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DHARA - Driving Holistic Action for Urban Rivers

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Why is in news? DHARA - Annual Meeting Of Members Of The River Cities Alliance To Be Held In Pune On 13th - 14th February, 2023

DHARA which stands for **Driving Holistic Action for Urban Rivers**, the annual meeting of the members of the **River Cities Alliance (RCA)**, is being **organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** in association with National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) from 13th to 14th February in Pune.

DHARA 2023 will provide a platform for 95-member river cities in India to co-learn and discuss solutions for managing local water bodies.

The event has strong synergies with the **Urban20 (U20) initiative** under the ambit of India's G20 Presidency.

One of the thrust areas of U20 is to promulgate urban water security. Healthy rivers have a vital role to play in enhancing the overall water security of the city. D

HARA 2023 will witness **multiple sessions over the two-day event** that include sessions on '**National Case Studies on Innovative River-related Practices**' to introduce the participants to several unique and innovative solutions for different aspects of urban river management involving lake and pond rejuvenation, de-centralized used-water management, enhancing river-related economy, groundwater management, and flood management and '**International Case Studies**' to focus on Innovative River-related practices in countries like Denmark, reuse of used water in Israel, floodplain management in Netherlands, river health monitoring in USA, pollution control in Japan, and water sensitive city design in Australia.

Day 2 of the event will witness a Yoga session & visit to Mulla Mutha riverfront

PM laid foundation stone for a pollution abatement project for **Mulla Mutha River in Pune** in March 2022.

DHARA 2023 is being organised for Municipal Commissioners of member cities to come up with possible learning solutions for urban river management

The expected outcome of DHARA 2023 is to inspire members of the RCA to engage in progressive actions for urban river management in their cities.

It is also expected that the event will shine light on the unaddressed issues and challenges for river management in cities, which will help NIUA and its partners in formulating an effective work plan.

The event will also develop a compendium of technological solutions that cities may adopt for enhancing the management of their local rivers.

River Cities Alliance (RCA) started with 30 cities in 2021 and currently has 95 cities as members across India.

RCA was launched by the Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on November **2021** as a **dedicated platform for river cities in India** to ideate, discuss and exchange information for sustainable management of urban rivers.

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River Cities Alliance, **first-of-its-kind Alliance in the world**, symbolizes the successful partnership of the two Ministries i.e., Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

The Alliance focuses on **three broad themes**- Networking, Capacity Building and Technical Support.