

## Sixth DMI Foundation Day Symposium 2020

### Speakers Profile

#### Inaugural Session

**Dr. Rajendra Singh** is popularly known as 'Jal Purush, Waterman of India'. He is a well renowned river rejuvenator and an environmentalist. He is an ayurveda doctor by profession and a post graduate in Hindi literature.

Dr. Singh is the recipient of the "Ramon Magsaysay Award" for community leadership, "Jammalal Bajaj Award" for use of science and technology for rural development and the Nobel prize for water by the Stockholm Water Award. The Guardian paper has named him as one of the world's 50 people who can save the planet Earth." He has recently been awarded the "Ahimsa" Award by the House of Commons, United Kingdom. He has been awarded honorary doctorate by three Universities in India; University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad, Purnima University Jaipur and APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University Lucknow.

He is the Founder and President of Tarun Bharat Sangh. Over the last 45 years, Tarun Bharat has prepared and enabled the society to construct 11,800 water structures and due to its efforts, more than 1000 villages in India are now "water secure". In addition, 12 rivers in the country have been revived: from Arvari, in Maharashtra to Inchanahallain in Karnataka benefitting people living in nearly 10,000 square kilometre of area.

Dr Singh now works across the World in helping people and policy makers in water resources, conservation and usage on a sustainable basis. Dr Singh is committed to save the world from the expected Third World War due to water scarcity. As a person who respects all religions and nature, Dr Singh considers Neer (water), Nari(woman) and Nadi (river) as Narayan or God. Mahatma Gandhi's message is his way of life. He is convinced that non-violence is the only way to bring prosperity.

He is a believer and an advocate of traditional water conservation methods, knowledge, restoration of groundwater reserves and community management of natural resources. Governments and industrialists do not have the sole right to groundwater. He is known for his work on water conservation and revival of pollution-free rivers and for eliciting public participation and ownership. Recently he has launched the "Seamless Ganga Water Literacy Tour" for the river Ganga.

Over the last 44 years of his life dedicated to society, he has provided solutions to issues of climate change, adaptation and eradication through the efforts of local communities, empowering them through water conservation and replenishing groundwater banks.

Dr Singh has pledged to make peace in the world through water. Yes, it is possible! Can be done!



**Mr Asadur Rahman**, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF State Office for Bihar

Mr. Asadur Rahman, joined UNICEF Bihar office on 1 December 2016. Prior to joining Bihar, Mr. Rahman served as Chief Field Office for UNICEF State Office in Kolkata from June 2013 to November, 2016.

Mr. Rahman has 28 years of extensive UNICEF experience since 1989. He started his career in UNICEF as a National Officer in Bangladesh and served in various subnational and national capacities. He moved to UNICEF Uganda in 2002 and worked there till 2005, where he provided technical advice on establishing the country's first birth registration system. In 2005 he moved to UNICEF Sri Lanka and served as Chief of Field Office in Galle and Batticaloa, and worked for children and women in tsunami affected and civil strife-torn areas. Beside his responsibilities as Chief of UNICEF Field Offices he also coordinated humanitarian and emergency response programmes on behalf of UN Resident Coordinator.

Prior to joining UNICEF he worked in the International Center for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh, CARE International and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Mr. Rahman holds Masters in Philosophy and Demography from University of Dhaka. He is a national of Bangladesh and Permanent Resident of Canada.



## Session 1: Fostering Community Participation in Water Governance

**Shri Arvind Kumar Chaudhary** is the Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department, Government of Bihar. He is a senior IAS officer from the Bihar cadre. He is an alumnus of IIT Kanpur in Civil Engineering. He has spent nearly a quarter of century with the State Government, having served in various capacities from District Magistrate to Principal Secretary, Government of Bihar. He has been one of the key architect in the transformation of Bihar in the recent years, having understood and appreciated the power of community mobilisation. He has been instrumental in bringing transformation to the lives of poor, especially women through the establishment of institution like JEEViKA.



**Shri Eklavya Prasad** is a leader in water management and founder of Megh Pyne Abhiyan which is a network of small non-profit organisations. His engagement with rural water issues began in the 1990s with his career at Seva Mandir in Udaipur, Rajasthan after graduating from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Later on, he worked for the Centre for Science and Environment. He along with other member of his Meg Pyne team are working on various innovations in rainwater storage facility, matka filter and flood resistant dug wells.



**Dr. Ruchi Shree** is Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science TMBU (Bhagalpur, Bihar). She did her PHD and MPhil from JNU and her doctoral dissertation was on Politics of Water as Natural Resource: Study of Two Movements (Plachimada and Tarun Bharat Sangh) while her MPhil thesis was on "Privatisation of Water: Contextualising the Contemporary Debates in India". She has specialized in politics of water and sanitation for over a decade. Her research interests include Gandhi politics, new social movements and comparative politics. Apart from teaching, she has been involved in research advocacy with institutes such as ELRS, HSS (Germany) and SANDRP. At present, she is part of a research project initiated by the Michigan State University (USA) to study the ongoing Koyla Satyagraha in Chhattisgarh.



## Session 2: Issues in Ground Water Use and Availability

**Dr. Dipankar Saha** is presently Secretary of International Association of Hydrogeologist- India Chapter.

He was a former Member of Central Ground Water Board River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, under Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India. He had also served as a Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority and Head of National Ground Water Training and Research Institute, Raipur.

He spearheaded the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme, the largest ground water mapping endeavour in the world, as National Coordinator.

He spearheaded the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme, the largest ground water mapping endeavour in the world, as National Coordinator. He is a doctorate on Ground Water Management from IIT, Dhanbad. He has authored more than 50 papers in International peer reviewed journals and delivered more than 300 lectures and key note address in national and International Seminars. He is recipient of National Geoscience Award conferred by Ministry of Mines, Government of India in 2010 and Ground Water Excellence Award conferred by International Association of Hydrogeologist - India Chapter in 2014.



**Shri Joe Madiath**, a social entrepreneur is the founder and former executive director of Gram Vikas, a non-governmental organisation based in Orissa, India. Gram Vikas which has completed 50 years of work. It's work on water and sanitation unites and empowers rural and tribal communities.

An English literature graduate from the University of Madras founded the Young Students' Movement for Development (YSMD) at Loyola College, Chennai. In 1971, Madiath led 400 YSMD volunteers to West Bengal to manage relief camps for refugees from the Bangladesh Liberation War. Once their relief efforts were completed, Madiath and a few colleagues from the YSMD stayed back in Orissa to work on development on a long-term basis. On invitation from the State Government, they moved to Ganjam district to begin work with adivasi communities and founded Gram Vikas in 1979.



**Dr. Ashok Kumar Ghosh** is Chairman of Bihar State Pollution Control Board. He is also working as Professor and HoD, Research at Mahavir Cancer Institute and Research Centre, Patna.

The main area of his research is ground water quality. His research on health impact of ground water arsenic contamination in Bihar has received award at 7th World Water Forum in 2015 held at Daegu, South Korea.

Dr. Ghosh is working on various international projects of repute as a principal investigator and some of the projects are DELTAP supported by NWO Wotro of Netherlands, Project NUTRI-SAM supported by DST-UKIERI and Project FAR-Ganga supported by DST-NERC.



### Session 3: Resilience Building in Wetland Conservation and Governance

**Shri Dipak Kumar Singh** is an IAS officer of 1992 batch of Bihar cadre. His important postings are

1. Principal Secretary, Labour Resources Department cum CEO Bihar Skill Development Mission from Jan 2016 to 8th Aug 2019.
2. He has been in the charge of the Environment, Forest and climate change department twice. First as Secretary, Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change from Nov 2011 to June 2014, and again Principal Secretary of the same Department from 11th March 2019 to till date.
3. He has been Secretary Water Resources Department from June 2014 to Nov 2015.
4. He held the charge of Secretary Bihar state electricity Board from May 2001 to June 2004.
5. In field postings, he held the charge of District Magistrates of Khagaria and Purnea.
6. He was director in Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of finance, Govt. of India from October 2005 to Feb 2010.
7. He worked in the World Bank, Washington DC under the voice secondment programme from January to June 2008.

He is MA in political science from Allahabad University and M.Phil in International Politics from School of International Studies, JNU. He was born in West Bengal and did his schooling from West Bengal.



**Dr. Somnath Bandyopadhyay**, is an Associate Professor at the School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Nalanda University. His teaching and research focus on the interface of environment and development, particularly in the context of water resources.

He is a Member of the State Wildlife Board and a member of the standing committee for the State Wetland Development Authority. Dr Bandyopadhyay combines his core expertise in environmental sciences with broad-based knowledge of environmental economics and experience in public policy. He has published a comprehensive ecological description of Lake Chilika in Odisha – an initial Ramsar site in India. His doctoral thesis explored the fundamental relations between hydrologic regimes and diversity of macroinvertebrate communities in a floodplain wetland (River Yamuna, Delhi).

As a working professional, Dr Bandyopadhyay studied Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis at the Harvard Institute for International Development, Harvard University, USA in 1999 and Market Systems Development at the Springfield Centre, UK in 2008.



**Dr. Sunil Kumar Choudhary**, a Fulbright Indo-American Environmental Fellow, currently works at the University Department of Botany, Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University. His areas of research are Ecology, Limnology and Botany.

He had done pioneering work in the field of River and Wetland ecology, particularly water pollution & monitoring; biodiversity conservation with focus on conservation of highly endangered Gangetic river dolphins; and Environmental Education. Dr. Sunil Choudhary and his team are working currently on a project 'Coupled Human And Natural Systems Environment (CHANSE) for water management under uncertainty in the Indo Gangetic Plain'.).

As part of this project he is conducting a pre-monsoon survey of River Ganga for Gangetic dolphins & other biodiversity in Bihar from Mokama to Bihar-Jharkhand-West Bengal tri-junction at Manihari. The project is awarded by Department of Environment & Forest, Govt. of Bihar in the year 2018-19.





## Session 4: Reimagining Drinking Water Governance

**Mr. Nicolas Osbert** is a chartered architect (Paris Villemin, France) with a specialization in urban development particularly in developing countries. He is also a water and sanitation engineer (ENGEES, France). He has over 20 years of work experience in WASH and Public Health in Africa, Latin America and Asia. He had joined UNICEF in 2008, and is currently the Head of the WASH Section for UNICEF India, leading technical teams working in 15 states for WASH Programming, notably to support the Clean India Mission, which is the world largest sanitation drive.



**Shri Amritlal Meena**, an Indian Administrative Services Officer of 1989 batch, is currently the Principal Secretary of Road Construction Department, Government of Bihar, with additional charge of Principal Secretary - Panchayati Raj Department and Managing Director – Bihar State Road Development Corporation Limited (BSRDCL). Earlier to Road Construction Department Sri Meena was Principal Secretary to Cooperative Department, Patna with additional charge of Principal Secretary - Panchayati Raj Department and Managing Director – Bihar State Road Development Corporation Limited (BSRDCL).

He is an electrical engineering graduate with a PG Diploma in Public Policy and Management from IIM Bangalore.



**Dr. Dinesh Kumar** is the Executive Director of IRAP, which he founded in 2008. He has more than two decades of experience working on technical, economic, institutional & policy issues in water management in India and other south Asian countries such as Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Dr Kumar is the author of several books on water, energy, agriculture, food security and has published extensively in international peer-reviewed journals on hydrology, water resources, energy, and food security. Dr Kumar has 160 research papers to his credit including several journal articles, book chapters, international conference papers and monographs.

The major areas of expertise of Dr. Kumar are irrigation, river basin management, groundwater management, water-energy-food security nexus, urban water management, water productivity in agriculture and virtual water trade.

Dr Kumar has a Ph.D in water management, M. E in Civil Engineering (Water Resources Management) and B-Tech in civil engineering.  
Dr Kumar is the Associate Editor of Water Policy since 2011 and a Member of the Editorial Board of International Journal of Water Resources Development since 2014.



## Valedictory Session

**Shri Syed Masood Husain** had graduated with distinction in Civil Engineering in 1979 from Aligarh Muslim University. He was also awarded the Gold Medal for the Academic Year. Later he obtained his Master's Degree in Water Resources Engineering from IIT, Delhi.

His initial professional carrier started from the Civil Engineering Division of Bhaba Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai in 1980. Later on he joined Central Water Engineering Services Group 'A' in 1982 as Assistant Director in Central Water Commission, an apex technical organization of the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR. He was promoted as Deputy Director in 1986, Director in 1996 and Chief Engineer in 2009 and worked as Member in Ganga Flood Control Commission with effect from September 2009 to May 2013. He joined National Water Development Agency under the Ministry of Water Resources, which deals with the Interlinking of Rivers Programme as its Director General in May, 2013. Subsequently, he got promoted as Member, Central Water Commission and Ex. Officio Additional Secretary to the Government of India in March, 2016.

He became Chairman, CWC & Ex-Officio Secretary to Government of India in December 2018. As chairman, CWC, he was responsible for leading the apex engineering organization in the field of water resources development in India which is mandated to furthering and promoting measures for control, conservation and utilization of water resources throughout the country in the areas of irrigation, hydropower generation, flood management and river conservation etc. He also held the charge of Chairman, Cauvery Water Management Authority before superannuating from service, recently.

