

Wednesdays for Water (www.wforw.in)

USP of the activity in support of performance of the institution in an area distinct to its priority and thrust

To engage in conversation with water experts, grassroot practitioners, policy makers and youth to explore the complex-intertwined issues associated with water and explore possible solutions

The Context

Multidimensional issues related to water requires an interdisciplinary and multistakeholder approach to comprehend the problem in entirety and come up with holistic solution. Also, it is critical to mainstream youth who can be drivers of innovation and change. This was the genesis of the multi-institute partnership that resulted in the instituting of Wednesdays for Water in April 2021.

Brief detail of the activity

The Wednesdays for Water leverages the virtual and the social media platforms to create awareness and deliberate on challenges and solutions related to water issues in India. There is a talk that is scheduled every Wednesday between 1700-1815 hours. The panel comprises of practitioners from academic and research institutions, government and grassroot organisation. There is a youth discussant from a higher education institution in the panel who summarizes the discussion and poses questions to the expert speakers. The discussion is transcribed and published in Counterview which is the media partner, and the recordings are uploaded on the YouTube Channel. The major limitation of Wednesdays for Water is that it has no funding support as of now and is being run as a citizen's collective by water enthusiasts for partnering institutions.

Evidence of Success

The Wednesdays for Water has completed 41 talks as on 21 Feb 2022 and has also had the privilege of hosting distinguished talks by eminent speakers namely Shri G Asok Kumar, DG, NMCG, Dr. Kiran Bedi (Retd. IPS), Mr Rajender Singh (Waterman of India) and other Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan speakers.

<https://counterview.org/2021/09/27/wednesdays-for-water-urban-rural-water-sustainability-faces-multiple-challenges-on-the-ground/>

<https://www.counterview.net/2021/06/wednesdaysforwater-pollution-climate.html>

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Presently, everyone in the team is working pro bono beyond regular office hours to sustain this initiative and hence there are challenges in timely conversion of talks into articles and editing of videos. Wednesdays for Water would also like to scale up the virtual discussion to physical deliberations in towns and cities across India. However, as of now the practice has no funding support to put in place a dedicated team to work for the initiative.