



WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2023

MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

February 22-24, 2023
New Delhi



Build-up to the

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2022

CURTAIN-RAISER FOR THE TWENTY SECOND EDITION OF
WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

Virtual: WebEx Platform

Date: June 3, 2022 (Friday) | Time: 11:00 AM to 12:45 PM (IST)

EVENT SUMMARY

THEME

Mainstreaming Sustainable Development



THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES INSTITUTE

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is an independent research institute registered under the Societies Act of India with capabilities in research, implementation, capacity building and outreach. TERI has multidisciplinary expertise in the areas of climate change, natural resources, environment, energy, and sustainable development goals. TERI's research and research-based solutions have had a transformative impact on industries and communities. It has fostered international collaboration on sustainability action by creating several platforms and fora. Research gets translated into technology products, technical services, as well as policy advisory and outreach. Headquartered in New Delhi, TERI has regional centres and campuses in Gurugram, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Mumbai, Panaji, and Nainital.

WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal. Over the years, the Summit platform has brought together thought leaders, heads of state and government, scholars, corporates, youth groups, and civil society representatives from across the world. The Summit series has established itself as a responsible and an effective platform for mobilizing opinion-makers to drive ambition and advance pioneering actions to address some of the most relevant issues concerning sustainable development and climate change.

The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. In its previous editions, it has involved speakers, delegates, and participants to address several key issues pertaining to climate change and environment protection. As a result, the Summit has witnessed numerous partnerships that have promised to strengthen our collective endeavours towards imagining a sustainable and environmentally secure future. The platform has reached out to the global community via exclusive features such as, High-level Ministerial Sessions, Plenary Sessions, Thematic Tracks, Youth Plenary, Women Leadership Session, International Dialogues, CEO Forum, Media Colloquium, and various exhibitions on clean and green innovations.

Over the years, the Summit series has witnessed the participation of 54 Heads of State and Government, 103 Ministers, 13 Nobel Laureates, 1888 Business Leaders, 2745 Speakers, and 38,280 Delegates.

The Summit has an important role to play in not just providing a platform for dialogues, but also to create new knowledge outputs. This is enshrined in the theory of constructivism, according to which, learners construct knowledge rather than just passively taking in information. When leaders from various spheres come together and reflect upon their experiences, they build their own representations and incorporate new information into their pre-existing knowledge. By playing a constructivist role, the Summit will seek to reinforce commitment at all levels to enhance ambition and action through the Summit to create a more sustainable and equitable world for present and future generations.

The 21st Edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)—the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)—will be held from 16th to 18th February 2022 in a virtual format. The Summit deliberations focused on the umbrella theme: Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future. The onslaught of extreme weather events around the world have brought to the forefront how human well-being and the health of our planet are inextricably linked. Just and equitable implementation of climate and environmental policies need to go hand in hand with broader sustainable development objectives. With this background, the deliberations at the 2022 edition of the Summit focused on responses from the perspective of planetary resilience, which benefits humans as well as Planet Earth.

About the Event

The curtain raiser event was organized to formally announce the dates and theme of World Sustainable Development Summit 2023 and to release the Summit Overview Document of WSDS 2022. A session on 'Mainstreaming Sustainable Development' presented perspectives and innovations for integrating and mainstreaming sustainable development and climate considerations across sectors. The event also sought to build momentum towards World Environment Day through a short film titled, Green Shoots, which featured TERI researchers sharing what they believe are incisive changes that can positively impact the environment and our only planet. Finally, the event saw a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing between TERI and Diamond Toons on a series of popular books on water conservation, with the aim of building and fostering partnerships to create environmental awareness.

Speaker Line-up

Welcome Remarks

Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute

Opening Address

Nitin Desai, Chairman, The Energy and Resources Institute

Launch of the WSDS 2022 Overview Document and Curtain-raiser of the 22nd Edition of World Sustainable Development Summit

Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute

Keynote Address

Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Presidential Address

S Siddharth, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), Government of Bihar

Leadership Address

Akhilesh Gupta, Senior Adviser & Scientist 'H', Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

Sunil Nair, Chief General Manager, Reserve Bank of India

MoU Signing between TERI and Diamond Toons on a Series of Popular Books on Water Conservation

S K Sarkar, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

Manish Verma, Director, Diamond Toons

Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute

Shresth Tayal, Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

Actionable Messages

Message 1: It is increasingly becoming clear that our political, environmental, and commercial activities are still being carried out in silos. The mechanisms and tools within various sectors of economy, whether it is the government, or the private sector, are often carried out in silos, thus missing the opportunity to collectively act towards sustainable development. To break out of the silos, perspectives from a variety of lens and institutional vantage become important when we talk about mainstreaming sustainable development.

Message 2: Discussions on environment cannot take place unless the link with poverty is recognized. It is recognized today that issues related to environment, especially, rural environment issues cannot be addressed without keeping in mind the need for people's livelihood and equally, people's livelihoods cannot be protected unless the water and the land on which their livelihoods depend, are also protected.

Message 3: The future generations do not have a voice in current politics or in current economic decision making, because today the major problem is that the decision making is in the hands of the people who are causing the problem not the people who are affected by the problem. Thus, there are institutional barriers and ethical barriers still in getting solutions, which address the challenges of equity, particularly between now and future generations, which have to be addressed as part of sustainability.

Message 4: In the 22nd edition of World Sustainable Development Summit, TERI hopes to have more ministerial sessions and this time apart from a ministerial session on environment, there could be a ministerial session on finance as well as science, technology and innovation, in order to deliberate more on the horizontal integration of sustainable development.

Message 5: Multilateralism is not only bringing the governments and state parties together, it is inclusive multilateralism with civil society and especially the youth having a large and prominent role in the ongoing debate and that is the only way forward to address climate change and recover from the current conflicts and the crisis that we are all living through. History has shown that the world succeeds together when the world works together. Nations are not accountable to the United Nations; they are accountable to each other, to their populations, and to their citizens.

Message 6: Currently, India faces two paradoxes: first one mitigation versus development, that is to mitigate without compromising development and the other paradox is adaptation versus development, which is to have increased action on adaptation to achieve better pathways for development. So, there is a need to create a good balance within these two paradoxes.

Message 7: The contribution of financial institutions including banks to sustainable development is paramount, considering a crucial role they play in financing the economic and developmental activities of the world. In this context, the urgency for banks to act as responsible corporate citizens in the society, especially in a developing country like India becomes crucial, and their activities should reflect the concern of both human rights and environment.



MAKING WORDS COUNT



Integrating environment into decision-making will contribute to improving the way governments allocate resources and to strengthening inter-departmental planning processes, which will enable them to effectively respond to environmental issues in the short-, medium-, and long-term.

Dr Vibha Dhawan

Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute



Today nobody talks about energy investments without looking at that dimension of environmental impact, particularly climate change impact. It is no accident that today you cannot raise any money for a coal plant because there is a fear that this coal plant will become obsolete as action on climate strengthens.

Mr Nitin Desai

Chairman, The Energy and Resources Institute



Governance gains of mainstreaming sustainable development including better cross-sectoral working and holistic response to the impact of mainstreaming has the potential to increase awareness, change perceptions and attitudes and improve the way inter-sectoral decisions are made.

Dr Shailly Kedia

Senior Fellow and Associate Director,
The Energy and Resources Institute



There is a huge moral ethical responsibility to protect (our environment) and hand over to the next generation in a responsible manner. In other words, there is an increasing trend seen in newly elected governments to shift their ministries from working in silos to a streamlined manner, the collaboration across topics and merge their work to respond to the current needs.

Mr Ovais Sarmad

Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations
Framework Convention on Climate Change



We came up with the first green budget in the year 2021 and subsequently after that, we have been publishing our green budget and we are the first state in the country to place the green budget in both the houses of the assembly, which means that it is examined by the members of the legislature and views are also obtained.

Dr S Siddharth

Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), Government of Bihar



It is the technology driven industrial development that led to climate change and it is going to be the science and technology led coping strategy and clean technology that would help addressing the climate change. So, it is also cause and also a solution for achieving better climate action and sustainable development.

Dr Akhilesh Gupta

Senior Adviser & Scientist 'H', Department of Science & Technology, Government of India



In the view of the growing worldwide momentum on sustainable development and initiatives being taken on various fronts by different organizations, including all major banks worldwide, it has become essential that banks in India scale up their engagement in this regard.

Mr Sunil Nair

Chief General Manager, Reserve Bank of India



The power of storytelling for ages has been the only way to make a society inclusive of change. We would try and make it universal for it to appeal to the kids, teenagers and adults across the cross sections of various mediums we have today and platforms to meet the sustainable goals of development and environment.

Mr Manish Verma

Director, Diamond Toons

EVENT PROCEEDINGS

Welcome Remarks

Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute

I welcome you all to the Curtain Raiser for the Twenty Second edition of World Sustainable Development Summit, which is TERI's annual flagship event. At the outset, I want to thank The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for extending their support to TERI and WSDS in the past, and we express our gratitude to the MoEFCC for their logo support, as well. We understand that the Hon'ble Minister and other senior officers are abroad, and have not been able to attend the event but we thank them for the support and encouragement.

I am extremely thankful to our Chairman, Mr Nitin Desai, for his mentoring, encouragement to all TERI colleagues, not just for this event, but always.

Instituted in 2001 by Dr R K Pachauri, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, the Summit platform has brought together thought leaders, heads of state and government, scholars, corporates, youth groups, and civil society representatives from across the world.

The 2022 Summit also witnessed launch of a major initiative Act4Earth and I am sure in years to come it will become one of the most engaging platforms where people will throw new ideas and also look for solutions. I am also happy that this event will witness the launch of the Summit Overview Document. The umbrella theme finalized for the next edition of WSDS focuses on Mainstreaming Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience for Collective Action, which is also the topic of discussion in the second half of today's event. Some of the important thematic areas where integrating sustainable development becomes important includes climate policy; finance; and science, technology & innovation. For this, actions at all levels are important. Multilateralism, national measures, sub-national measures and community actions are all important. Alongside, the role of various stakeholders including civil society, businesses and research & academia are extremely crucial.

Perspectives from a variety of lens and institutional vantage become important when we talk about mainstreaming sustainable development. For example, from a multilateral perspective, the role of United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies including development banks is crucial. From a public finance angle, perspectives and measures from finance department/ministries become important. From an innovation and R&D perspective, the role of Science and Technology Ministry becomes important. From a finance regulatory angle, perspectives and measures from the Reserve Bank of India become important.

It is increasingly becoming clear that our political, environmental, and commercial activities are still being carried out in silos. The mechanisms and tools within various sectors of economy, whether it is the government, or the private sector, are often carried out in silos, thus missing the opportunity to collectively act towards sustainable development. By mainstreaming environment into decision-making there is a higher possibility for policymakers from various issue areas to provide more holistic responses and design joint interventions in sustainable development. Integrating environment into decision-making will contribute to improving the way governments allocate resources and to strengthening inter-departmental planning processes, which will enable them to effectively respond to environmental issues in the short-, medium-, and long-term.

It is also important to use creative means to spread environmental awareness among all citizens of this planet. To this end, at this event, TERI will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Diamond Books to create comic series on water conservation. We feel that this is extremely important as this will help us to reach out to the public at large, especially the youth. What fun will it also be if we can spread messages on environment through characters such as Rocket, Chacha Chaudhary, Sabu, Billoo, and Pinki. We will also be screening the first film of the series, 'Green Shoots'. The video will feature TERI researchers who will share what they believe are incisive changes that can positively impact the environment and our only planet.

With that, I once again welcome you all to what promises to be a very interesting discussion. Thank you.

Opening Address

Nitin Desai, Chairman, The Energy and Resources Institute

It is a pleasure to be here at this event, which is the curtain raiser event for the World Sustainable Development Summit 2023. Let me first welcome the very eminent speakers who will be speaking to us later. The proposed World Sustainable Development Summit will be set a little later by the organizers of the Summit, and the focus is going to be on integration of sustainability of environment and development within the framework of sustainable development, and in many ways the idea of sustainable development developed as a way of finding communication between environmentalists and people whose primary focus was on development growth and poverty eradication.

When I joined the Brundtland Commission in 1985, and I wrote that first text on the sustainable development, the intention was to find common ground between environmentalists who thought that the greatest challenge to environment was development and growth and so on, and the people concerned about poverty eradication and development and growth who thought that environmental protection was the barrier that was preventing development from taking place. The idea of sustainable development was to connect that. It has gone beyond just something which is a language that people can share and talk about when they talk about issues. It has gone into something which has become much more central.

I would argue today that it is very difficult to talk meaningfully about development unless you also address related environmental concerns: concerns about resources, concerns about environmental impact and so on. Equally, we cannot talk of environmental protection if we do not at the same time see how we can do that without endangering people's livelihoods. Because if you endanger people's livelihoods you will not succeed, as we have found in India, when we talk of the protected areas. Everywhere in the protected areas, we have found that we have had to address the challenge of meeting the needs of the people who live in and around these forests in order to protect the forest itself. So, I would say that today sustainable development has gone beyond language into something which requires much closer integration. Now this is already

happening in certain sectors such as energy. Today, nobody talks about energy investments without looking at that dimension of environmental impact, particularly climate change impact. It is not a coincidence that today you cannot raise any money for a coal plant because there is a fear that this coal plant will become obsolete as action on climate action strengthens. But there are other areas also where this integration is required.

Now the whole point of what we will be doing in the World Sustainable Development Summit is to find what are the key challenges of integration that we face. See today, we are at the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm Environment Conference and in fact, there is a UN meeting going on right now in Stockholm on this issue. Now Stockholm did a very valuable piece of work in bringing environment into policymaking and it was after Stockholm that people set up environment ministries, environmental control organizations, water and air pollution boards and things like that; that was a very valuable exercise. Even though the conference was on environment, some reference to sustainability came in. Stockholm was a conference where only one head of state from outside the host country attended the meeting and that head of state happened to be Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India and she made that famous speech about poverty and environment. Now that was in some ways an argument based on sustainability, that you cannot talk of environment unless you also recognize the link with poverty and today, we have recognized this. We recognize that you cannot address, particularly, rural environment issues unless you keep in mind the need for people's livelihood and equally, you cannot protect people's livelihoods unless you protect the water and the land on which their livelihoods depend. So, in many ways she had already anticipated the thing which really came up in a big way first in the Brundtland Commission at a political level—it was of course there in academic discussions—and later in the Rio Conference where I was a deputy secretary general. It did come up there and that was a conference which really integrated sustainability and the environment into development in Agenda 21 and it is recognized as perhaps the beginnings of that.

Let me not go further into how this is developed. Let us ask ourselves where are we now. How much have we achieved 50 years after Stockholm and 30 years after Rio?

I would say one thing which we have achieved is awareness, that when we did the Rio Conference, I had great difficulty in mobilizing corporate leaders. The group of corporate leaders were about 20–25 who participated and acted in the Rio Conference. Ten years later, when we had Johannesburg, we had so many who wanted to participate, that we had to have a separate meeting to organize their contribution, their part, and the partnerships that they offered. Today, I would argue that a very large proportion of particularly global corporations are fully committed to the idea of sustainability in their actions and activities. This is one dimension.

But beyond the dimension of corporate awareness, I believe there has also been a dimension of awareness amongst the committed, educated and knowledgeable non-governmental organizations. The one thing I have seen over 30 years is the spread of global networks of people being brought together on an issue and look at the sheer number of global organizations dealing with climate for instance. Now I am stressing this because in many ways this is what we're trying to do in the World Sustainable Development Summit, which we organize. What we try and do there is to bring together people who are not just decision makers in government but who are also people who are involved in research, people who are involved in activism at the ground level, the youth groups and so on. It already started in Rio when we brought in local authorities, trade unions, corporations, women's groups and so on into the whole process of discussion and dialogue. That is the second advantage that I see that has emerged.

Third advantage is the market is responding at least to some dimensions of sustainability. I gave the example of renewable energy now displacing fossil fuel-based energy in the calculations of people who are making market-based investments and so on.

Where I think we have not succeeded is in the institutional changes required at the national, local and even global level for horizontal integration and this is one of the challenges which I hope we will address when we have the World Sustainable Development Summit. The second challenge that we need to address is that sustainability requires equity between this generation and future generations. The future generations do not have a voice in our current politics or in our current economic decision making. How should we do that?

I was very happy that one of the major contributions to the Stockholm plus 50 meeting is a youth report, which has been written by 1000 youngsters from 90 countries. How do we do more of that? How do we integrate them more through the decision-making process? Because today our problem is that the decision making is in the hands of the people who are causing the problem not the people who are affected by the problem. It is like you have a car accident and you say it is the responsibility of the person who caused the accident to decide when to call an ambulance, when to call the police. Now that is really obviously not very sensible way of going about things but we do not have anything at the global level comparable to the ideas of social democracy, of liability in law for the damage that you cause to others. So, I would say that there are institutional barriers, ethical barriers still in getting solutions which address the challenges of equity, particularly between now and future generations, which have to be addressed as part of sustainability. So, my hope is that the World Sustainable Development Summit will address some of these issues and give us some possible answers to this. So, with this I welcome all our speakers and look forward to what they have to tell us on these themes. Thank you very much.

Launch of the WSDS 2022 Overview Document and Curtain-raiser of the 22nd Edition of World Sustainable Development Summit



Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute

The Summit was instituted in 2001 as Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS). The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the only independently convened platform on the

topic of sustainable development and climate action based in the Global South. The Summit is designed as a platform to pioneer conversations that drive global ambition and actions at all levels—both horizontal and vertical. The Summit is designed as a platform to exchange knowledge, ideas, and best practices and also contribute towards achieving the sustainable development goals as well as the goals of the Paris Agreement by encouraging both informed as well as collectively driven actions.

So, what is the theory of change? Our theory of change is enshrined in the theory of constructivism according to which actors construct knowledge rather than passively taking in information. Constructivism involves the process of evolution of norms through socialization and stakeholder interactions when stakeholders and world leaders across the board reflect on their experiences they build on their own representations and incorporate new information into their pre-existing knowledge. By playing a constructivist role through research and dialogue, the initiative will seek to inform, reinforce and strengthen commitments at all levels to enhance ambition and action through the World Sustainable Development Summit to create a more sustainable and equitable world for present as well as future generations.

Coming to the Summit series, in terms of cumulative statistics over the past 21 years, the Summit has seen the participation of Heads of State and Governments 54 times, of ministers 103 times; out of which 25 ministers both present and former participated in the last WSDS. The Summit has also seen participation of Nobel laureates, business leaders and more than 38,000 delegates from across the world. Now, I present the statistics of the last World Sustainable Development Summit and this is a quick report card. The last edition of the summit was held from February 16–18, 2022 under the umbrella theme of **Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring A Sustainable and Equitable Future**. The virtual summit saw 12,000 plus registered delegates from across 143 countries. The programme included 45 sessions, 10 expos, the number of speakers was 327, which included 25 ministers. This is testimony to the fact that the Summit has continued to mobilize interest at the highest political levels from across the world. Apart from participation, the Summit also focused on outreach through media, social media, website, and mass mailers. Coming to the highlights of the

last Summit—the Summit was inaugurated by Shri Narendra Modi, the Honourable Prime Minister of India. The Summit included three ministerial sessions, a media colloquium, a high-level session on COP27, Green Olympiad youth prizes, CEO Forum, a youth plenary, and a woman leadership plenary. Various types of addresses at the Summit included Ministerial Addresses, Leadership Addresses, and Science Leadership Addresses. The Summit aimed at generating larger political will while ensuring the discussions were rooted in science and knowledge.

Now is the time to unveil the theme, dates and venue of the 22nd edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit. The next edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit will be held from February **22–24, 2023**. The umbrella theme of the next Summit is **Mainstreaming Sustainable Development And Climate Resilience For Collective Action**. The event will be an in-person event and will be held in Delhi. While we are presently deciding on the venue but in most likelihood, the venue will be the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.

A little more about the theme—as pointed out by Mr Nitin Desai as well as Dr Vibha Dhawan, many achievements have been made since Stockholm 50 years ago and as we speak a major gathering is ongoing, but considering the enormity of the challenge much more needs to be done in terms of collective action as well as institutional strengthening, both horizontal and vertical, in order to advance sustainable development and address the challenge of climate change. Towards this end, the theme of the next year's Summit will focus on mainstreaming sustainable development and climate action across the board. We are absolutely delighted that today we have a diverse range of speakers at the Curtain Raiser from the fields of multilateralism, public finance, science, technology and innovation as well as finance regulation. Governance gains of mainstreaming sustainable development include better cross-sectoral working and holistic responses to the impact of climate change. Mainstreaming also has the potential to increase awareness, change perceptions and attitudes and improve the way inter-sectoral decisions are made. Integrating environment into policy and practice will contribute to improving the way governments allocate resources and it will further strengthen inter-departmental planning processes, which will enable them to effectively respond to environmental

issues in the short-, medium-, and long term. One example of this is the practice of green budgeting which has been implemented by the state of Bihar and we are very privileged to have Dr Siddharth, who will be talking about it. In terms of next steps, what the team WSDS will do after this curtain raiser event is to continue to seek partnerships and mobilize partnership for the Summit and also work on the curation of the next year's Summit. We do hope to have more ministerial sessions and this time—apart from a ministerial session on environment, we do hope to have a ministerial session on finance as well as science & technology and innovation, so that we can talk a little more about horizontal integration of sustainable development. This apart, a major initiative titled Act4Earth was launched at WSDS. The activities for this will be ongoing under two components namely SDG Charter and COP27 Compass.

Now is the time for the launch of the WSDS 2022 Summit Overview Document. The document is available on public domain through WSDS website and I will be pleased to project it very quickly for all of you. So, this Summit Overview Document will give an overview on the discussions that took place in the summit.

Keynote Address

Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Thank you very much, and good morning, good afternoon, Namaste to the audience and especially to Dr Dhawan, and Dr Nitin Desai. Sir, it is a great pleasure to see you and to listen to you and Dr Dhawan also. From the, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, I am the Deputy Executive Secretary. It is a great pleasure, true honour to be part of this curtain raiser event for the World Sustainable Development Summit and at the outset, I would like to say that you can count on our full support, we would like to make the Summit a part of UNFCCC events that happened throughout the year, linking to the COPs and the decisions that the world takes on climate change policies and climate action. So, I am really very pleased to be here at this important event, which is closely linked to the WSDS and raises important awareness on the current and

global environmental issues. At the outset, I would like to quickly reflect on some of the points that Mr Nitin Desai had very eloquently highlighted, that is the important link between the human development and our existence with all the policies and all what we talk about addressing climate change, protecting environment, biodiversity, soil and so on. We have to keep the perspective of human development and the individual right at the centre of all of that. And unfortunately, sometimes the policies, the discussions, the forum often fail to do that and I think the WSDS is a very important opportunity to do that and TERI is the forefront organization which brings about that direct linkage from policy to action. As Dr Desai also said the horizontal integration is extremely important and I will touch upon few of the other things that he talked about especially with regard to the intergenerational context of the decision-making that we are all involved in.

Again, it is a great pleasure to address your audience today and to provide our perspective from the UN Climate Change Secretariat and the process. As it happens, in fact, I am in Stockholm today and will be at a panel discussion with our two sister convention agencies: biodiversity and desertification in few hours to highlight the importance of collaboration and working together with the three conventions. And then today, and this week marks to be quite relevant for also the curtain raiser of your event, the Stockholm 50 as you already mentioned and then we have a kick-off of our subsidiary body meetings in Bonn first time after the pandemic. This is the 56th session of the subsidiary bodies and we are expecting or already have more than 5000 participants who are there in Bonn preparing for the COP27 later this year. So, the negotiations are very much underway. So, let me give you some perspective of where do we stand now and what is the current sort of big picture that we are looking at.

2022 is the year when we must emerge from the global pandemic and achieve a pivotal transformational change in global climate action and policy and this year is also the year which marks the 50 years since the adoption of the Stockholm declaration on human environment in 1972 and interestingly 30 years of the Rio conventions which includes us—the UNFCCC. So, in the three decades that passed since Rio, one thing remained unchanged—the need and urgency to tackle the environmental issues in a holistic manner and an

equitable manner. That is why I mentioned that the event today is to make sure that we all work in a coordinated manner.

So, what did change over the last 30 years is this is the most important thing in the scientific advancement of the facts that are presented to us. We now have a much stronger scientific basis that speaks to the holistic approach and the entire ecosystem is tied together. What we also have today is a much larger momentum across the society and the economy towards climate and nature-friendly innovation and private investment. A growing number of private businesses and the financial sector is realizing and the writing is on the wall because if they do not take corrective action now and change their behaviour, change the products, change their supply chains, they will become the codex of the future. So therefore, it would be critical to take this momentum through putting in place enabling environments and public policy and again, this is where organizations such as TERI bring about that practical and pragmatic change processes. In the last few years, the increasing climate movements around the globe, demanding climate justice and especially the youth and I am very cognizant about that and we in the Climate Change Secretariat actually support the youth constituency. There are several youth constituencies who are very much closely linked to our process and I have seen in the last four or five years that constituencies and their voice have really become very vocal and they make a significant impact and the world leaders do listen to them but there is a lot more that needs to be done and as I always say, this is my personal reflection that we have not inherited the environment from a previous generation, especially in my case for instance, in fact we should have the responsibility that we have borrowed the environment from the future generations. So therefore, we have a huge moral ethical responsibility to protect that and hand over to the next generation in a responsible manner. Therefore, we have seen in both developed and developing countries the increased importance towards mainstreaming the efforts of climate change, addressing climate change into climate policies. In other words, there is an increasing trend seen in newly elected governments to shift their ministries from working in silos to a streamlined manner, the collaboration across topics and merge their work to respond to the current needs.

In some countries, I have seen ministries, for example, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has incorporated a department on international climate negotiations or a Ministry of Climate Change and Finance together. So, we are seeing changes in elections also; in many of the countries around the world, elections are being won and lost on the battleground on climate change and that is a promising development and is an increasing trend, and we are supporting all of that increasingly through the years. We register constant growth in the participation and attendance of the civil society in our COPs and in UNFCCC Glasgow, we had 40,000 participants and in fact interestingly and counter-intuitively in a way because of the pandemic and the possibility of virtual participation, those numbers in thousands have gone into millions now, because there is nothing stopping anyone anywhere in the world to join those conversations to convey their voices to these platforms. So, I hope the TERI event next year would also provide that opportunity to participants from around the world to join in a virtual manner. In our processes, we refer to something as non-parties stakeholder engagement and the delegations are more and more involved in our process, their voices are being taken into consideration. Admittedly it is a party driven process. The parties are very obsessive about their negotiations and the decisions they make but we are seeing growing importance of those non-party stakeholders in our process.

Zooming again into our process, allow me to give you a brief overview of where we can move forward in this pivotal year. COP26 resulted in the adoption of the Glasgow climate pact that was held under the motive of keeping 1.5 degrees alive and resulted in many positive outcomes. Such examples are the completion of the Paris rule book, which took almost five years to finalize especially to do with the carbon markets and the transparency framework, the call for action across all areas through the Glasgow Climate Pact achieved by parties under the strong leadership of the United Kingdom presidency where the Indian government was very much present and took a very important role in those final decisions in Glasgow. Adaptation was also highly emphasized in terms of increasing the amount of funding that is allocated to adaptation; launching of the global goal on adaptation and an important call for the developed countries to meet to fulfil their promise of the USD 100 billion that they had made and still

remains to be unfulfilled so far. So, there are some actions that still need to be undertaken and we are at it as we speak.

So, with the completion of the rule book in Glasgow, the focus of the international climate change regime has moved fully on implementation. So therefore, COP27 this year must be that and we are working towards a COP of implementation and it should be the first COP where nations must show that they will begin true legislation, true policies and programmes throughout all jurisdictions and sectors to put the Paris Agreement to work in their home countries. Again, I see TERI as a very important stakeholder in this exercise. COP27 will also be the COP where all segments of the society will be supported to drive more climate action under the UN climate change idea of inclusive multilateralism within the framework of formal negotiations. There are two high-level champions who are working day and night to engage and to bring action from the non-party stakeholders as well as wide diversity of climate action initiatives, platforms and projects, which will be scaled up and some of the ones that I have already mentioned, when we met Dr Dhawan in Delhi was the Race to Zero, Race to Resilience. So, those platforms are gaining a lot of momentum and our secretary is working through the Marrakesh partnership on global climate action to strengthen collaboration between governments and other stakeholders. As I mentioned and one other thing we talk about multilateralism and this is something which is dear to many of our work policies and structures. Multilateralism is not only bringing the governments and state parties together, it is inclusive multilateralism with civil society and especially the youth having a large and prominent role in the ongoing debate and that is the only way forward to address climate change and recover from the current conflicts and the crisis that we are all living through and history has shown that the world succeeds together when the world works together. Nations are not accountable to United Nations as Mr Nitin Desai would know; they are accountable to each other, to their populations, to their citizens. In fact, global challenges from the last two years underline the importance of multilateral processes, the success of our collective efforts to address climate change and the overall success and health of multilateralism are clearly linked.

So, in conclusion let me once again highlight that

climate change is tied virtually to every major challenge humanity faces and by addressing it we can create a more resilient, sustainable, just, equal, and prosperous future for all people and COP27 represents a major opportunity to make progress in that regard and I very much look forward to working closely with TERI and making TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit as one of the milestones in our process and very much also look forward to welcoming TERI and many of you in the audience at COP27 at Sharm-el Sheikh and encourage you all to get involved as much as possible in addressing humanity's long-term threat, which is advancing and there are huge opportunities to stop it and benefit from the actions of climate action that present to us. So, thank you very much and it's been a great pleasure to share these views and I wish you all the very best.

Presidential Address

**S Siddharth, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance),
Government of Bihar**

Thank you for giving me some time to share the experiences in Bihar. We are one of the first states in India to come up with the green budget. We came up with the first green budget in the year 2021 and subsequently after that, we have been publishing our green budget and we are the first state in the country to place the green budget in both the houses of the assembly, which means that it is examined by the members of the legislature and views are also obtained. We decided on this venture after the Honourable Chief Minister started the Jan Jeevan Hariyali Abhiyan wherein climate change was declared to be top on the priority. It is so important that not only we have a programme every month on the first Tuesday, we have discussions on and debates and all the government employees are supposed to debate on climate change and issues related to climate change. There is a topic which is floated around and that is the level of involvement of the government. We started identifying the departments which relate to climate change and we identified about 19 departments which contribute to the environmental issues as per the sustainable development groups. So, we identified 19 departments, every budget scheme, every budget head was then broken down into its effect on climate change. So, we identified each and every

budget head, and we tried to divide it into budget heads, which have marginal effect on climate change: low, medium, high, very high, and fully dedicated. The marginal effect indicators included training, capacity building, certain information and communication programmes and the range ended with the fully dedicated programmes, which included afforestation programmes, tiger reserves, and energy efficiency schemes.

So, we have divided the categories into areas, which are 0 to one per cent to five per cent effect; 5 to 25 per cent effect; 25 per cent to 50 per cent effect; 50 to 75 effect; 75 to 90 effect; and 100 per cent. So, basically we divided all the budget heads and used the modified new marker methodology and all the departmental officers were explained about the modified real marker methodology. So, as on date all the officers of the department are aware of this and then using coefficient for estimation of green component of environmentally relevant schemes, we then prepare the budget. So, we have a budget, which is in vernacular Hindi language, so that everybody can understand. We publish it in Hindi and we are planning now to translate it to English to be appreciated by other state governments.

The effect of this was we also came up with the environment indicators. We have indicators in terms of land utilization indicators. We have forest indicators, groundwater indicators, water management indicators, air quality indicators, climate change indicators, disaster indicators, and biodiversity indicators. So, with their help, we would be able to actually monitor the progress of these indicators on a year-to-year basis. So, every year we have these indicators which we monitor. We will see how our budget actually affects these indicators and the budget talks about how much positive component or positive effect it has on the environment, which includes a lot of schemes on water harvesting, remuneration of ponds, refrigeration of wells, renewing the canal system, afforestation is on the top of our priority, forest tower, and recovery of degraded forests. Then, we also have looked at water harvesting structures on all schools and government buildings, solar panel installations on all government buildings. We had a plan of about INR 24,000 crore to be invested under this particular component of Jal Jeevan Hariyali. It ended this year but we have extended the programme to 2025.

So, this is one major initiative of the state government wherein we have a green budget, we have documented indicators, we have provided for funds to improve the indicators and that we would monitor it year-on-year basis. So, every panchayat, every person in the panchayat, all such representatives, all government representatives, everybody is trained to improve the indicators to improve the Jal Jeevan Hariyali scheme. What the Honourable Chief Minister says is that if only when hariyali (environment) and jal (water) are there, only then jeevan (life) is there. So, that is what he says, and that is why he has coined this name. Even the Government of India has also come up with a new scheme subsequently but we were the first state in the country to have the scheme ongoing.

There are still some challenges, which I think many of the experts in this field would talk about. We are yet to actually come up with indicators which actually have a negative impact on environment that we have not documented and we are also working on it that: how much of a negative effect it has on environment and then we would have a net effect on environment, that is how much is the net positive effect on environment. So you have a negative effect of environment on certain schemes, we have positive effect on environment in certain schemes. So, we would like to come up with indicators of net effect on environment. We are still working on it, I do not know whether any expert group has worked on it as to how to come up with the net effect but that is still on our cards, but we will continue to present our green budget, continue to monitor our indicators, and everybody is playing on this. So, that's how we carried out this work and we would obviously share with you our SOP, which is in English, as to how we carry out and how we make our green budget.

Leadership Address

**Akhilesh Gupta, Senior Adviser & Scientist 'H',
Department of Science & Technology, Government
of India**

Let me congratulate the organizer for choosing this theme of mainstreaming sustainable development, which in fact has never been more important than now. Science & technology and innovation is a key driver for economic development and also for the human development. So, India moves towards a sustainable development pathway that will include

social development, the economic development, and environmental sustainability all towards achieving an Atmanirbhar Bharat. The interest will now be given as part of the National Science Technology and Innovation Policy, which is getting finalized on promoting traditional knowledge systems, developing indigenous technologies, encouraging grassroots innovations, and the development to become sustainable. You need a new science & technology innovation to come and address these issues in a more holistic way. It is very interesting to note the role of science & technology in attaining or achieving the sustainable development. It is the technology driven industrial development that led to climate change and it is going to be the science & technology led coping strategy and clean technology that would help addressing the climate change. So, it is also cause and also a solution for achieving better climate action and sustainable development. In fact, the new science & technology policy that is going to come up is actually focusing on creating an STI ecosystem that meets the challenges of SDGs and also aligning those with the national priorities. Climate change is not just for the global community, but more so for India. The Working Group I and II reports that were released this year gave very starkest warning about the deepening climate emergencies. If the global community do not come together to address this, we are heading towards an irreversible process. Then, sustainable development becomes a very challenging issue. In that Working Group 2 report that came in March and presented climate change as part of a couple system with three components getting interacted with each other: climate change, the ecosystem, and the human society, and therefore, the three are interconnected and cannot be seen as separate systems. Interestingly, one impacts the other in terms of their overall interactions.

Climate change is in fact going to be major disruptor for sustainable development. Earlier, Dr Desai also mentioned that, and the disruption will come in different ways. For example, the temperature increase is going to be the first major disruptor of our development—both the change in the average temperature but more importantly, the increase in extreme events and extreme temperatures. You will witness today the heat waves are increasing and in last couple of weeks, we are seeing that the entire country is witnessing increasing heat waves. Now, these are going to have an impact on some

developmental problems. For example, almost all infrastructure development programmes, be it transport or the construction are going to be impacted by high temperature. We see that the heat waves are in fact increasing not just in frequency, but also in terms of intensity and duration. There is a longer duration heat wave now than they were earlier and this is a big challenge and the prediction of these heat wave is one area and more importantly, the local administration need to devise the methods and ways of managing and warning people and also addressing this issue.

The second important thing to note is the extreme rainfall that causes floods, but also because of the heat, you also have droughts. So, you have droughts and floods both taking place together and that impacts all the development, water, agriculture, health, energy; everything is getting impacted by these extremes. So, we need very different kinds of development pathway that addresses all these concerns. Now, India is facing an interesting dichotomy. India is in fact going for a very proactive climate action—the kind of renewable energy programme we have, the kind of the adaptation programme that we have put in, all put together in fact is positioning India as a very proactive climate action country. Yet, we are going to be severely impacted by the climate change because of our population density, because of our poverty and many such issues. Now this dichotomy is a big challenge and then to sustain development is one of the big concerns for us. So therefore, the big challenge for India will be how to go with the sustainable development action and how do we mainstream sustainable development in the situation threatened by climate change. So, this is a big challenge indeed.

Now, let me talk about the challenges posed by the mitigation action. Now India announced some big mitigation action as part of COP26. And the most important one is that India would attain carbon neutrality by 2070. Now, this entails huge action on the mitigation side. India's mitigation strategy has been that it brings more energy efficiency, promote renewable and other clean energy and chart a development pathway, which is different from the western world. Instead of cracking the emissions, we have chosen to avoid the emissions, and so India's development pathway ensures economic and social development, focusing on improving human development without compromising sustainability.

Now, this poses a big challenge when we are going to achieve carbon neutrality by 2070, because in that case we need to upscale our renewable energy nearly 10 times the present value. We have to adjust the use of coal and use of fuel in a good way. And that would actually put a challenge on our development pathway because, to reach that development path which the western world has already reached, is going to be very taxing for the country. I would end by saying that we face two major paradoxes in India and these are mitigation versus development. So, we have to mitigate without compromising development and the other paradox is that we need to have increased action on adaptation to achieve better pathways to development. So, it is the mitigation versus development and the adaptation versus development paradoxes that India is facing and need to create a good balance within these two paradoxes.

I think the mainstreaming sustainable development is the way forward for humanity to exist and sustain but there is a big challenge to achieve this. This would need a well thought out strategy and I am sure that the deliberations in the next year's World Sustainable Development Summit are going to address these issues in a more holistic and in a more organized way and come up with very viable solutions.

Leadership Address

Sunil Nair, Chief General Manager, Reserve Bank of India

It is indeed a privilege to be part of this prestigious event, which is being just held ahead of the upcoming World Environment Day 2022. I am glad to know that World Sustainable Development Summit is the annual flagship event of TERI and that the Summit has completed 20 plus years in its journey of making sustainable development a globally shared goal. In my address today, I will briefly discuss the following aspects: our vision for mainstreaming sustainable development and climate action at Reserve Bank of India and specific examples where RBI has integrated sustainable development and climate action in its policy programme. A standard disclaimer that these are my personal views.

So, as regards a vision for mainstreaming sustainable development and climate action, as you are already aware the RBI's core purpose is to foster monetary

and financial stability conducive to sustainable economic growth and to ensure the development of an efficient and inclusive financial system. Our core purpose reflects the Reserve Bank's commitment to the nation which, among others, is to support the balanced, equitable and sustainable economic development of the country. Let me elaborate a bit here. Sustainable development essentially refers to the process of maintenance of quality of environmental and social systems in the pursuit of economic development. The contribution of financial institutions including banks to sustainable development is paramount, considering a crucial role they play in financing the economic and developmental activities of the world. In this context, the urgency for banks to act as responsible corporate citizens in the society, especially in a developing country like ours, needs to be hardly overemphasized, and their activities should reflect the concern of both human rights and environment. In the view of the growing worldwide momentum on sustainable development and initiatives being taken on various fronts by different organizations, including all major banks worldwide, it has become essential for banks in India to scale up their engagement in this regard. Further global warming and climate change are particularly important in the context of sustainable development, especially for developing countries which need to be better equipped to handle such changes.

In this context, I am glad to share that the Reserve Bank of India has also been spreading awareness on the issue of green and sustainable finance through its various publications and communication channels. More recently in publications be it RBI bulletin or the financial stability report, the Reserve Bank has been emphasizing on the risk of climate change on financial assets and the need to focus on environmental friendly sustainable development. To accelerate its efforts in this regard, the Reserve Bank joined the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a member on April 23, 2021. The NGFS is a group of central banks and supervisors willing to share best practices and contribute to development of environment and climate risk management in the financial sector, while mobilizing mainstream finance to support the transition towards the sustainable economy. We expect to benefit from the membership of the NGFS by learning from and contributing to the global efforts on green finance, which have assumed significance in the context of

climate change. In a major effort at mainstreaming sustainable development and climate action, in May 2021 the Reserve Bank set up a Sustainable Finance Group (SFG) within its Department of Regulation to lead the efforts on climate risk and sustainable finance. The SFG would be instrumental in evolving regulatory framework, including appropriate disclosures for banks and other regulated entities to propagate sustainable practices and mitigate climate-related risk in Indian context. The SFG is also coordinating with other national and international agencies on issues relating to climate change, to assess the progress of the regulated entities in managing climate risk and also to sensitize them to incorporate climate related and environmental risk in their business strategies.

As also in the governance and risk management frameworks the Reserve Bank of India has prepared a consultative discussion paper, which should be out very shortly, and in line with the international best practices banks will be guided to adopt a forward-looking, comprehensive and strategic approach to climate-related risk. The discussion paper would touch upon certain regulatory measures or initiatives that could be taken by the RBI in the area of climate risk and sustainable finance. Based on the feedback received from the stakeholders, as also work done by various international standards setting bodies, be it Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, Financial Stability Board, among others, the Reserve Bank would come out with appropriate guidelines in this regard. During January 2022, the Reserve Bank carried out a survey to assess the status of climate risk and sustainable finance in leading scheduled commercial banks. The survey was intended to nudge banks in giving greater attention to climate risk and sustainable finance and scale up their engagement in this area. The responses have given us good insights on the climate risk and sustainable finance and also highlighted the efforts that need to be taken in this regard. The feedback from the survey would help inform the regulatory and supervisory approach of the Reserve Bank to climate risk and sustainable finance and also help fine-tune its capacity building and awareness measures in this regard.

Now coming to a specific example where the RBI has integrated sustainable development and climate action in its policy programme. On December 20, 2007, the Reserve Bank issued instructions to banks

to put in place an appropriate action plan towards making a meaningful contribution to sustainable development. Thereafter, the Reserve Bank has been steadily incentivizing banks by asking them to lending to greener industries and projects. For example, renewable energy projects have been included under priority sector lending (PSL), loan sanctioned to individuals for setting up off-grid solar plants and other off-grid renewable energy solutions for households. The limit has been further expanded to INR 15 crore and the areas included further have been solar power-based generators, biomass power-based generators, windmills, micro hydel plants, and non-conventional energy-based utilities, that is, street lighting systems and remote electric village electrification. The inclusion of renewable energy in priority sector lending has given a rise to the flow of bank credit, which has increased from INR 1333 crore as of March 27, 2020, to INR 3,726 crore as of March 25, 2022 to this segment of PSL. These figures relate to only smaller renewable energy projects, which get covered under the PSL on account of INR 30 crore ceiling. If one includes bank lending to the large renewable energy projects, then the sizeable growth in overall lending to this segment can be better appreciated. For example, SBI alone has sanctioned INR 30,000 crore for renewable energy as per its Sustainability Report for FY 2020–21. Liberalized external commercial borrowing norms of RBI also enable the Indian renewable energy companies and other firms to tap the ECB route for raising finance through green bonds and sustainable bonds. To summarize in my view the inclusion of renewable energy under PSL guidelines is a good example, where RBI has integrated sustainable development and climate in its policy.

I would like to conclude by thanking TERI for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this event and my best wishes for the continued success of the World Sustainable Development Summit.

Screening of Video - Green Shoots

To mark the most important day in the annual environment calendar, team TERI is bringing out 'Green Shoots' — a short video where researchers talk of an incremental yet incisive change that can impact the environment positively.

MoU signing between TERI and Diamond Toons on a series of popular books on water conservation



S K Sarkar, Distinguished Fellow, TERI

Good afternoon everybody and first of all let me welcome Manishji and his delegation members for coming to TERI on this important event and I also welcome our Director General for being present in spite of her busy schedule on this occasion. In fact, it was this opportunity TERI in the Water Division has been looking for many years. Initially, we resorted to digital campaign of the water resources but now I thought that we should also reach to the youth, to the other stakeholders who are really the future citizens of the country. Because as you know that water is very essential for life and according to the estimate from NITI Aayog, by 2030, our water demand will be almost double than the water supply, because water supply is finite. So, if it is double demand in all the sectors like industrial sector and domestic sector then, where will the water come from? Because rain is only four months in a year, so we need to do something and the best way is to conserve water.

It was earlier, and even today, there is a common line of thought that water conservation is the work of the government but government does not cover the entire gamut of stakeholders. We require sensitization incentives on the part of the various stakeholders to agree on water conservation. So, herein lies the importance of this kind of initiative on which Diamond Toons and TERI will work together. I am really grateful that the Water Division will be working very hard to execute and complete this initiative, which we had been longing for some time through. So, with these few words, I thank all of you for coming on this occasion.

Manish Verma, Director, Diamond Toons

Good afternoon from Diamond Toons, we are extremely elated to be here on the annual World Environment Day. TERI has been a torchbearer of the change required today for environment. More than ever, we need to lead behavioural change for inclusive and sustainable society, moving forward. We have to increase our share of voice to protect the one earth from issues related to environment biodiversity and climate change. Water is an important part. We are all stakeholders here and we have inherited the planet. Today we are very excited and happy to enter an MoU wherein we would be able to use the unique platform of talking comics with our universe of characters to perpetuate the values of TERI in simple, unique and interactive manner to the custodians of the environment in the multiple Indian languages, which we plan to do. The power of storytelling for ages has been the only way to make a society inclusive of change. We would try and make it universal for it to appeal to the kids, teenagers and adults across the cross sections of various mediums we have today and platforms to meet the sustainable goals of development and environment. We promise to try and make our stakeholders responsible and inclusive. Thanks to Dr Vibha Dhawan, DG, TERI; Dr Sarkar; the entire TERI team; and our team. Let our super heroes go out and weave their magic and meet the global challenges of environment head-on. We wish this endeavour all the best and we hope to create new content to reach out to everyone.

Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute

I would like to welcome Manish and other colleagues from Diamond group of publications. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of our chairman Mr Nitin Desai, who is the torchbearer for TERI. Whatever we do here, we constantly get his guidance. Dr Sarkar has long experience with various initiatives of TERI and when he was in government, he also guided the policies. He very rightly mentioned that water is a resource that we are really falling short of and unfortunately there is very little sensitization among all sectors because firstly, the water pricing is distorted. Even today in Delhi, it is almost free water and anything free, we tend to not value that resource. We also talk about almost 80 per cent of the water being used in agriculture

and there are other possibilities as well. For instance, we can use the recycled water but we are ignoring it. In fact, when you go to the hills and you talk to the local people why not ask them to do recycling and so on. The ultimate question is how much is the price? The moment you say it will be almost one rupee a litre, the answer is that the collection cost from the nearby spring and bringing it to the village is less than one rupee, so why should I spend even that one rupee to recycle water?

In cities because of the easy availability of water through the tap children also do not value this valuable resource. We all use RO water. The builders are insensitive because in most cases, the builders, when they put provision for RO plant and somewhere the pipe which simply goes to the drain. So there is no concept of how much water is being wasted, whether you use RO water and for what purpose is it being used? So we are ignoring all these things. You have very rightly touched upon this point and we also hear it in various forums, that we are not custodians of natural resources, we have borrowed it from the next generation.

I am very happy that we are joining hands today. TERI has a division which Dr Livleen Kaur Kahlon is heading, which is basically on youth education and we have brought out large number of books in the past for the children. TERI as an organization has a limited outreach, so it is great that we are planning to work together bringing knowledge base, books for the children. So, our job will be to put knowledge part of it and with your partnership will make it far more attractive for the children. We should also bring out books in different languages so that it spreads to all parts of the country because you cannot simply keep the knowledge generated limited to the Institute. You must take it out to every nook and corner of the country, maybe in years

to come internationally because this is a universal topic.

Shresth Tayal, Senior Fellow, TERI

Children are the future of our country and also the opinion influencer in our homes, so, building sensitivity among kids on water conservation can play significant role in changing our thoughts, our attitude as well as our behaviour towards water. It is a nature's gift to humanity, which is being wasted by our reckless approach towards water, as highlighted. This MoU between TERI and Diamond Toons provides an opportunity to share our experience from respective fields and develop educational material on water. There will be three dimensions of incorporating water into the comics of legendary characters like Chacha Chaudhary, Billu, and Pinky. So, first is to develop a separate set of comics focused specifically on various aspects related to water; secondly build one story within the regular storyline; third will be bringing the aspects of water conservation within the regular storyline of these comic books because developing one comic or one set of comics may not be enough so we have to regularly be in touch and keep children in touch with the sensitivity. So, that is how the overall plan is. In simultaneous development of comic books, an important aspect of this MoU will be to build capacity and disseminate the message through different modes like organizing school-level seminars, quizzes and such, which is being done by environment education and awareness division of TERI for the past many decades. Now we hope that through this initiative we will also be able to connect the comic characters with various other dimensions of sustainable development goals like renewable energy, waste management and different other aspects can also be brought within the overall ambit.

NOTE

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About World Sustainable Development Summit

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship event organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The Summit series aims to extend its reach through closer engagement with stakeholders to collectively act through a major initiative on policy research and dialogue - #Act4Earth.



54
Heads of State
and Government

103
Ministers

13
Nobel
Laureates

1888
Business
Leaders

2745
Speakers

38,280
Delegates

For more information, please contact:

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