



Webinar Series: Water Resource Management for Sustainable Development and Role of Citizens

DA is organising a Webinar Series for the promotion of efficient management of water resources and involving citizens in managing this important resource for sustainable development in urban and peri-urban areas.

This is a part of the 6-month long webinar series, which is conducted fortnightly, started from 04 June 2021, World Environment Day. The webinar series provides a platform to school and college students, researchers, practitioners from CSOs and NGOs from across the globe to come together for collective and collaborative thinking on water management.

The webinar series aims to augment citizen-led data collection and monitoring, management of their local water systems and resources, making systems efficient, achieve water circularity to adapt to climate change and build resilience against water stress. The speakers interact on one of the themes or any topic of their interest in resonance with the objective of this series.

The 8th session of the webinar series was conducted on 10 September 2021, focusing on “**Udaipur Urban Vision: Conservation of Water Bodies**”. Our distinguished speaker for this webinar was **Mr. H.S. Sancheti**, Principal Advisor, and Former Chief Town Planner, Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Rajasthan.

The webinar focused on developing an understanding about the water bodies of Udaipur city. The session began with the speaker wherein he shared information on the history, culture, demography, and tourist places of the Udaipur city, with the help of photos and maps. Further, speaker also highlighted

the issues and challenges faced by the city in managing its water supply and sewage systems. The city's topography along with prominent lakes like Lake Pichola, Udaisagar lake, Fatehsagar Lake and interconnection with Ahar river and other water bodies like step wells 'Baories' were explained in detail with the help of photos, diagrams and maps. The city has been taking measures for conservation of its lakes under National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP). Different researchers, educators, consultants, corporates and NGOs participated in this webinar. The participants were asked questions and the discussion brought to fore the possibilities of integration of new age technologies in the existing system and associations among public utilities and corporate sector.

The 9th session of the webinar series was conducted on 24 September 2021, on **“Udaipur Water Supply Management: Issues and Challenges”**. Our distinguished speaker for this session was **Mr. Nirmal Chittora**, Former Additional Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Rajasthan, Udaipur; and Ex-Director at Udaipur Smart City Pvt Ltd. The webinar focused on potential planning for smooth supply of drinking water in Udaipur.

The session started by the speaker wherein, he provided significant insights about Water Web of Udaipur as the city is popularly known as City of Lakes which is a source of drinking water as well as an important factor for the source of income, as it is a tourism and aesthetic beauty. He explained the interconnections of all 08 Udaipur Lakes and the net useable drinking water capacity out of the total holding lake capacity.

He further shared the background information on Time Line of Water Supply Scheme and how the scheme has changed with time starting with only focusing on Boaries (stepwells), as a source of drinking water to lakes and establishment of filter plants in 2021. Furthermore, he highlighted salient features of water supply schemes of Udaipur. He highlighted the past, current, and future water supply-demand, production, and deficit in Udaipur. He further emphasised on water budgeting and the cost incurred by the Public Health Engineering Department on operation and maintenance on the management of water resources, followed by highlighting the inequitable distribution of water, timelines of water supply schemes, remedial planning for smooth supply of water, and the role of citizens in efficient management of water resources.

In the last leg of the sessions, the participants were invited to an interactive session in order to present queries, clarifications and experiences related to the water sector.

DA believes that effective ways of Water Management leads to sustainable lives and secure planet. We deal with the water issues through integrated water management approaches. Our initiatives are focused towards water conservation, water augmentation, citizen-led water quality monitoring and creation of new innovative affordable technical solutions.

In addition, these sessions have been a unique platform to exchange innovative solutions and augmented initiatives with eminent speakers, academicians, and expertise from the water sector to move towards more sustainable solutions to promote water management and security.

