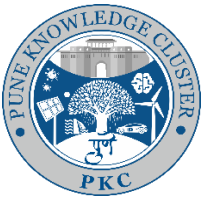




**PKC's SUST-EN Series Hosts a Stakeholders Meeting on
Ground Water in Pune: Perspectives on Problems, Technology Interventions, Significance in
Planning for the Future of Pune Metropolitan Region**

(By Invitation Only, Closed-Door Meeting)

Organized By	Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC)
Date	27th April 2022, Time - 10.30 am - 12 pm (IST)
Location	<p>The meeting will be held in hybrid mode In person: Pune Knowledge cluster office 3rd floor, Placement cell building, S.P.Pune University Campus Pune-411007</p> <p>Online: Join Zoom Meeting https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88182002940?pwd=TzZXM1F0NUJKSm00U2pLSm9LeTnHdz09 Meeting ID: 881 8200 2940 Passcode: 279578</p>
Background	<p>Any discussion of water has to involve and integrate the social, environmental and economic well-being of the people and the planet. PKC envisions being the platform for stakeholders to integrate ideas, viewpoints, technologies, problems, solutions and alternatives for achieving water security. As a first step towards conservation and sustainable use of water, we have invited different stakeholders to participate in a discussion to understand - "Ground water in Pune, Problems, technology interventions and its importance in planning for the future of Pune Metropolitan Region."</p>
Panellists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ms Uma Aslekar: Senior Scientist, ACWADAM, Pune● Mr Shashank Deshpande: Retd. GSDA, Mission Groundwater, Bhujal Abhiyan● Mr Ravindra Sinha: Bhujal Abhiyan, Pune● Ms Aneeta Gokhale Beninger: Executive Director, CDSA● Mr Swapnil Potdar: Co-founder, Ira Sustainable Water Solutions, Pune● Ms Ulla Sparre: CEO, Water Valley, Denmark



Profiles of Panellists (Alphabetical order of last name)	
<p>Ms. Uma Aslekar Senior scientist ACWADAM</p>	<p>Ms. Aslekar represents ACWADAM. ACWADAM’s mission is to stimulate and facilitate work related to groundwater management in various parts of India, through partnerships, while evolving into an institution that works on aquifer-based groundwater management. A not-for-profit organisation that aims at establishing a groundwater management agenda in India, ACWADAM has set itself an agenda that is based on the science of hydrogeology and the principles of managing a "common pool resource" through scientifically based participatory processes. Through various partnerships demonstrated the power of collaboration, participation and demystification (of science) in its work. The work-so- far has also strengthened its resolve to develop a national strategy for groundwater management and governance alongside the mapping of aquifers.</p>
<p>Mr. Shashank Deshpande Retd, Dpty. Director GSDA, Founder Mission groundwater</p>	<p>Mr. Deshpande has an MTech Degree in Hydrology and retired as Deputy Director, GSDA. He is an Honorary member of Mission Groundwater which is a community movement to focus on the issue of depleting groundwater resources, it was conceived by citizens searching for solutions to water scarcity. Our key focus is on planning and implementing public recharge structures; policy advocacy for legislation's aimed at protecting and reserving recharge zones, restricting concretization and other measures.</p>
 <p>Ms. Aneeta Gokhale Beninger Executive Director, CDSA</p>	<p>Ms. Beninger is the Executive Director or CDSA. CDSA is a pioneering institution in contextual, convergent urban, rural and regional sustainable development planning registered as not-for-profit trust and Society under the relevant Acts of 1860 and 1950 respectively in India. CDSA conducts research on development problems and processes, teaches and trains participants about them and helps governments and other multilateral organizations, its agencies and other public bodies by training their personnel and advising them on issues of public policy and decision making for development.</p>
 <p>Dr. Sanskriti Menon Senior Program Director, CEE India</p>	<p>Ms. Menon is a Senior Program Director with CEE India. CEE was founded as a centre of excellence of the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change. She anchors CEE’s Urban Programmes, and also mentor the Coast and Marine Programme at CEE. She has experience of school-based environment education, and with issues of city life, like traffic, waste, water and biodiversity. As a Member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Environmental Education, Denmark, she has had the opportunity to support its global programmes. She is most interested in participatory governance and has doctoral research in deliberative democracy. She wants to continue exploring how ordinary people can be meaningfully involved in city issues, and how to use systems thinking approaches for working with these issues.</p>



Mr. Swapnil Potdar
Co-founder, Ira
Sustainable Water
Solutions Pvt Ltd

Swapnil Potdar is a Social Entrepreneur. He has dedicated himself to the cause of water conservation since 2012. A mechanical engineer from MIT, Pune who started his career at Essar Oil and Gas and worked R&D with Mahindra and Mahindra decided to start a business around the social cause and he chose water since there was merely any focus hence a lot of scope. After being 9 years in business he has established himself a name in the water sector. He helps Industries, MNCs, Institutions on compliance related to water, factories to become water independent, residential societies to become taker-free, and makes communities aware of how to save water. He has a big vision to make India water secure, and he focuses on where he can make a major positive impact for industries, individuals, and communities. In the process, he has conserved over 800 Million Litres of water equivalent to a dam by executing 500 water conservation projects.



Mr. Ravindra Sinha
Bhujal Abhiyan

Founder Member & Trustee of Bhujal Abhiyan Trust (NGO working for groundwater conservation), Core Group Member of Area Sabha Association of Pune (NGO working on protecting and increasing urban green cover) , Founder Member of Citizens for Area Sabha (Policy group working for increased citizens participation in urban civic governance) , Member of Austin Pune Sister Cities Initiative (APSCI) , Member of Climate Change Collective (CCP Pune) of the Pune International Centre (PIC) working on making Pune carbon neutral by 2030.





Ms. Ulla Sparre
CEO, Water Valley,
Denmark

Ms. Sparre is the CEO of Water Valley Denmark, an alliance between Danish and international players, stretching from sciences and research institutes to startups and global supply companies. With our agile and innovative approach to project work, combined industry effort and knowledge sharing we can solve some of the world's fundamental water challenges – thereby improving the quality of life for people worldwide. Water Valley Denmark intends to create a platform and epicentre for developing ground-breaking water technology that will enable water consumption to become more resource efficient, cost effective and quality assured.



About the Organizer

	<p>The Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC) has been established by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. It aims to bring together academia, R&D institutions, and the industry of Pune and its surrounding areas, to address the challenging problems of the region through innovative means, using scientific knowledge and engaging highly skilled human resources.</p> <p>PKC is administered by the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA). In the initial phase, PKC would focus on Health, Sustainability and Environment, Sustainable Mobility, BIG Data and AI and Capacity Building.</p> <p>For more information, visit: https://www.pkc.org.in/</p>
	<p><u>PKC's SUST-EN Series</u></p> <p>PKC's sustainability and environmental initiatives are focused towards making Pune resilient in terms of food, water and livelihood. Achievement of this goal requires increasing vegetation cover, which other than food, water and livelihood security can also help in climate change mitigation. This also helps in multiple other ways such as increased carbon storage, reduced emissions of GHGs and support industries. PKC's SUST-EN series consists of public talks, focused group discussions and workshops with experts in the environment and sustainability space. Through this series, we aim to promote collaborations, co-creation of technologies and conceptualization of city scale projects to solve key issues related to carbon emissions, waste water treatment, improving air quality and green energy production.</p>