

The project '**Strengthening Water and Sanitation in Urban Settings**', was formally launched at Kolkata on 12 August 2015, in the presence of *Mr Andrew Posner*, Acting Consul General of the U.S., Kolkata, *Mr. Joydev Mukherjee*, General Manager, Bengal Beverages and senior representative from TERI, TERI University and Coca-Cola. Funded by USAID this project aspires to manage WASH on a decentralized basis, and would be able to bring visible changes during the next three years in its pilot projects at Kolkata and Chennai. Model curriculum shall be developed incorporating WASH related subjects for higher education, to be disseminated to various South Asian universities.

A component of the project includes a National Competition (with additional support from *Robert Bosch Stiftung* and WAPCOS), which is woven around the theme of 'Water Resources Management'. Around 75 colleges and universities from across the country are participating in this competition for development of innovative solutions for improvement of local water bodies. The interdisciplinary nature of the competition seeks to solve the water and sanitation problems with a holistic approach.

The first in the series of the regional competitions was organized in Kolkata. College teams from West Bengal, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam participated in the event. Teams from TISS Guwahati, and NIT Raipur have been selected for the National Competition from this region.