

Curtain Raiser Event to WSDS 2022 and Discussion on Sustainable, Equitable and Resilient Water Use

4 June 2021 (11 AM to 12:30 PM, IST)



Speaker bio-notes

(Abridged bio-notes of confirmed speakers)

Chief Guest - Mr. Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Government of India



Mr Prakash Javadekar is presently Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Information and Broadcasting and Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. Among other portfolios, he has been Union Minister of Human Resource Development - 5th July 2016 to 30th May 2019, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) from Maharashtra. He led Student Movement under ABVP including organizing Satyagraha against Emergency Rule when he was also imprisoned between 1975–1977. In terms of social work, he successfully completed Government of India's Watershed Development Project in Kolvan Valley of Mulshi Tehsil of Pune District between 1996–2000. He won the Sir Purshottam Das Thakur Memorial National Award, for research Paper on "Rural Development and Banks' Role in Coordinated Approach".

Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute



Dr. Vibha Dhawan is the Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and has been associated with TERI since 1985. She also served as the ViceChancellor of TERI School of Advanced Studies from 2005-2007. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India. An agricultural scientist she has successfully completed a number of international assignments such as co-ordinator for the Asia Pacific Consortium on Agriculture Biotechnology (APCoAB); Advisor to Director General, The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT); and Deputy Director, Research Partnerships & Co-ordination with the Borlaug Institute for South Asia. She has served on the boards of prestigious organizations in India and overseas including Jawaharlal Nehru University, Ambedkar University, and Centre for Bioscience and Agriculture International. She is the winner of Women Leadership Agriculture Award 2016 by the Indian Council of Food & Agriculture.

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Bharat Lal, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India



Mr. Bharat Lal joined Civil Service in July 1988 and presently working as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. He is handling 'Jal Jeevan Mission', a flagship programme, which aims at enabling 'Functional Household Tap Connection' i.e. assured potable water supply to every rural household by 2024. He played a pivotal role in formulating, planning and implementing decentralised, demand-driven and community-managed water supply, sanitation and water resource management for ensuring water security in drought prone Gujarat State. Post-earthquake in Gujarat, he had set-up Water and Sanitation Management Organization (WASMO) in 2002 which facilitated potable water to every household and exemplary work has been done in the drinking water sector. This has been acknowledged by conferring Prime Minister's Civil Services Award, Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) Award and United Nation's Public Service Award to WASMO. He has the privilege of working with Hon'ble Prime Minister of India since 2001, when he became Chief Minister of Gujarat. Presently, he is in the team managing pandemic caused by Corona Virus in the country.

Mr. Vikram Chandra, Journalist and Founder, Editorji Technologies (Moderator)



Vikram is the founder of Editorji Technologies - a start-up that seeks to transform video news through innovation in user experience, using artificial intelligence. Editorji provides personalised video newscasts on mobile phones and can be downloaded at editorji.com/download. In his earlier avatar, Vikram was one of India's best-known TV news anchor, presenting shows like "The Big Fight", 9 o'clock News and Gadget Guru together with programmes for social transformation such as the Cleanathon, Greenathon and "Save our Tigers". He has helped pioneer innovations such as news on mobile phones, the live streaming of video on the internet and the first major news app in India. Vikram has been named 'Global Leader for Tomorrow' by the World Economic Forum in Davos; and has won the Indian Television Academy Award for "Best Anchor for a Talk Show", the Hero Honda Award for Best Anchorperson and the Teacher's Achievement Award for Communication, along with featuring in the top 20 on the Impact list of the Digital Power 100. He was educated at Oxford University and St Stephen's College, before attending the Mass Media Institute at Stanford University.

Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, UN Resident Coordinator (a.i.) and UNICEF Representative, India



Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, Representative, UNICEF India. Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque is currently UN (ad interim) Representative to India. Starting her career with UNICEF as a Health Officer in Bangladesh in 1996, Dr. Haque has held leadership roles in the Office of Emergency Programmes at the UNICEF Headquarters in New York and at its Country Offices in South Sudan, Ghana and Sri Lanka. Her leadership and professional experience spans over a wide range of fields including policy analysis, strategic planning for maternal health and maternal mortality reduction, child rights, child-centric development programming and large-scale responses for children in humanitarian crises. A national of Bangladesh, Dr. Haque is a medical doctor trained in Dhaka Medical College, Bangladesh, and holds a Master of Science in Health Systems Management from the University of London, United Kingdom.

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Ms. Bahar Dutt, Environment Journalist



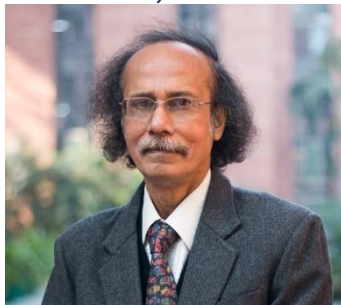
Bahar Dutt is trained as a conservation biologist- and has worked for the last twenty years in India and abroad on key environmental issues. She has worked as an Environment Editor with India's leading English news channel CNN-IBN and has won over 12 national and international awards for her reportage on green issues. She is the author of a recent book 'Green Wars- Dispatches from a Vanishing World' by Harper Collins and Rewilding in India with Oxford University Press. She is an Associate Professor at the Shiv Nadar University along with hosting a weekly podcast for the Observer Research Foundation.

Mr. Ayyappa Masagi, Founder & Director, Water Literacy Foundation (Popularly known as 'Water Warrior')



Mr. Ayyappa Masagi is popularly known as the 'Water Warrior' who is the founder of Rainwater Concepts and Water Literacy Foundation in Bangalore. After serving in L&T, Bangalore as a Mechanical Engineer for 23 years, he decided to become a social entrepreneur in the field of water conservation. He Constructed Training center "Jala Samruddhi" to build Water Warriors, Water Soldiers and Educated Farmers. This is aiming to achieve the vision to build water efficient nation by 2025. He holds the Limca book of records for highest number of borewells recharged and highest number of lakes constructed. He has won several awards; recent ones include India Today Group – Swachh Bharat award 2019; Kirloskar Vasundara Samman award 2019 and International Rotary Hero Award 2021.

Dr. Syamal Kumar Sarkar, Distinguished Fellow, TERI; Former Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India



Dr S K Sarkar is Distinguished Fellow and Senior Director at TERI. He heads the Natural Resources and Climate Programme and is associated with TERI since September 2014. During 1998 till 2003 Dr Sarkar worked as Senior Fellow, TERI, and during 2005-2007 as Director, Division of Regulatory Studies and Governance in TERI. He is a Doctorate in Economics (1991) from the State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York. Dr Sarkar is an IAS officer (retired) who was the former Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Water Resources. He served other Ministries including Finance Ministry in the Government of India.

Ms. Amla Ruia, Water Activist, Aakar Charitable Trust (Popularly known as 'Water Mother')



Born of a reasonably well to do family of UP in 1946, in 1999, Ms. Ruia met Sri Sri Ravi Shanker of the Art of Living Foundation and his message of celebration and service stirred her to dedicate her services in rural areas. In 2001, she was moved by the plight of the famine stricken in Rajasthan where the community at all stages of decision making and get them to contribute all the stone, gravel and water required for the construction of check dams. She has been working extensively in the area of water harvesting in Rajasthan and Maharashtra and is now expanding the work in other regions across India. As on October 2020, her work spanned in seven states of India and directly benefitted more than 2.8 lakhs people (2,83,781 to be exact) across 430 sites and indirectly benefitted more than 4.4 lakhs people (4,41,432) across 333 sites. Total No of People benefitted are 7,50,000 across 540 villages. Apart from water conservation, Ms. Ruia has also work on the issue of education.

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Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri, Honorary Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute;



Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, presently Distinguished Fellow at TERI, joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1982 and has served as Ambassador of India to the European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg and Nepal. Earlier he had served as Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the UN during the time that India was on the Security Council. He retired on 31 December 2019 in the rank of Secretary, Government of India. Ambassador Puri has also headed the division in the Ministry of External Affairs dealing with UN issues on the social and economic side and been involved as a lead member of the Indian delegation at numerous global negotiations on climate change, sustainable development, migration, human rights and UN reforms. In addition, he has served twice in Germany (in Bonn and Berlin), in Cape Town, Muscat, Bangkok and Caracas.

Ms. Nafisa Barot, Founder & former Executive Director, Utthan



With four decades of experience in building gender sensitive institutions for the empowerment of rural marginalized communities, Nafisa Barot is actively associated with various movements, influencing people and policies around water, gender justice and sustainable development. She co-founded Utthan in 1981 which has successfully demonstrated how gender sensitive institutional mechanisms and technologies through women's leadership and community participation can address the issues of the most marginalized. Nafisa has served on Government task forces of CAPART, NABARD, DWACRA, Planning Commission amongst a few. She is a founder Board member of Mahiti, Development Support Centre, Pravah and Working Group for Women & Land Ownership and India Wash Forum. She is currently on the Steering Committees of Water Conflict Forum and Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch. She has also published several articles on gender/water governance and community agency and been invited to speak at national and international forums. She is a recipient of ATREE's T.N Khoshoo Memorial Award in 2005 and the International Water Association's Women in Water Award, 2020.

Dr. Shresth Tayal, Senior Fellow, TERI



Dr Shresth Tayal is a Senior Fellow with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, is acting as Area Convenor of its Centre for Himalayan Ecology and responsible for coordinating integrated research at high altitudes, for adaptation of local communities in Himalayas. He obtained his doctoral degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on 'Glacier Hydrological Systems'. With his 17 years of experience in the field of hydrology, he is involved in a number of projects related to hydrological modelling, integrated water resources management (IWRM), and analysing the impacts of climate change on water resources of the region.

Ms. Shailly Kedia, Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute



Shailly Kedia is a multidisciplinary professional who has more than sixteen years of experience in policy research, advocacy and capacity building on sustainable development and climate change. She is a Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) where she has been a researcher since 2009 and has recently assigned to lead TERI's flagship Track II initiative: *World Sustainable Development Summit*. Before TERI, she was briefly with the World Bank in Washington, DC; and with Columbia University and NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York.
