Roundtable on "Challenges in Urban Water Management"

(This roundtable is being organized by the Urban Water Group with support from Rohini Nilekani)

Rationale:
India is undergoing a massive urban transition. By 2031, 600 million people are projected to reside in Indian cities, up from 400 million today. Cities are expected to provide an estimated 70% of new jobs and 70% of the GDP. One of the biggest challenges is to provide water and manage the wastewater generated by burgeoning cities. This policy roundtable will address the critical debates on urban water issues in India that include: infrastructure funding policies and the operation and maintenance of new infrastructure; issues surrounding urban - rural resource transfers and conflicts; equity across and within urban areas and the long-term sustainability of water sources.

Panelists:

1. S. Vishwanath: Mr. S. Vishwanath is a Director **of** Biome Environmental Solutions. He holds an engineering degree from NIE Mysore and a Master in Urban Planning, CEPT Ahmadabad. He currently serves as an Advisor to Arghyam Foundation and as Secretary General, International Rainwater Catchment Systems Association; He has a long history of engagement in Bangalore's urban water issues as founder of Rainwater Club and now in the Lakes movement in Bangalore. Mr. Vishwanath brings a rich perspective on urban water and a deep understanding of how policy issues play out on the ground.

2. K.J. Joy: Mr. K. J. Joy is a activist-researcher and has actively participated in people's movements for equitable water distribution, resource literacy and people's science and developing people's alternatives for drought proofing, etc. Presently he is the Secretary of the Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM) and is also the convener of the Forum for Water Conflicts in India. Mr. Joy brings a rich perspective and long history of engagement in water issues in India.

3. Gaurv Gupta (TBC)

Moderator:

Rohini Nilekani, Founder of Arghyam.