

11th July 2025

Strategic Planning Masterclass for City Leaders Shaping Water Secure & Liveable Cities

Friday, 11th July 2025

10.00 AM IST - 1.00 pm IST

Online Masterclass for
City Leaders
Shaping Water Secure & Liveable Cities
*First Step in the Three-Step Capacity Program of
Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Strategic Planning
of Urban Water Infrastructure*

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Learning Objectives

- A business case for pro-actively shaping a city to become liveable & water-secure.
- Strategic planning for water to enable water-secure economic growth
- Pathways to institutionalise strategic planning for water through inter-departmental coordination and coordination with State level infrastructure programs & financing.
- Toolkits developed from on-ground research in India to engage local communities & RWAs in strategic planning for water security & liveability.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the Masterclass, participants will:

- Gain a clear understanding of what it means to be a water-secure & liveable city.
- Recognize their leadership role in shaping sustainable local policies & programs that are evidence-based, inclusive and transparent.
- The process of developing a vision and evidence-based, inclusive and transparent strategic action plan to drive water-secure initiatives in their respective cities.
- Be equipped with various toolkits and frameworks to get engage with local communities and RWAs in developing water secure plans for their urban local bodies

Target Audience

- Municipal commissioners and city leadership teams
- Senior bureaucrats, policymakers, and decision-makers from Indian State Government Departments.

Conclusion

This Masterclass is an essential step towards enabling Indian cities to balance rapid urbanization with sustainability. By fostering leadership, visioning, and actionable planning, this initiative will pave the way for resilient, water-secure, and liveable cities across India.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

10.00 am IST Session 1: Introduction & Context Setting

Setting the Context of Water Security & Liveability status in Indian cities

- Water crisis in Indian cities: Challenges & Opportunities
[Mr. Rajiv Mishra](#) (IAS Retired) Ex Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)
- Role of urban local bodies (ULBs) in Water Governance & Planning
[Ms. Maansi Verma](#), Manager Policy Engagement - Janaagraha
- Interactive session - Challenges of Planning, Funding & Cost Recovery
[Dr Bhakti Devi](#), Ex Water & Liveability Strategist Sydney Water & City of Sydney

11.00 am IST Session 2 : Case Studies from India Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)

- Holistic Water Body Rejuvenation
[Prof Venkatesh Dutta](#), School of Earth & Environmental Sciences & Gomti River Waterkeeper
- Planning & Delivery of Inclusive WASH Services
[Ms. Akhila Sivasdas](#), Executive Director@ Centre for Advocacy & Research

11.30 am IST Session 3: Framework for Planning a Water Secure & Liveable City

- Scaling Water-Sensitive Urban Design through Strategic Planning & Effective Policy-Making
[Prof Tony Wong](#), Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, Australia
- Mainstreaming rainwater harvesting & demand management in Australian cities through strategic planning
[Dr Peter Coombes](#), Urban Water Cycle Solutions

12.00 noon IST Session 4: Case Studies from Australian Local Councils & Water Utilities

- Strategic Planning & Reporting Framework in Australian Cities
[Dr Bhakti Devi](#), Ex Water & Liveability Strategist Sydney Water & City of Sydney
- Interactive session - Barriers & opportunities to strategic planning in Indian cities
[Ms. Amanjot Kaur](#), United Association for Cities (UAC)

12.30 pm IST Session 5: Actionable Next Steps & Q&A

- Roadmap for Initiating Strategic Planning for Water Services
An Urban Local Body
- Interactive session for questions, reflections, and commitments
[Dr Bhakti Devi](#), Ex Water & Liveability Strategist Sydney Water & City of Sydney
- Closing remarks & Vote of Thanks
Ms. [Shreelata Krishnan](#), School of Policy & Governance