NOTICE

College is organizing a Seminar on 'Rivers in Pune: Policies and Issues' on Monday, 8th January.

Seminar is organized in association with Kirloskar *Vsundhara*.

All students shall compulsorily attend the Seminar.

<u>**Date</u>** Monday, 8th January, 2018</u>

Time 10:30 am to 12:30 pm



Kundanmal Firodia Auditorium



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Deccan Education Society's Shri. Navalmal Firodia Law College, Pune

Seminar Report 2017-18

Seminar on Rivers in Pune: Policies and issues

The one day seminar on Rivers in Pune: Policies and Issues held on 8th Jan, 2018 narrates the story of the rivers in Pune and explaine the history, geography, ecology and current state of the river in a simple pictorial form. Pune lies on the western margin of the Deccan plateau, on the leeward side of the Sahyadri mountain range. The city is blessed with Mula and Mutha Rivers that originate in the Sahyadri ranges and traverse across Pune. The two rivers further meet and upon their confluence Mula-Mutha river is formed which further drains itself into the Bhima River.

Our guest speaker Mr. Manish Ghorpade Stating how Pune's Rivers have been degraded over time the Speaker showed the number of factors contributing to this which are as follows:

Urbanization along river- Heavy urbanization in PMC and PCMC areas over the past few decades has led to haphazard urban development along the river.

At some locations, the development extends right up to the edge of the river.

Construction of Dams- The Mutha and Mula Rivers in Pune have dams in their upstream, controlling the discharge of water into them. Presently, the dams have stopped the flow of water into the rivers, keeping them dry.

Release of untreated sewage- Significant Number of Nallas and piped outfalls discharge untreated sewage directly into the rivers, converting the river into a polluted 'drain'.

Lack of Access – Pune's rivers are not easily accessible. In the areas that are already developed there are very few points where one can approach the Rivers. While along most of its length, the banks are lined by private properties making the River inaccessible for citizens. Poor connectivity across the banks results in the river becoming a barrier that divides the city

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Many other problems also plague our rivers today, from inefficient governance, urban apathy, dearth of affordable sewage treatment technologies, to alienation of communities from their life lines. New entrants and supposed panacea to urban river problems are river beautification or riverfront development projects. They cost big money and need big time. And, they also need big water. Like the ambitious Sabarmati Riverfront project which gets its water from the dammed Narmada.

Our Second resource person Mr. Manish Ghorpade talks about river restoration and navigation project is being planned in Pune and before it is formally accepted, it seems that it is receiving special favors from the Pune Municipal Corporation. Rather than focusing strongly on river restoration and pollution control, this project, which is said to receive funds earmarked by JNNURM for river restoration, is focusing more on Navigation. The works, which include large scale channelization of the river, seem to be at cross purposes with restoration.

The Pune Municipal Corporation has commenced work on comprehensive design of the Pune River Development Project. This project will prevent the environmental degradation of Pune's Rivers, protect them from being choked by development, reduce the threat of flooding, create a public realm along the river and provide Pune with a vital riverfront that enriches life in the city.

A conference on 'Urban rivers of Maharashtra', inaugurated by environmentalist Madhav Gadigal, harped on the need for a National Urban Water Policy to tackle encroachments and flooding and boost riverfront development. The two-day conference is being organized by INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage), Pune Chapter, and SANDRP (South Asian Network on Dams, Rivers and People). The session focuses on pollution, battles and campaigns, and the way forward with focus on key messages, networking and action needed.

The main aim of the workshop is to strengthen the efforts of communities, individuals and groups against river pollution and river encroachments, understand legal provisions, governance and institutions related to rivers, study the possible impact of 'urbanisation' or 'development' on rivers; understand the impact of interventions like 'river front development' and 'commercial navigation' and deliberate on urban water and river policy, among others. But policies are not sufficient to achieve.

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