

## SEEDS restores the lake in Gurugram through nature-based solutions

To combat the effects of climate change and improve water security, SEEDS has been working to restore 18 acres of a lake in Wazirabad, Gurugram

**New Delhi, February 23, 2023:** Climate change impacts are now visible in cities due to increased instances of flooding. Increasing intensity of rainfall, coupled with rapid building activity has increased amount of hard surfaces, lead to flooding events. Overburdened drainage, rapid and unregulated construction without considering the natural landscape and hydro-geomorphology have exacerbated the problem. Gurugram witnessed a catastrophic flooding incident remembered by locals as the '*Gurujam*' in July 2016, when a moderate heavy shower in the city caused severe flooding and traffic jams. Gurugram has been facing flooding of highways, underpasses and basement parking spaces almost every year in the last few years.

In order to promote 'urban sponge' effects in a highly built-up city like Gurugram, Ingersoll Rand India partnered with SEEDS India (Sustainable Ecological and Environmental Development Society) and GMDA (Gurugram Municipal Development Authority) to restore 18 acres of a natural lake in the heart of the new town using natural restoration processes.

*"Nature-based solutions, such as waterbody restoration, not only help in addressing the major impacts of climate change like urban flooding, water crises, depleting green spaces and pollution, but also help in accessing the earth's potential to capture and absorb excess floodwater among other advantages,"* says Dr. Manu Gupta, Co-founder, SEEDS.

Cities are constantly facing social, economic and environmental challenges, which are likely to be aggravated by further urbanisation and climate change. Environmental projects such as the Wazirabad Lake restoration project contribute to reversing harmful impacts. The proposed lake restoration in Gurugram includes planting of native species on lakeside along with citizen friendly features such as jogging and cycling tracks, facilities for boating and birdwatching decks. Recycled material (construction and demolition waste) is used in street furniture and entrance gates. Lighting has been designed at minimum so as not to affect natural habitat in and around the lake area. Once complete, the lakeside will attract local citizens and young children interested in wellness and recreation as much as those interested in environmental conservation and research.

### **About SEEDS:**

SEEDS (Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society) is a not-for-profit organisation that enables every individual with practical solutions towards disaster lifecycle management and sustainable environment. It builds self-reliant, resilient, and sustainable communities across boundaries using innovation and engaging at grassroots. Since 1994, the organization has worked extensively on every major disaster in the Indian subcontinent assisting affected families; strengthening and rebuilding schools and homes; putting its faith in skill-building, planning and communications to foster long-term resilience.

SEEDS is also India's first agency to be certified for the global core humanitarian standards - an international certification system for quality and accountability in humanitarian response



and is recognized for its 30 years of service in disaster and environment by United Nations Sasakawa Award in 2022 and Government of India Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Award in 2021.

SEEDS completed nearly three-decade-long service to humanity rebuilding more than 62,000 homes, 650 schools and healthcare facilities, school safety programmes for more than a quarter million children, disaster management plans for 500+ communities, emergency assistance to more than 830,000 people. It has positively impacted the lives of more than six million people by re-anchoring its approach to building resilience through innovation. It continues to empower the most vulnerable across Asia to build a better future. For more information, visit [www.seedsindia.org](http://www.seedsindia.org)