

Message from the Chairperson

Arghyam over the past year witnessed a series of developments in the ecosystem. We are witness to water becoming an issue of conflict as the demand has risen exponentially due to competing users amidst increasingly erratic rainfall patterns. Missing data and weak institutions have compounded the problems around water further.

There is visible intent among policy makers in improving our institutional architecture for water. The draft bills on water framework, groundwater and the ongoing efforts to reimagine our water institutions are encouraging developments. The need to accelerate better water governance is clearly being felt at the centre. It remains to be seen how the state governments ramp up their efforts overcoming the political dynamics around water.

As we continue our journey in our second decade, we will strive to provide frameworks for reliable, cost effective and ecologically sensitive solutions in water and sanitation. Even as this would entail covering all aspects of water because of the interconnectedness we will remain focused on securing lifeline water, most of which is groundwater. With the government machinery invested on universal access to sanitation, we are also examining the links between sanitation management and groundwater security.

Our support for innovative interventions and collaborative platforms across diverse geographies in participatory groundwater management, springshed management and water quality continue to shed exciting insights to learn and improve upon existing approaches. As always, we will continue to engage with the broader ecosystem for refining ideas and for expanding best practices. We also hope to leverage technology to generate data for advocating institutionalization of sustainable approaches in water management.

I thank those who have been with us through the course of our journey so far. We hope for your continued support in the years ahead. And we rededicate to our vision of safe and sustainable water for all.

Rohini Nilekani