



**Public Lecture
On**

Diminishing Delhi Ground Water Level: Issues & Concerns

Date: 11th February 2011

Time: 6:30 pm

India International Center, New Delhi

In the Environment and Health Public Lecture Series Toxics Link with collaboration of India International Centre organized a Public Lecture on 11th February 2011 titled, "Diminishing Delhi Ground Water Level: Issues & Concerns" at India International Centre.

Mr. Satish Sinha (Associate Director – Toxics Link) inaugurated the session by raising concern on the issue and its importance in today's scenario. He welcomed the guests for viewing a film "The Ground Water UP Project" directed by Tarini Manchanda. The film talks about the delhi water crisis and explores current solutions like dams and sewage treatment plants. The film was followed by a panel discussion. The eminent speakers during the discussion were Mr. A.D. Rao (Officer Incharge, State Unit Office, Delhi), Mr. Sureshwar Sinha (Chairman, Paani Morcha), Mr. Sandip Das (Special Correspondent, The Financial Express). Mr Ravi Agarwal (Director, Toxics Link) moderated the session.

Mr. Rao shared some of the facts regarding ground water. He said that there are 2 kinds of setup of ground water in Delhi. One is in urban and the other is in rural areas. Groundwater in Delhi is declining by 20-30 meter year by year. This is particularly in south Delhi. The problem with Delhi's ground water is that beyond 70-80 meter the water is saline. The quality is as such that it will be of no use. The recharge is difficult. A normal rainfall cannot recharge the ground water in comparison to the extraction of the ground water. We are withdrawing much water from deep ground water. It is difficult to recharge the deep ground water, but we have to make people aware of this. In the rocky areas it becomes very difficult to recharge the deep ground water. Mr. Sandip Das shared his experiences as a journalist. He stressed on raising awareness on understanding the value of water. The techniques of water conservation should be adopted. The distribution pattern of water should be taken care. The variation of water supply is so much that in some places you have to get up at 4 am to fill water and in some places you get 24 hours enough water even to run open the tap. We have to understand that water cannot be recharged so easily

and quickly. So, awareness generation and may be strict rules on wastage of water will work. COM. Surehwar Sinha said that 70% of irrigation is done by ground water.

People are using it but they are not thinking about ground water recharge. During the development pattern of the city all the streams are being destroyed which in return destroying ground water. Very little recharge is done which is by polluted water. This aspect needs to understand. He suggested that only solution to this is to keep the channels free. Allow the river to flow with enough water by taking care of the environment.

During the open discussion lots of queries and suggestions were shared. There was also a discussion on sewage treatment plant. Mr. Ravi Agarwal moderated the session and shared that it is a true fact that every colony is extracting water from beneath. We need to re-think on how to plan to build the city. Should we continue it and continue extracting ground water. How do we even think of recovering the amount of water, which we are extracting? The little rainwater goes to drains. 30-40% open land should be left there in Delhi to refill the ground water. It should be incorporated in the plan and the system. More than 25 participants attended the session from government, NGOs, students, activists, and filmmakers.



Environment and Health Public Lecture Series
Diminishing Delhi Ground Water Level: Issues & Concerns

Film screening followed by panel discussion

Toxics Link invites you to the screening of the film “The Ground Water UP Project” directed by Tarini Manchanda. In this documentary you will meet Dolly, who has to be resourceful for water supply: and Maya, who is embarrassed to go fetch the water she needs for daily life. This film doesn’t solve Delhi’s “water crisis”, but it explores current solutions like dams and sewage treatment plants. It discovers ideas in unexpected places and highlights people who are pursuing creative solutions. Meet people who are trying to rejuvenate Delhi’s baolis (step wells) and lakes, and school kids who are harvesting rainwater.

Toxics Link and India International Centre cordially invite you to a discussion on

“Diminishing Delhi Ground Water Level: Issues & Concerns”

Film: The Ground Water UP Project – directed by Tarini Manchanda. Duration 36 minutes

Speakers:

- **Mr. A D Rao**
Officer Incharge, State Unit Office, Delhi,
Central Ground Water Board
- **Mr. Sureshwar Sinha**

Chairman, Paani Morcha

- **Mr. Sandip Das**
Special Correspondent, The Financial Express
- **Ms. Tarini Manchanda**
Director of the film “The Ground Water UP Project”

Moderated by **Ravi Agarwal**, Director, Toxics Link

Venue: Conference Room I, India International Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

Date : Friday, February 11, 2011 **Time:** 6:30 pm