

# Improve pollution measurement: Experts

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** Gujarat is home to 20 of the most polluted river stretches of the country which found mention in a report by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in September this year. Right from micro-plastics to antibiotics-resistant superbugs, every new research throws light to a new problem faced by the lifelines of the towns and cities in Gujarat.

To address the issues related to river rejuvenation in Gujarat, The Times of India, IIT Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) and Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Rese-



arch (APN) organized a roundtable at IIT-Gn campus on Friday, where experts from the state government, academia, industry, NGOs and farming sector got together to find tangible solutions to the issues ranging from rampant pollution to water conservation.

The event was moderated by Dr Manish Kumar, assistant professor at IIT-Gn.

Mona Khandhar, rural development commissioner, government of Gujarat, gave an overview of the government's river rejuvenation project and said that they aim to cover 801km stretch across 56 rivers streams/ tributaries under phase

II of the project. For this purpose, Rs 300 crore have been earmarked.

D Thara, vice-chairman and MD, GIDC, said that they are attempting to control water pollution at the source itself with installation of new treatment plants in industrial areas. She also advocated incentives for water harvesting.

Dr Dileep Mavalankar, director of IIPH-G, stressed on the need to improve pollution measurement in water bodies. He mentioned that it is the first step towards creating awareness and consensus among citizens. Prof C N Pandey, a panelist, gave the example of Delhi where the smog has forced the citizens to talk in terms of PM levels.

## TOI ROUNDTABLE ON RIVER REJUVENATION

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