



COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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India's Performance on the SDG 6 Index: Prospects and Challenges

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: 'Clean Water and Sanitation' is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The sub-targets include safe drinking water for all, sanitation for all, better water quality, more efficient water use, integrated water management and healthier ecosystems by 2030.

The central government has prioritised providing access to water. However, it being a state subject, the states also need to give similar importance to the cause.. A number of government programmes have been initiated that can help achieve the SDG agenda. In 2019, the central government has formed a new ministry, Ministry of Jal Shakti, by merging of two ministries; Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, mainly to address the urgent need of water conservation and provisioning. Programmes such as National Rural Drinking Water Programme, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban and Rural), National River Conservation Programme (NRCP), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart Cities Mission, National Ganga Plan and Ghat Works, Ground Water Management and Regulation, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Development of Water Resources Information System are a few programmes launched by the central government to address the SDG 6.

The most recent and ambitious project launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, on 15th August 2019 is Jal Jeevan Mission whose mission is to provide functional tap water connection to all rural households by 2024. While the scheme in itself is right on point towards working on the target 6.1 of achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all; it somewhere does not give enough significance to the bigger concern of depleting ground water and drying rivers which might make it difficult to ensure the supply of water in these taps. At present, 37.2% of rural households have FHTC so at least till the objective of 100% piped water connections is met, the dependency will be hugely on tube wells. About 89 per cent of groundwater

extracted in India is used for irrigation, making it the highest category user in the country, followed by households and industries. The major user of groundwater is north-western India where the estimated rate of depletion of groundwater in north-western India is 4.0 cm of water per year, equivalent to a water table decline of 33 cm per year.

Moreover, even in urban India, only 40.9 per cent households have piped water connections which will partially be addressed by the Centre's new flagship programme – Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) – to provide piped water supply and tap connections to all households in cities with less than 100,000 population over the next five years. In addition to the rural and urban population, it is imperative to address the situation in slums, where 1 in 6 urban Indians live (NSSO, 2012). In addition, 59% of the slum settlements in India are non-notified which makes access to water and sanitation even more challenging. Moreover, even though the Covid19 pandemic has brought the issue of water and sanitation into prominence, the economic and fiscal impacts of the pandemic will pose serious challenge to the goal of piped water for all by 2024.

Against this background, the present SDF aims to bring together planners, researchers and NGOs engaged in implementation of programmes and capacity building of the local NGOs, to understand the perplexing situation of providing universal access to water, together with maintaining sustainable sources of water at the end of the piped connection.

Programme Schedule

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Speakers

Mr. Manish Wasuja
WASH Expert, UNICEF

Dr. Girija Bharat
WASH Expert and Founder Director,
Mu Gamma Consultants

Mr. Mariappa Kullappa
Sr. Water and Sanitation Specialist
World Bank Water and Sanitation Program

Chair

Prof Nitya Nanda
Director, CSD New Delhi

Date: 15th April 2021
Time: 3.00 PM - 4.30 PM

Webinar through Zoom

Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYucO6hrTwsGtCJJjeNcqzGUNKgrHty_5ri

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting

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