

## Talk on Adaptation of Urbanising Watersheds

Date: December 18, 2015

Venue: CSTEP

Dr. Sharad Lele, Senior Fellow, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) delivered a talk on “Adaptation in urbanising watersheds” at CSTEP on December 18, 2015. Sharad presented the findings of a study conducted by his team on climate change and water management in the urbanising basins of Arkavati and Noyyal River.

The key results of the study showed that watersheds are moving from rural and forest areas to peri-urban and sub-urban areas. One of the major arguments mentioned by the speaker was that the study aims to bridge the gap between the work of hydrologist, urban engineers and sociologists. While hydrologists look only at the problems at a resource level, urban engineers look into water supply provision and sociologists usually look into issues of equity in water supply. The speaker also elaborated on issues plaguing the water sector such as adequacy, equity and accountability which are driving the government’s policies rather than the aspect of climate change.

The speaker also emphasised the fact that as urbanisation is moving from small towns to metros we are losing out on processes of democratic governance. Dr. Lele concluded his talk with an explanation of some of the gaps and challenges that arise when watersheds urbanise, with help of empirical evidence that has been collected from field testing, data collection, extensive stakeholder consultation and analysis. These findings will be used to provide insights for policy directives in the water sector.