

Madhya Pradesh Engineers Master Modern Sewage Treatment and Water Conservation at NEERI Nagpur

In a major effort to boost sustainable urban infrastructure and efficient waste management across the state, a key initiative was successfully executed by the Urban Development and Housing Department. Under the direct guidance of Mr. Sanket Bhondve, Commissioner of the Urban Development and Housing Department and Managing Director of Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Company Limited, a forty-member delegation of engineers attended an intensive one-day training program at the prestigious National Environmental Engineering Research Institute in Nagpur. The specialized capacity-building program focused on sewerage treatment technology for liquid waste management, aiming to equip state technical officers with advanced tools for modern urban challenges.

During this high-level training sessions, the engineers from Madhya Pradesh were trained in managing domestic wastewater systems and drafting highly accurate Detailed Project Reports. A significant portion of the program focused on the scientific identification of lost lakes and natural water sources, alongside standard protocols for preserving existing water bodies. The technical team was also introduced to newly developed field software designed to streamline execution. To gain



practical exposure, the delegation visited the Ambazhari Eco-CW Sewage Treatment Plant, which utilizes cost-effective wetland technology and operates at a capacity of three point two million liters per day, demonstrating how smaller municipalities can implement low-cost sewage treatment solutions. With an aim to make urban public spaces fully inclusive, a dedicated segment of the training was focused on accessible infrastructure. The entire team conducted a detailed site visit to the famous Divyang Park in Nagpur to study specialized facilities, with the long-term objective of upgrading and replicating similar disabled-friendly infrastructure across various cities in Madhya Pradesh.

The training program saw active participation from the core technical leadership of the Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Company, including EnC Mr. Anand Singh, Chief Engineer Mr. Shailendra Shukla, and Project Officer Mr. Subodh Jain, alongside regional Project Managers, Deputy Project Managers, Assistant Project Managers, and Field Engineers from multiple districts. The participating engineers highly commended the practical depth of the curriculum and expressed their gratitude to the national institute for the valuable operational insights.



A Major Step Towards Betwa River Rejuvenation

Two-Day Capacity Building Workshop on Scientific DPR Preparation under the Namami Gange Mission

Bhopal | Rivers are not merely water bodies; they are the foundation of civilization, culture, and life itself. With this vision, the Urban Development and Housing Department organized a two-day Capacity Building Workshop on 30 June and 1 July under the Namami Gange Mission to strengthen the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the scientific and integrated rejuvenation of the Betwa River.

The workshop aimed to equip engineers, project officials, and technical professionals with the knowledge and practical tools required to prepare scientifically robust, environmentally sustainable, and outcome-oriented river rejuvenation projects.

Inaugurating the workshop, Minister of State for Urban Development and Housing, Smt. Pratima Bagri, emphasized that rivers in India are not only sources of water but also symbols of the nation's cultural heritage and social identity. She stressed that DPRs should

be scientific, effective, and rooted in nature-based conservation principles to ensure long-term ecological sustainability.

Highlighting the importance of protecting natural water sources, promoting afforestation, and maintaining stormwater drains, she noted that balanced development can only be achieved when environmental conservation remains a central priority.

Shri Brijendra Swaroop, Executive Director, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), highlighted that the Namami Gange Mission is working not only for the conservation of the Ganga but also for the restoration of its tributaries, including the Betwa River, in line with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He elaborated on the Mission's five pillars—Aviral Ganga, Nirmal Ganga, Jan Ganga, Gyan Ganga, and Arth Ganga—and underscored their significance in ensuring holistic river rejuvenation.



Welcoming the participants, Shri Sanket Bhondve, Commissioner, Urban Development and Housing Department, stated that the workshop would serve as a milestone in preparing high-quality DPRs for the rejuvenation of the Betwa River. Referring to Madhya Pradesh as the “home of rivers,” he encouraged participants to exchange best practices, adopt innovative technologies, and integrate scientific approaches into river restoration initiatives. Over the two days, experts from leading national institutions delivered technical sessions covering key aspects of river restoration. Shri Jyoti Prasad from the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) spoke on the reuse of treated wastewater and sludge, emphasizing sustainable wastewater management practices.

Prof. Manish Kumar Goyal of IIT Indore discussed innovative tools for biodiversity conservation and decentralized planning. Shri Suresh Babu from WWF-India highlighted the role of plantation in enhancing biodiversity, while Dr. Faiyaz A. Khudsar of the Yamuna Biodiversity Park, University of Delhi, presented integrated approaches to floodplain restoration and river ecosystem management. The workshop also featured dedicated sessions on Nature-Based Solutions (NbS). Prof. Venkatesh Dutta of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Lucknow, discussed strategies for rejuvenating small rivers through nature-based interventions. Dr.

Asgar Nawab from Wetlands International explained the importance of wetland restoration and ecological conservation, while Dr. Sudipto Chatterjee of The Nature Conservancy shared successful case studies on river restoration through Nature-Based Solutions. Ms. Swati Rajesh Dhotkar from ABS, Maharashtra, concluded the technical sessions with insights into the scientific management and productive utilization of water hyacinth. A validation session at the end of the workshop enabled participants to review key learnings and exchange practical experiences.

The experts unanimously emphasized that effective DPRs for the Betwa River must integrate pollution control, biodiversity conservation, sustainable natural resource management, treated water reuse, and Nature-Based Solutions. By combining scientific knowledge with practical planning, the workshop significantly strengthened the capacity of participants and laid a strong foundation for preparing resilient and sustainable river rejuvenation projects. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Sitaram Tagore, Programme Manager, Namami Narmada. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Dheeraj Joshi, Director, Namami Gange Mission, who expressed his appreciation to the experts, participants, and partner institutions for their valuable contributions.

Review of progress on water supply and sewerage projects;

message of environmental conservation conveyed through tree plantation

Bhopal. A detailed review of ongoing water supply and sewerage projects under the Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Company (MPUDC) - an undertaking of the Urban Development and Housing Department- was conducted at the Sunderlal Patwa Institute of Urban Management in Bhauri, Bhopal. The meeting was presided over by Engineer-in-Chief Shri Anand Singh and Chief Engineer Shri Shailendra Shukla. Engineer - in- Chief Shri Anand Singh instructed all contractors to ensure the availability of an adequate workforce and necessary machinery at project sites so that the work could be completed with quality within the stipulated timeframe.

Directing the project managers, he stated that the commissioning of any water supply project should only take place once the concerned Chief Municipal Officer confirms that a domestic water connection has been provided to every eligible household. He remarked that projects could be brought to early completion through better coordination, continuous monitoring, and extra effort. Acting on the instructions of Managing Director Shri Sanket Bhondve, Shri Anand Singh urged all project managers and contractors to focus heavily on extensive tree plantation across all components of the projects.

Describing environmental conservation as an integral part of development, he called for active contributions toward creating a green environment. During the meeting, he held one-



on-one discussions with all contractors to deliberate in detail on project progress, challenges, and their solutions.

Chief Engineer Shri Shailendra Shukla stated that the true success of any water supply or sewerage project lies in its benefits reaching 100% of the city's citizens. He called for all drawing and design work to be executed in accordance with technical standards and urged all concerned officials, consultants, and contractors to work with a spirit of teamwork. Following the meeting, the MPUDC team conveyed a message of environmental conservation by planting trees on the premises of the Sunderlal Patwa Institute of Urban Management. Project managers from various PIUs across the state, representatives from project consultancy firms, and contractor representatives were present on the occasion.