



Why water challenges should worry Calcutta

At the interactive session "Why Water Challenges Should Worry the Citizens of Calcutta", organised by Concern for Calcutta recently, speakers Preeyam Budhia (President, Business Development, Patton Group), Arunabha Majumdar (Chairman, Indian Water Works Association), and Bibhas Maity (Ex-officio-CEO, Water Supply, KMC) highlighted the present concerns and stressed on the measures we should take to lower water related problems. K.S. Adhikari welcomed and introduced the speakers and Narayan Jain moderated the session.

The first speaker, 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, as a forward-thinking, forward-looking environment-friendly organisation, has been implementing sustainable solutions for water conservation via Rainwater Harvesting, Ground Water Recharging, and their unique Water-On-Wheels project. She said, "We have

successfully completed 52 rainwater harvesting projects. An excellent example of the benefits is the Bonnie Camp project in the Sunderbans which, till 4 years ago, used to get their 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. 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.

Some everyday measures you as responsible member of society can easily adopt are:

"Water gardens/lawns only when needed

"Check with the local nursery to increase knowledge about plants that require less water to thrive

"Check all taps, valves, sprinklers once a month to ensure no leakage

"Install water efficient devices household devices- for example, front loading over top loading washing machines

"Opt for toilet cisterns that have both low flush and full flush options

"Use washing machines and dishwashers responsibly - only run full loads

The Audience applauded this most informative session