

## WHY WATER CHALLENGES SHOULD WORRY KOLKATA

Kolkata, Jan 20 (UNI) Speakers at an interactive session on "Why Water Challenges Should Worry the Citizens of Calcutta" highlighted the present concerns and stressed on the measures to be taken to lower water related problems.

Organised by 'Concern for Calcutta', speakers Preeyam Budhia (President, Business Development, Patton Group), Arunabha Majumdar (Chairman, Indian Water Works Association) and Bibhas Maity (Ex-officio - CEO, Water Supply, KMC) spoke on the need to conserve this precious resource and its judicious use. The event was held here on January 18. Ms Budhia spoke on 'Water Conservation – Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond', emphasizing the immediate need for every citizen to take water conservation seriously. Urging people to work towards building a water positive society, she said, 'It will not be an exaggeration to say that the next war will be over water. Any measures that you take, big or small, counts. There are many ways to conserve water and the awareness for this is of paramount importance pan India. All we need to do is implement basic, simple measures. Even a little thing like turning the tap off while brushing our teeth or shaving can have an immense positive impact. Every drop counts.' She also talked about how Patton has been implementing sustainable solutions for water conservation via Rainwater Harvesting, Ground Water Recharging and their unique Water-On-Wheels project. 'We have successfully completed 52 rainwater harvesting projects. An excellent example of the benefits is the Bonnie Camp project in the Sunderbans which, till four years ago, used to get drinking water supply from Kolkata via steamer. Today they have fresh drinking water on site all year round. Also, one of my personal green initiatives is the Rainwater Harvesting project at the Uluberia Patton Plant. We have started a 50,000-litre capacity project here and will be scaling up to collect 2,00,000 litres of rainwater at our other plants across.' Prof. Arunava Mazumdar spoke about the issues and challenges faced by public water supply and various levels of essential minerals and unwanted contaminants present in the water supply. He also spoke on various water filtration and water purification systems used in individual households, their pros and cons, and water usage in many of the city's multi-storied complexes. Mr. Bibek Maity spoke about the important role water meters can play in helping conserve water while mentioning some of the common obstacles faced while placing water meters in certain areas of the city. He also stressed the importance of people understanding and curbing the wastage of water.

UNI PL AKM