

**GNAMAMI
GANGE**

SMCGWB

STATE MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA, WEST BENGAL
শেখিবেলা গঙ্গা, পশ্চিমবঙ্গের জন্য একটি কর্মসূচি

RIVER CITIES ALLIANCE
A city of movement



National Institute of Urban Affairs

CITY SPOTLIGHT #1

WEST BENGAL

10 DEC 2025

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Students Learn the ABCs of Sewage Treatment in the RCA cities of West Bengal

This one's better than your regular school field trip.

For the State Mission for Clean Ganga West Bengal (SMCG WB), the questions were simple.

— *Do students feel any curiosity about the water that flows from their house taps into their drains?*

— *Do they know where this water goes?*

— *Or, what becomes of it?*

— *How can young students in the state be made to take an active interest in matters concerning water and sewage — that is, its collection, treatment, and subsequent reuse?*

The answer was definitely not another classroom lecture.

It was time to do things a little differently.

Armed, therefore, with a sense of determination, SMCG WB had a singular target of pointing the youth

of the RCA cities in the right direction — towards knowledge, information, and civic awareness.

As responsible citizens and as the future leaders, planners, and environmentalists of the country, their early active participation and interest in sustainable water practices were deemed to be critical.

A strategy was devised.

In coordination with District Ganga Committees (DGCs), educational and exposure visits were planned.

The aim? Providing opportunities for school and college students across various RCA cities to gain first-hand experiences at local Sewage Treatment Plants (STP).

The process? Facilitating active engagement and discussions with on-site engineers and officers on a guided tour around the STP.

The result?

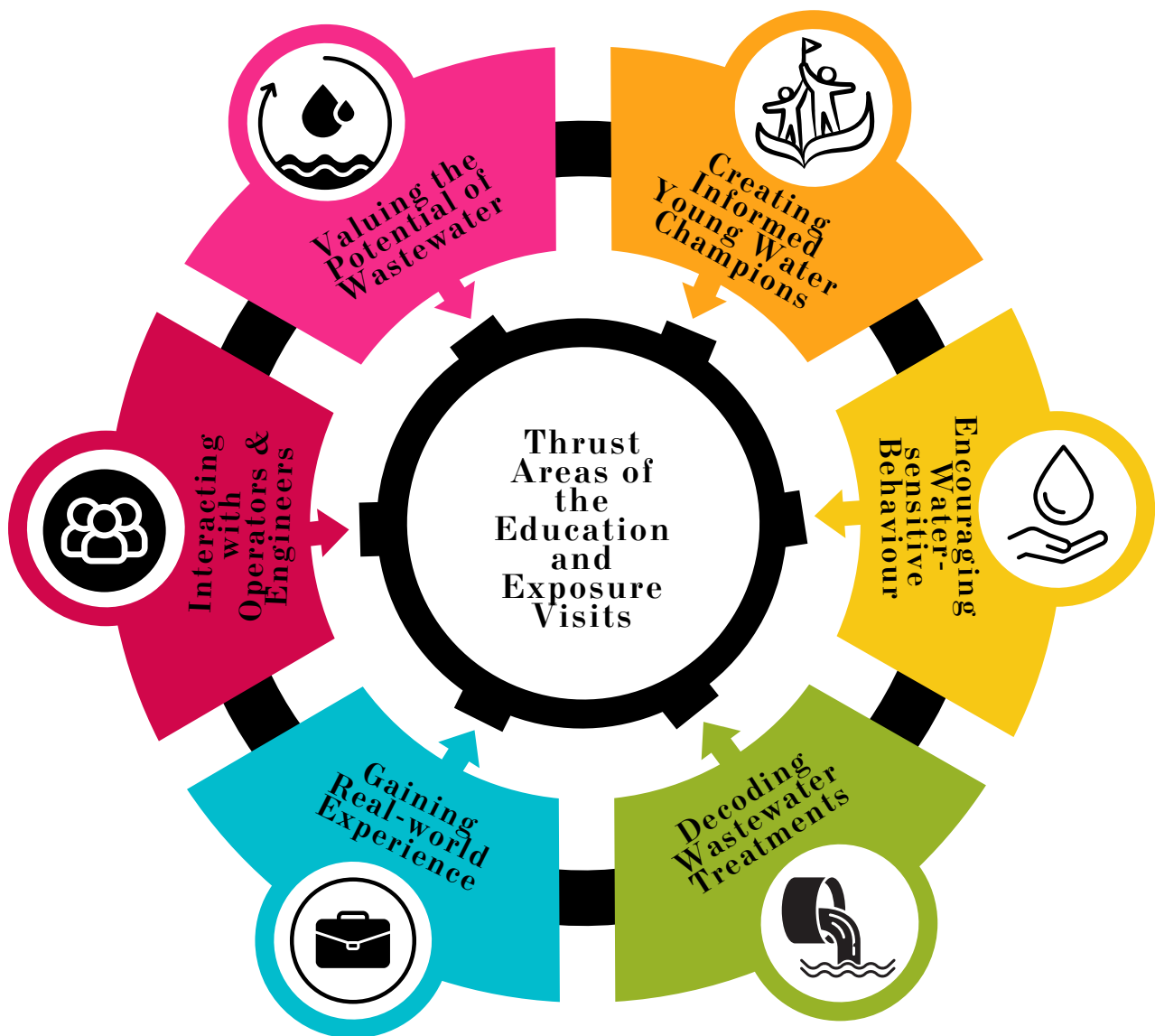
Read on to know!

SMCG WB, nine DGCs, and the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, therefore, came together at first to advance this initiative. They started inviting schools and colleges to participate in these educational cum exposure visits to operational STPs, river ghats, and wetlands that fall under their respective jurisdictions.

The visits were packaged as useful to, and part of, the Environmental Awareness unit of the students' curriculum, offering students a chance to bridge the gap between textbook learning and real-world

application.

The visits were planned meticulously. Students were equipped with hard hats and safety gear and taken around each plant and site. They were educated on the step-wise process involved in the treatment of sewage: collection, screening, aeration, and decantation. The officers and engineers on site emphasised the importance of each step, stating how each plays a part in preventing polluted sewer water from being discharged into the river.



An overview of the key objectives of each visit.

This was also a prime opportunity for students to understand and be sensitive towards the wastewater cycle,

and learn how treated wastewater can be an asset and help maintain the overall ecological balance. They

learnt about all the steps involved in the Activated Sludge Process treatment method, and witnessed how an STP can be operated through both manual and automated control systems. This guided tour was carried out under the supervision and presence of the officials of SMCG WB and District Project Officers of the DGC.

In short, there was no stone left unturned by those engaging with the students on-ground.

The success of the initiative was evident by the enthusiasm and interest shown by the participating students. They were attentive and engaged, asking detailed questions and taking notes.



Glimpses from one of the educational visits.



Latest impact numbers.

With promises to help spread the information they had received, each left the visit more sensitised towards the importance of sustainable practices in water and river management. Since their visit, many of them have, in fact, made and displayed model STPs at science exhibitions to help spread the message of how important it is to treat sewer water through STPs. This initiative, thus, demonstrates

how meaningful learning happens when students step outside the classroom and experience the real world. By demystifying the journey of wastewater, this programme plants the seeds of environmental stewardship early on.

It's more than just knowledge — it's about inspiring a mindset that values and protects our water resources.



Snapshot from a visit conducted at Gayeshpur, West Bengal.



Assembly of God Church School visits the 18 MLD STP at Barrackpore



Maitreyo Ghosh, a Class VII student from St. James' School, Kolkata, has replicated a model of a Sewage Treatment Plant in a Science Exhibition.



An educational visit conducted in Bhatpara, West Bengal.



An educational visit conducted in Bhatpara, West Bengal.



Students make their way to an STP in Budge Budge, West Bengal.



Students listen attentively to an on-site expert at Nabadwip, West Bengal.

A Tabular Overview of Participant Schools, as of 05.12.2025.

Name of the STP	Name of the District	Name of the School	No. of Participants
16 MLD Halisahar STP Project	North 24 Parganas	1. Annapurna Girls' High School 2. Halisahar High School	37
8.33 MLD Gayeshpur STP Project	Nadia	1. Rabitirtha Vidyalaya 2. Deshpriyo Sikshayatan 3. Nagendrabala High School 4. Adarsha Sikshayatan 5. Gayeshpur Netaji Vidya Mandir (Boys) 6. Gayeshpur Netaji Vidya Mandir (Girls)	30
9.5 MLD Nabadwip STP Project	Nadia	1. Nabadwip Bakultala High School 2. Nabadwip Hindu School 3. Nabadwip Tarasundari Balika Vidyalaya 4. Nabadwip Balika Vidyalaya (Ishani)	40
65 MLD Arupara STP Project	Howrah	1. Samaritan Mission School (High) 2. Bijay Krishna Girls College 3. NCC cadre of Howrah	38
31 MLD Bhatpara STP Project	North 24 Parganas	1. Sundia High School 2. Rathtala Rajlakshmi Balika Vidyamandir	38

Name of the STP	Name of the District	Name of the School	No. of Participants
18 MLD Barrackpore STP Project	North 24 Parganas	1. The Assembly of God Church School, Kolkata	20
9.3 MLD Budge Budge STP Project	South 24 Parganas	1. P.K High School 2. Subhash Girls High School	50
Patharpratima Crocodile Project	South 24 Parganas	1. Patharpratima Anandalal High School	156
Netaji Subhas Island Park	Murshidabad	1. Raghunathganj Girls High School 2. Raghunathganj High School	65
Switch Gate Ghat and Panchanandapur Ganga Ferry Ghat	Malda	1. Uttar Lakshmipur High School 2. Nari Kalyan Samiti Manasik Pratibandhi Abasik Vidyalay	123

