



I CAN SAVE THE DATE



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INDIAN
NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION

Re-Greening India : Water for All

A critical need for coherence in policies and actions

February 23, 2019

Time : 2:00 to 6:00 P.M

Multipurpose Hall

India International Centre, New Delhi



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Fundamental Issues

Water is the most important resource for the survival of life on this planet, it is a fundamental human need and a critical national and an international asset. In every drop of water, there is a story of life and livelihoods.

Unfortunately, this precious resource is depleting swiftly everywhere. The world's water resources are, however, under increasing pressure from a growing human population, expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, and increasing per capita consumption of water, the demand for water will grow by about 55 percent between now and 2050 exacerbating current pressure.

India has about 17 percent of the world's population as compared to only 4 percent of its water resources. The water sector in India has faced significant and problematic issues related to management. Despite a sizeable water resource base and vast land resource, challenges of water sector infrastructure requirements, including operating and upkeep costs, etc. are significantly higher.

Earth science and environmental policy issues confronting society are the potential changes in the Earth's water cycle due to climate change. Global climate change will affect the water cycle, creating perennial droughts in some areas and frequent floods in others.

Targets

- Water for All' means for ALL living things and not only for humans.
- Per capita, water availability must include disparity in water allocation and access
- Comprehensive assessment of India's water sector, from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Exploring Alternative strategies
- Educating technocrats with integration skills.
- Erratic distribution of rain, often contributing to floods and droughts in several areas
- Water use inefficiency

- Unregulated groundwater extraction
- Water pollution
- Decreasing water quality due to poor waste management laws
- Interstate river disputes
- Growing financial crunch for the development of resources
- Safe drinking water
- Private investments and private sector partnership in Water for all

Debate Needed Today

The essence of the ‘debate needed today’ for policy coherence, revolving around:

- (a) Social Equity
- (b) Healthy Environment and
- (c) Viable Economy

We should move away from conventional, narrowly defined approaches that focus primarily on specific projects and activities – such as big dams and large-scale projects.

Impact

Water is an immeasurably political issue. This resource interacts with a highly inequitable society marked with class, caste and gender differentiation. Techno-managerial reforms in the water sector cannot tackle the issues of inequity in the water supply. India has signed the 2010 United Nations (UN) declaration of water as a right, this gives equal opportunities for all.

The focus of the seminar is to evolve an environment where water is available for all in a sustainable manner—safe drinking water for basic needs, adequate water for agriculture, water for industry and for the ecosystem.

So, the challenge before our meeting is to identify the Innovations, Investments, and Convergences that India now has to bring about to create a development pathway that provides all its citizens, rich and poor, with an adequate quality of water without destroying its sources.