

NADI Lectures

Lecture-2

River Revitalization Projects: The Involvement and Benefits of Communities

December 3, 2021 3PM IST

Introductory Note

54 percent of the rivers in the sub-continent is facing what is known as water stress with many rivers rapidly drying up. India is facing its worst water crisis in four decades Experts are of the opinion that by 2025, the country would be looking at an acute water crisis if no proactive measures are taken to prevent this disaster from happening. They are also of the opinion that the reason of this is not the non-availability of water but the way it has been used.

The need to revive our rivers thus has become even more necessary not only to save water but also for the people whose lives are linked to these rivers. Therefore, the involvement of communities in these projects could prove to be beneficial for many reasons with long standing futuristic implications. By virtue of living for those inhabiting the river basins it would be a boon as it would be a means of continuing sustenance for both domestic, agricultural and associated aquatic occupations. This in turn would facilitate in improve and protect the riverine ecosystem and the biodiversity of the region.

In this lecture we bring a highly respected geohydrologist who will discuss the need for river revival and the work that has been initiated. By involving the communities inhabiting the river basins it would be a way forward towards the revitalization of the affected rivers.

About the Speaker

Dr Lingaraju Yale, Director River Rejuvenation, Art of Living Foundation

Dr. Lingaraju Yale is a well-known and highly respected geohydrologist of India, who formerly was Director - Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre. He last served as Director Geomatics Centre, Water Resource Development Organization, and Government of Karnataka. His long and illustrious career in the field of geohydrology, spans over 5 decades. His experience includes conducting geo-hydrological investigations including Remote Sensing Techniques and Geophysical Surveys; techniques he has used in water and natural resources planning and monitoring

systems. He has established GIS (Geographic Information System) and RS (Remote sensing) labs. He was the Engineering geologist at the Varahi Hydro Electric project. He has guided many engineering students and he is also a popular science writer.

He currently is a National Director for River Rejuvenation Projects by the Art of Living. He is responsible for planning and monitoring of River rejuvenation projects by the Art of Living, spanning over 4 states currently, i.e., Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. With the blessings of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji, under the able leadership of Dr. Lingaraju Yale, the river rejuvenation team has taken up projects to revive more than 40 streams, rivulets and rivers for which, Limca Book of World Records have recognized their efforts.

About the Organization

Asian Confluence is an India based think tank that initiates, stimulates, and accelerates revival of the shared civilizational values between the people of India and South East and East Asia to strengthen our ecological, intellectual, economic, technological, political and security ties, and thus ensure that we become dependable and involved partners for the growth of all countries in emerging Asia.

About NADI Conversations

NADI (Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence) Conversations, is our ongoing initiative, which includes a series of webinars and lectures on the common theme to highlight and celebrate the common riverine and civilizational heritage of the nations and people in the Ganga Brahmaputra Meghna (GBM) Basin. ‘NADI Conversations’ are planned as a web-based, multi-stakeholder conversation series, under one of our flagship initiatives: NADI, to celebrate rivers as the pulse and life force of our ecology and civilization.