



Panel Discussion on Saving Ganga and its Tributaries at the Delhi World Book Fair on 12 January 2018



A Brief Report

Amity University Press organized a panel discussion on Saving Ganga and its Tributaries at the children's pavilion of Delhi World Book Fair on Friday, 12 January. It was attended by the students from various department of Amity University and many other visitors to the Book Fair. The list of the panelists was an erudite one – Manu Bhatnagar, Principal Director – INTACH, Sanjay Chaturvedi, Consultant – National Mission for Clean Ganga, Arun Tiwari, activist and writer, and Venkatesh Dutta, Environment Management Specialist with specialization in Water Resource Management. R. R. Aiyar, Senior Vice President, AUP was also present on the podium along with the panelists. He began the session with the remarkable achievement of Amity University and the vision of its President Dr Ashok Chauhan. Mr Aiyar, as the organizer, also touched upon the activities of Amity University Press which is a department of the Amity University and has established itself as a publisher of repute in India.

The session was moderated by Amit Arora of Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati. An established anchor on the media, his role throughout the panel was quite engaging – he made the panelists feel comfortable with one another and also with the listeners most of whom were students. Taking over the session he quizzed the audience on the topic of river – simple to gradually more complex – and then let the participants make a smooth move to the final one: saving the Ganga and its tributaries. Mr Arora chose Manu Bhatnagar to speak first – who discussed the very adequate steps required for river preservation. He said the right way of preservation means controlling human need towards the use of river water and not obstructing their natural movement by construction of dams. He made his point more clear later. Sanjay Chaturvedi reported on the initiatives taken by the Government of India for Ganga Action Plan and the newer scheme Namami Gange both of which make a serious attempt to cleansing the Ganga. He emphasized on the government commitment to save the national river from all ongoing pollution. Arun Tiwari was more specific to what the common man should do to save our riverine resources. He emphasized on being more sensitive to water use from river bodies. Dr Dutta, as a river scientist, enriched the listeners with the geological aspect: he elaborated on the system of rivers beneath the ground level and how a single river flows with another flow below what we can see. He made a point that rivers should be considered a national heritage and only spending government funds cannot save them. Mr Aiyar talked about our need to preserve as well as nurture rivers and to avoid the man-made hindrances as much as possible to save them.

The panel was a mixture of experts from diverse fields – consequently they took diverse paths to make the progress of one-hour long discussion. Certainly their views were unique from one another. While Mr Chaturvedi as a government servant listed down the important initiatives so far taken and the amount spent to keep the programme going, Dr Dutta added the scientific rigour – how river water is formed from snowmelts and how it is connected to ground water which is currently getting depleted at a fast rate. Mr Bhatnagar expressed his worry about the large number of dam constructions in India – he believes this may lead to erosion of a vast landmass and depriving many communities of their habitation on river banks. Mr Aiyar engaged the panelists with his questions on the topic concerned. Every panelist answered from his own views and standpoint. The panel ended with a question-answer session followed by a thanksgiving by Mr Aiyar.

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/amityuniversitypress/>



Pictures of the Panel Discussion on Saving Ganga and its Tributaries at the Delhi World Book Fair on 12 January 2018



Picture 1: Ms Smita Jain, Managing Editor of AUP, is introducing the panellists before the discussion.



Picture 2: The panellists are interacting with the audience.



Picture 3: Mr Amit Arora of Doordarshan with the audience during the question hour.



Picture 4: Mr R. R. Aiyar, Executive Vice President of AUP, is felicitating one of the panellists.



Picture 5: Question hour after the panel discussion. The event was participated by a lot of students of Amity University, Noida.