

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

The Water Policy Centre (WPC) organizes a Distinguished Lecture on:

Provision for Water in Union Budget of India-2021

Speaker:

Prof. Srinivas Chokkakula

MoWR Research Chair, Water Conflict & Governance, GOI and Fellow, Center for Policy Research (Research ([CPR](#)), New Delhi

Moderated by:

Mr. Ashok Kumar Kharya

Chief Executive Engineer & Director, National Water Academy, Pune.

Friday, 5th March 2021. Time: 11.00 am IST onwards.

The session will be online via Zoom.

Zoom Details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81339027653?pwd=MXdTYXB3UFI2R3VleE14VEY3SGhwQT09>

Meeting ID: 813 3902 7653

Passcode: 700928

[Facebook livestream](#)

Programme

11.00 - 11.10 a.m. | Welcome remarks | by Raosaheb Bawaskar, WPC, Aurangabad

11.10 - 11.50 a.m. | Lecture | by Prof. Srinivas Chokkakula, CPR, New Delhi

11.50 - 12.05 p.m | Q & A Session |

12.05 - 12.20 p.m. | Closing remarks | by Dr. Ashok Kumar Kharya, NWA, Pune

The Lecture:

Water has been a critical issue and needs huge investment in programmes that aim to provide access to water to all habitats. However, we have seen programmes like Jal Jeevan Mission,

the Centre's flagship programme, saw an increase of just 15 per cent in the budget allocation in the recent Union budget for the financial year 2020-21. This increase is marginal compared to the previous years. The marginal outlay to the mission at a time when India is facing an acute water crisis raises concern as to whether the funds are enough to meet the piped water dream to all households. It is not just about the water supply schemes for providing potable water, but an investment in the entire water sector is a need of an hour.

Considering this, a distinguished lecture will assess the government's allocation to the water sector and will discuss how the growing water scarcity requires a serious engagement to tackle the challenge. Is the allocation enough to meet the needs of the water sector? will be the question of assessment in the discourse.

Speaker:

Prof. Srinivas Chokkakula is the MoJS (Ministry of Jal Shakti) Research Chair-Water Conflicts and Governance at CPR, where he leads the Transboundary Rivers, Ecologies, and Development studies (TREADs) programme. His research and policy interests lie primarily in the water sector, focusing on transboundary water conflict/cooperation and governance. He has written and published widely on the topic, both in academic journals and mainstream outlets. His interests extend to the broader area of politics of infrastructure development, including inland waterways, smart cities, and rural roads. As the MoJS Research Chair, he engages closely with relevant government agencies and is often consulted on various water policy and institutional issues. Srinivas is currently a Member of the Drafting Committee of India's National Water Policy.

Before his PhD and the shift to academics, Srinivas worked as a professional, engaging with wide-ranging topics including urban and regional planning, and local governance in India; disaster response and reconstruction; and, indigenous knowledge systems for natural resource management. He has received several scholarships and fellowships, including the British Council's Chevening scholarship in the Young Indian Environmental Managers programme. A keen supporter of the non-profit sector, Srinivas has founded and served on the boards of various organisations.

Srinivas has interdisciplinary training in geography, planning and engineering. He has a PhD from the University of Washington, Seattle, and an MA from the University of Miami, Florida in political geography; an earlier Masters in Urban Environmental Planning from CEPT University, Ahmedabad; and a B. Tech. in Civil Engineering from Kakatiya University, Warangal.

Moderator:

Mr Ashok Kumar Kharya is Chief Engineer at National Water Academy, Pune. Before joining the academy, he was Director in the Central Water Commission for 10 years where he looked after climate change issues pertaining to water resources in India. He has been working in the field of the water resources sector for the last 32 years in various capacities. He joined Central Water Engineering Service (CWES) in 1988 after completing his Masters in Stress & Vibration Analysis from MANIT, Bhopal. He has done his Bachelors in Civil Engineering from Engineering College, Rewa. He has been instrumental in preparing the National Water Mission document by way of contributing to the surface water management section drafted by

a sub-committee which was served by Mr Kharya as its Member-Secretary. He has authored several reports and handbook on water and climate change, a handbook for “flood protection, anti-erosion and river training works” a CWC’s publication and others. Mr. Kharya has represented the Central Water Commission in various workshops, seminars etc. on the issues related to the impacts of climate change on water resources.

The Organizer:

The Water Policy Center is an independent, public policy think tank that conducts in-depth, policy-relevant trans-disciplinary research, located in Aurangabad city of Maharashtra. It combines policy and science to produce evidence based sustainable solutions to the water crisis facing India and the world. We are deeply committed to making WPC a credible voice in water policy, not just locally, but in India and globally. Our scholars work across areas including, but not limited to, water infrastructure; water food and energy nexus; water law and governance; water and climate change; water science & technology; water, health and gender; culture, history and water; and water diplomacy and security. The WPC was established in 2014 by Venuganga Foundation, a registered (in 2011) society in Maharashtra. You can continue to find all our work on our website: www.wpc.org.in

Our Partners:



Contact:

Raosaheb.G. Bawaskar
Director, Water Policy Centre
Email: rgbawaskar@gmail.com
Mobile: 9892442843
Website: www.wpc.org.in