goyal inaugurated the Pandai Vimarsh and interacted with the villagers by listening their issues and suggested some preventive measures. He suggested for the solar pump for irrigation purposes



and farm pond for the livestock. He also suggested that IWP can take-up an assessment through Central Ground Water Board in the area to measure the water level and installation of bore well. Dr. Veena Khanduri moderated the first session and Dr. Jacquleen Jacob moderated the second session. Villagers who interacted in the meeting raised their issues and also requested for the solutions. Mr. Girdhari Lal informed that we don't have water and land and we are living in the forest area, our village and market both are on forest land for which since 2017-18, the Forest Department has filed a case on us and the Government has also stopped issuance of our revenue receipt since 2001. This is a very big problem. Mr. Raj Kishore said that we don't have facility for the drinking water so we store water from the ponds and streams only. He also said that during peak season people of both sides fight together for the water, thus this is a very big challenge for us. During the question answer session he indicated that we don't have land for agriculture, we have only some cattles. Due to floods and water scarcity, we lost our agricultural lands and homes therefore now we are living in the forest land but the Forest Guards have also ran away from their place of duty. We don't have any work for our livelihoods. Under MGNREGA we got only 6 days' work in a year. Mr. Anil Prasad requested for some solutions by the

Government by which the friendship of Bihar (India) and Nepal will continue and the issue of water supply should also be resolved. Ms. Pratibha requested that the Government should make some ponds or either install the bore wells in the area which can help us in resolving our water scarcity problems. Mr. Ramesh Mahto indicated that there is no electricity in these villages and also very less farm ponds are there so they cannot fulfill their water demand. Other villagers informed that Forest Department has also filed a case against them under the Forest Act for living in the forest area. Ms. Sejuti Basu from Pragya one of our partner organization suggested to motivate the villagers for the farming of the medicinal plants in the area because that area is sandy and very good for growing the medicinal plants. This will improve their livelihood as well as link them to the Government latest developmental schemes. She also suggested for the E-Charak app of National Medicinal Plants Board from which farmers can easily connect to get the right information about the medicinal plants and purchase. Mr. Eklavya Prasad founder of Megh Pyne Abhiyan who also participated in the Vimarsh suggested that there is another option that must be explored in the Thori village area which is spring rejuvenation because this can be also a possible alternative for water in that area.

3. Preparation of Small Modules on Rapid Urbanisation, Drinking Water, Sanitation and Waste Water Management and organise Training session for Diverse Stakeholders and Dissemination through Mass Media and Social Media

IWP undertook this activity in collaboration with one of its network partners; Jheel Sanrakshan Samiti (Lake Conservation Society). For preparation of Small Modules on Rapid Urbanization, Drinking Water, Sanitation and Waste Water Management and to organize training session for Diverse Stakeholders and Dissemination through Mass Media and Social Media, an elaborative Discussion and Dissemination Session on "Eco-Technological Treatment of Wastewater" was held on 20th September, 2020. Diverse stakeholders participated in the session. The knowledge and deliberations of the session was widely disseminated by the mass media; and it reached to almost half a million diverse

Stakeholders. The draft modules were prepared in October and November, 2020 and submitted to IWP Secretariat for review

Dissemination through Mass Media/ News Coverage:



4. Stakeholder Consultation on Monitoring Framework for Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Change) in Madhya Pradesh

This activity was undertaken by IWP with the technical support from its partner, IPE Global. As part of this activity, IWP in association with its network partner; IPE Global organized an online “**Stakeholders’ Consultation to discuss the monitoring framework for SDG 13, Climate Actions**” on 10th November, 2020 with support from Madhya Pradesh State Knowledge Management Centre on Climate Change & Environmental Planning & Coordination Organisation, Madhya Pradesh. The opening remarks were given by Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP and Mr. Anand Kumar, Associate Director, IPE Global set the context with introduction, concept and overview of the consultation and moderated the panel discussions. The six eminent experts-cum-speakers in the panel discussions were; (i) Prof. Amitabh Pandey, Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM); (ii) Mr. Kirtiman Awasthi, Sr. Policy Advisor, Climate Change Adaptation, GIZ India; (iii) Mr. Lokendra Thakkar, Coordinator, State Knowledge Management Centre on Climate, EPCO,

Government of Madhya Pradesh; (iv) Dr. A. Nambi Appadurai, Director (Climate Resilience Practice), World Resources Institute (WRI - India); Mr. Sanjay Vashist, Director, CANSA; and (vi) Mr. Jaimon Uthup, Policy Specialist - SDGs, UNDP. Purpose of this consultation was to discuss and deliberate on the monitoring framework for the SDG Goal 13 - climate actions and come out with recommendations and suggestions for taking it further in the development process.

Few Recommendations of the Webinar are:-

- Capacity building sessions are essential to institutionalize the use of the data and information and to connect flows of knowledge between all stakeholders.
- Coordination with the departments is important for monitoring
- Need to establish monitoring indicators for the proposed climate actions in Madhya Pradesh State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) in consultation with the concerned departments.

5. Stakeholder Mapping and Development of GIS Platform to support decision making for Tributaries Management in Hindon River basin

This activity was undertaken by IWP with support of one of its network partners, TreeCraze Foundation. The following tasks were undertaken during the period from September - December, 2020.

- Two story maps were created with an aim to sensitise school students about the natural physical features of a river & their importance and also the impact of human interventions on river physiology.
- River Hindon was taken as a case study in both the maps in order to make the flow more realistic and related to the student’s own environment.
- The complex scientific terms were made easy to understand by linking them to the animated videos thereby also making the theme more interesting.

Bring Link to the story maps:

- Physical features of a river: <https://arcg.is/GbH8P>
- Human interventions and their impact on river physiology: <https://arcg.is/1f1TS80>
- Guidance provided to the organization on design and development of GIS platform.
- Land cover data for the entire Hindon Basin was derived.
- Data related to the flora and fauna of the basin was collated.
- Forest classification and forest type data was procured from Forest Survey of India (FSI).
- Online story map session was conducted for various stakeholders of Shamli district.
- Human interventions and their impact on river physiology: <https://arcg.is/1f1TS80>



a) **Story Maps sharing with stakeholders on 26th October, 2020 through virtual platform**



The story maps created in September, 2020 were translated into Hindi and made bilingual; so as to be users' friendly and easily understandable by the majority of stakeholders in the basin. A Virtual story map session was organised on 26th October, 2020 by IWP in association with Tree Craze Foundation and Green India Corporation, for the various stakeholders of Hindon River in Shamli and Saharanpur district, to raise awareness about the rivers, their physiology and the anthropogenic impact on river ecosystem.

Meetings/ Webinars

First consultative zoom meeting on gender transformation in South Asia

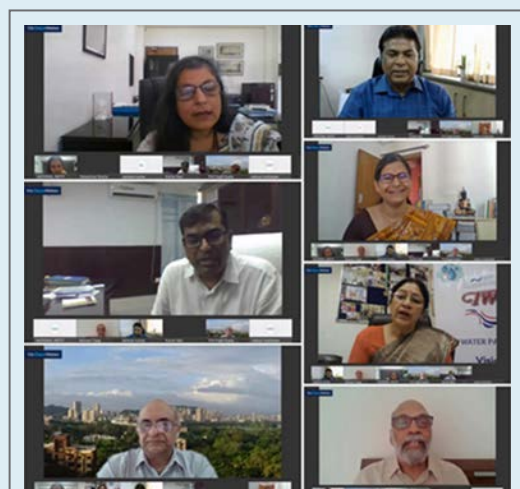
Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary- cum- Country Coordinator, IWP attended the first consultative meeting on Gender transformation in South Asia on 28.09.2000 and shared the country perspective based on the earlier response provided to the GWP on gender survey in consultation with the partners.



The key speakers were **Shri Kumar Ravi**, I.A.S, District Magistrate, Patna (Bihar); **Prof. Mahua Mukherjee**, Head, Centre of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation and Management (CoEDMM), Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee; **Prof. Kapil Gupta**, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and **Er. Avinash C Tyagi**, Vice-President, IWP. The welcome address and concluding remarks were given by **Dr. Veena Khanduri**, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP and **Ms. Mohana Manna**, Young Professional, NIDM coordinated the webinar. Around 169 participants joined the webinar while more than 114 participants actively participated in the webinar throughout. The webinar was accessed through YouTube Live by 160 viewers.

Webinar on Urban Flooding: Challenges to Solution

A webinar on Urban Flooding: Challenges to Solutions was jointly organized on 9th October 2020 at 11.00 - 13.00 hrs. by India Water Partnership in association with National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and Action for Disaster Resilient and Inclusive Development (ADRID). The webinar was initiated by **Prof. Santosh Kumar**, Head, G&IDRR Division, NIDM with programme overview and opening remarks. **Smt. Debashree Mukherjee**, I.A.S, Additional Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India graced the webinar with her Special Address.



Panel Discussion and Expert talk at the 1st Webinar on Urban Flooding jointly organised by NIDM and IWP

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Major Recommendations of the webinar

The webinar advocated and mainstreamed the concept of utilizing excess floodwater in urban land use and drainage planning and pave the way forward for technical solutions. Some of the key recommendations of this webinar are as under:

- Water should be the central theme of urban development and planning.
- The developmental practices and approach must incorporate flood plain zoning.
- Geo-tagging of water bodies and reservoirs shall be done for protection and reclamation of these entities.
- The idea of reusing wastewater and storing rainwater needs to be mainstreamed and integrated in developmental policies and practices.
- Focus must be given on measures for

maintaining the balance between biodiversity and water bodies.

- Measures for enhancing groundwater recharge should be emphasized.
- The planning and management of water in urban areas needs to have a multi-stakeholder approach instead of segregated one.
- The local challenges must be incorporated in the management of urban flood risks.
- The communities need to be engaged for management of urban storm water and flood risks.

Draft Approach paper was prepared in **November, 2020** and the same has been sent for review by the eminent panelists, who participated in our webinar held on **9th October, 2020** on **Urban Flooding: Challenges to Solutions**.

A second Webinar on “Urban Flooding”

A paradox of “too much water, too less water” was jointly organized by NIDM and IWP on 28th December 2020 to discuss the findings of the Approach Paper. This webinar was organized with a view to gather the technical as well as governing perspectives regarding the challenges in mitigation and management of urban flooding.

Objectives of the Webinar

- To advocate the utilization of excess floodwater as an asset for risk mitigation of flooding water scarcity in urban areas.
- To mainstream and integrate water sensitive urban designs and low impact development in urban drainage and landuse planning.
- To sensitize all the stakeholders and designers about the utilization of excess flood runoff.
- To analyse the exiting urban flooding challenges and deliberate on solutions to address these challenges as a way forward.
- To integrate real-time flood modelling with Decision Support System (DSS) for improving local mile connectivity.



Experts at the 2nd Webinar on Urban Flooding

GWP Network Meeting

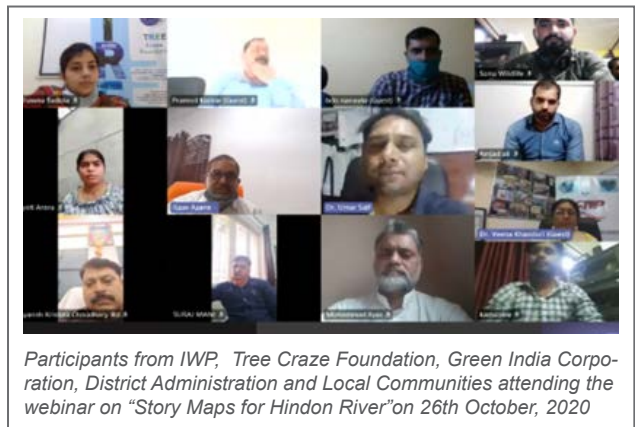
GWP Network meeting was organized on 21-22nd October 2020 through online platform. The opening session was conducted on 21st October 2020 in which the welcome remarks were given by the GWP chair Mr. Howard Bomsey who said that the GWP network has managed to adapt effectively to the new circumstances thanks to modern technology, and that in some respects "we can actually be more productive than we were before." In this session the 12 finalists of water change makers were also announced. The winner of the Water Change Makers Awardees will be announced in January 2021. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator attended both days' deliberations and IWP team attended the second day Eurasia session of the network meeting and represented its active contribution in mobilizing the youth in the country highlighting its youth water champion fellowship program that has been in place since 2019.



Webinar on Story maps for Hindon River with the Stakeholders on 26th October, 2020

IWP in association with its network partners; Tree Craze Foundation and Green India Corporation organized a webinar on "Story Maps for Hindon River" on 26th October, 2020 for sensitizing students, local community and Administrators on various aspects of Hindon River and its physiology and how it has been impacted by anthropologic interventions. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, India Water Partnership while welcoming the Shri Promod Kumar, District

Development Officer (DDO), Shamli, Shri Mansha Ram Yadav, DDO, Saharanpur, Gram Pradhans and Gram Sachivs of respective districts shared that this webinar will assist students and administration to understand the local issues connected with the river physiology and to connect with the decision makers and administrators to come-up with the common solutions. The story maps were presented by Ms. Bhawna Bhadola and Ms. Pallavi Singhvi of Tree Craze Foundation and through the interactive session feed-backs were obtained from the stakeholders. Shri Promod Kumar emphasized on ensuring the participation of common citizens for river rejuvenation efforts and at the same time continue the efforts to protect the local water bodies. He also suggested for including the historical, social and cultural mapping related to Hindon and its tributaries in the story maps to make it more attractive. Shri Mansha Ram Yadav appreciated the efforts of storytelling maps of Hindon River and its tributaries in a very succulent manner and share that the information through

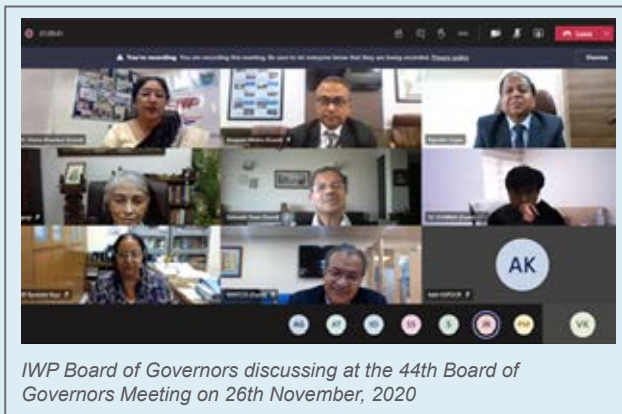


maps is very useful and interesting for a common person. He suggested that a Hindon Yatra should be planned in the coming months. Prof. Umar Saif, Director, Green India Corporation suggested that he will organize the Hindon yatra from its source (Shivalik Hills) with support of all the stakeholders. Shri Sanjay Kashyap, Convener, Centre for Water Peace suggested to continue the research and ground level efforts. Shri Yuvraj Ahuja, 2030 Water Resources Group suggested to include restoration of groundwater through Atal Bhujal Yojana. Ms. Sudha Kumari moderated the session and extended vote of thanks to all the stakeholders for their participation and active contributions. More than 30 persons attended the webinar.

44th Board of Governors Meeting and 18th Annual General Body Meeting of IWP on 26th November, 2020

IWP organised its 44th Meeting of the Board of Governors (BoG) on 26th November, 2020 at 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. virtually. In the meeting, progress on the activities from August to November, 2020 were presented through power point. Audit Report for F.Y 2019-20 was confirmed, Work Plan & Budget for 2021 was presented and approved. Five new Honorary Members joined IWP governing body, matters of strategic nature were reported, new organizations joined IWP & GWP as a member from August to November, 2020 were informed and governance issues discussed.

IWP also organized its 18th Annual General Body meeting (GWP-India Partners Meet) on 26th November, 2020 from 4.00 p.m. to 6 p.m. IWP and GWP network Partners from all over India were invited to participate in the meeting. In the meeting, Audit Report for F.Y 2019-20 was adopted, progress on the activities from January to November, 2020 were presented through power point, matters of strategic nature were reported, new organizations joined IWP & GWP as a member from January to November, 2020 was reported and Work Plan & Budget for 2021 were informed.



IWP Board of Governors discussing at the 44th Board of Governors Meeting on 26th November, 2020



IWP life and annual members at the 18th Annual General Body Meeting on 26th November, 2020

26th Regional Council Meeting of GWP-South Asia held on 30th November, 2020

The 26th Regional Council Meeting of GWP-South Asia was organised on 30th November, 2020. In the meeting, the Work Plan and Budget-2021 was approved. Chairs and Regional Council Members of all CWP's attended this meeting and all the Country Coordinators also attended the meeting as an observer. From India, Shri R. K. Gupta as Chair and Mr Debnath Shaw & Dr. Ravinder Kaur as Regional Council Members attended this meeting. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP attended this meeting as an observer.



Discussion at the 26th Regional Council Meeting of GWP-South Asia was organised on 30th November, 2020

The UK-India-Netherlands Webinar on Water Security: Pathway to Climate Adaptation and Resilience

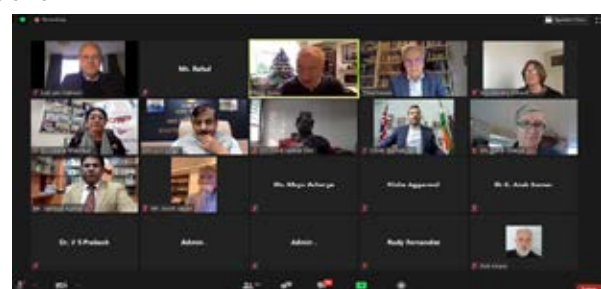


Panellists profile for the UK-India-Netherlands Webinar on Water Security

This webinar was jointly hosted by the British Deputy High Commission Chennai and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, India, and was organized by the India Water Partnership (IWP) on 9th December, 2020. The webinar was organized to offer ideas for possible joint work ahead of the Netherlands hosted

Global Adaptation Summit in January 2021 and U.K.-hosted Global Climate Conference COP-26 in November 2021. It was meant to encourage the U.K.-India-Netherlands collaboration on water security in response to UN Water's Global Acceleration Framework launched in July 2020 calling for urgent

global partnership to ensure transformative global success in SDG 6. The objective of the webinar was to share knowledge, good practice and lessons learned on water security that can maximise joint work and impact on food security, urban development, health security, gender security and safety from natural disasters such as flood or drought. The event took on a particular urgency in the light of the global context on water and the need for urgent collaborative action.



Expert Discussion at the Knowledge Sharing Session of the UK-India-Netherlands Webinar on Water Security

Other Initiatives

Response to CoVid-19 - "Hand Hygiene Campaign"



The shock of COVID-19 has rippled across India and the poor in its cities and villages are the most sufferers. As a collective force, IWP and PRAGYA acknowledged that hand washing is the key to keeping millions of Indians safe from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. IWP in partnership with PRAGYA established cost effective and location friendly handwash stations keeping in

mind that many of our target areas do not have access to running water. A core part of the campaign was to raise community awareness, make handwashing a part of the resident culture and instill the message that "Washing Hands Saves Lives". The handwash stations were inaugurated on 16th December 2020 at slums in Ghasola and Wazirabad, Gurugram, Haryana along with the promotion of hygiene awareness, hand hygiene training and gradual mobilization of active members forming Nigrani Samiti (Vigilance Committee) for managing the infrastructure. There will be regular monitoring of stations, community feedback and provision for supply of handwash refills till Nigrani Samiti is considered efficient enough to takeover. At the inauguration ceremony, staff members from IWP and PRAGYA with the slum dwellers took a pledge on hygiene and group photos were snapped at end of the campaign.



Top: IWP and PRAGYA Team taking Hygiene Pledge with slum dwellers; Bottom: A resident of Ghasola village using the hand-wash station