



## Water for Sustainable Green Habitat: A Case Study of Meghalaya



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### Introduction

- A sustainable green habitat is an ecosystem that is endowed with food and shelter for people and other organisms, without resource depletion.
- Urban habitats in India usually entail frenetic construction activities to meet the growing demand for homes, offices and shops.
- These activities bring the habitat under pressure to share strong linkage with energy use, resource depletion, especially water, natural habitat destruction and climate impacts.
- In the absence of timely regulatory interventions, the urban habitat can become vulnerable to enormous resource depletion, wastage and exposure to the vagaries of climate change.

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## Water & Sustainable Habitat

- Water is the key to sustainable green habitat.
- Water, as a connector, offers holistic solutions to climate change resilience and the ability of water to strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration across all sectors.
- The impacts of climate change are felt through water, with flooding, erratic rain patterns, prolonged droughts, and other extreme weather events.
- This makes water as an integral part of initiatives to mitigate and adapt to climate change, especially in many efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that depend on reliable access to water resources.

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## Meghalaya – State Profile

- Area : 22,429 kms; Pop: 29.7 lakhs (2011)
- 11 districts
- Very large numbers of streams and rivers
- Diverse soil types: red loamy, laterite, red and yellow
- Soil textures range from loam to silty loam & alluvial



## Water Management in Meghalaya

- Water resources in Meghalaya are managed under the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) programme.
- Water related activities carried out in Meghalaya are designed to promote the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources.
- Under this Programme, activities for management and maximum utilization of the available water resources through the implementation of water harvesting structures, Jalkunds and Multipurpose Reservoirs are taken up.
- The water mission aims at conserving state's water resources to ensure that water is used efficiently, shared equitably, managed substantially which ultimately contributes to the well being of its citizens.

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## Meghalaya's Green Mission

■ **Meghalaya's Green Mission entails three major objectives: Enhancing green coverage; adoption of green technologies and building a green movement.**

### ➤ Enhancement of green coverage

- Plantation of trees
- Mass afforestation,
- Development of village nurseries,
- Promotion of tissue culture
- Reducing the surface run-off discharge and checking slope erosion

### ■ Adoption of green technologies

- Encourage dissemination, use and development of 'green' construction technology
- Support adoption of organic agriculture
- Promotion of 'green' Energy
- Pioneer and support eco friendly tourism

### ■ Building a green movement

- Encourage villages to become clean and green
- Promote Youth for Green
- Inculcate a culture for greenery at school and college level

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## Green Habitat Mission in Meghalaya

- Sustainable green habitat mission in Meghalaya is covered under its Green Mission, under which emphasis is laid on encouraging dissemination, use and development of 'green' construction technology.
- Building construction activities in the state are carried out in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the National Green Habitat Mission under the Union Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India.
- The Raj Bhavan in Shillong and Mawlynnong village in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills have recently been awarded by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for successfully achieving the Green Building Standards, required for the level of certification under IGBC, for Green Existing Buildings Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Rating System and also for Green Village Rating System respectively

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## Our Role:

- India Water Foundation is a knowledge partner of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority, Government of Meghalaya, in managing water resources in Meghalaya.
- It is engaged in generating public awareness at the grassroots level about the utility of green habitat with specific emphasis on the potential of architectural interventions to minimize environmental impact of built environment in our cities and reduce pressure on resources.
- It is also engaged in the dissemination of knowledge about promoting good practices in the construction sector and habitat management.
- It is also engaged in enhancing public awareness on crucial issues of sustainability of the urban landscape.

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## In Action



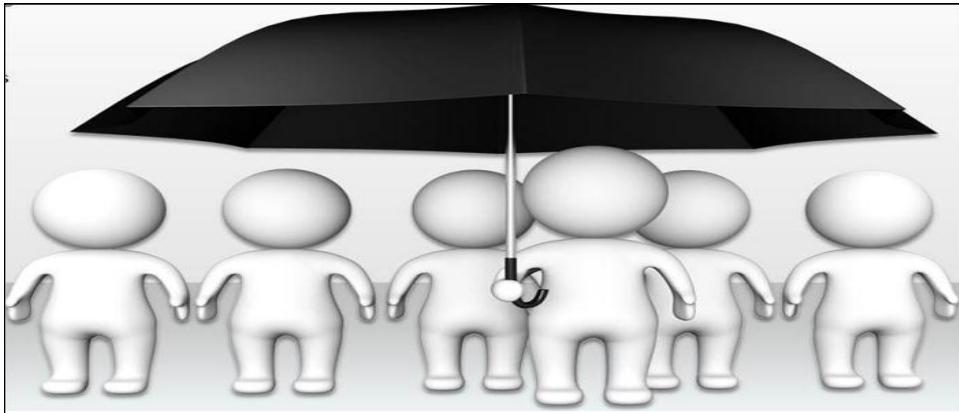
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## Way Ahead

- **Judicious use of water resources and resilience to climate change can ensure sustainable green habitat.**
- **The green concepts and techniques in the urban and rural areas can help address national concerns like water availability, energy availability, reduction in fossil fuel use, handling of waste and conserving natural resources.**



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**THANK YOU**



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