

Greening the Indian federal system: Views from the Centre and States

*Workshop prior to International Conference on Strengthening Green
Federalism: Sharing International Practices*

Date: 6th July 2012

Venue: Jacaranda I, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

Draft Agenda

Inaugural Session

09:30 – 10:25	Welcome and opening remarks
	<p>R K Pachauri, Director General, TERI</p> <p>Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, Thirteenth Finance Commission and Chairman, Forum of Federations</p> <p>Tishyarakshit Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests</p> <p>Onno Ruhl, Director, South Asia Operation Services and Quality, The World Bank</p> <p>P G Dhar Chakrabarti, Additional Secretary, Inter State Council</p>

10:25 – 10:45 *Tea break*

Session I

10:45 – 12:00	Environmental decision making in a federal and inter-state context
	<p>Although it is widely accepted that a greater diffusion of regulatory control through various levels of government – national, state, local, especially on issues of sustainable development is essential, experiences with natural resources show that States are often not as involved in decision making. Availability of natural resources is not uniform across states. Neither are the capacity and response the same. However, many environmental impacts are not restricted by political boundaries and affect the environments in other states as well. States may compete with each other for access and utilisation of trans-boundary and shared resources. In this context, this session would also discuss the role of institutions and coordination across centre, state and local levels.</p>
	<i>Chair:</i> Balveer Arora, Chairman, Centre for Multilevel Federalism

	<p><i>'Who owns the Environment?'</i> Amitabha Pande, Former Secretary, Inter State Council Secretariat</p> <p><i>'Decentralised forest governance and federalism'</i> G.N. Sinha, Addl. PCCF and Head, Forests and Wildlife Department, Government of Delhi</p> <p><i>'Environmental Concerns and Federalism'</i> Ramaswamy Iyer, former Secretary, Water Resources</p> <p>Alemtemshi Jamir, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Nagaland</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
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Session II

12:00 – 13:30	Fiscal Matters in Green Federalism
	<i>Chair:</i> Atul Sarma, Member, Thirteenth Finance Commission
	The issue of revenue and transfers is an important thread in any discussion on federalism and becomes vital in the discussion on environment and natural resources. Given the different fiscal needs and capacities that states have with respect to providing environmental services, this session would reflect upon the fiscal matters involved in environmental federalism.
	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p><i>'Environmental Fiscal federalism'</i> M Govind Rao, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy</p> <p>Sumit Bose, Secretary, Department of Expenditure</p> <p>S.K.Nanda, Principal Secretary, Department of Forests and Environment, Gujarat</p> <p>Koushik Mukherjee, Additional Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Karnataka</p> <p>V Bhaskar, Principal Finance Secretary , Government of Andhra Pradesh</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>

13.30– 14.30

Lunch

Session III

14:30 – 16:00	Use of economic principles, evidence and indicators in environmental decision making
	<p><i>Chair:</i> Prodipto Ghosh, distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute</p> <p>Given the preponderance of resource-related subsidies as well as the lack of effective disincentives for polluters, the issues of rational pricing of natural resources and pollution charges need immediate attention. This session will discuss how wrong pricing signals and inadequate use of economic principles in environmental decision-making lead to poor environmental outcomes. It will also focus on the importance of evidence in environmental policy design in the context of federal initiatives.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p><i>‘Economic Principles and Instruments in Environmental Decision Making in Indian Federation’</i> Ulaganathan Sankar, Professor, Madras School of Economics</p> <p><i>‘Environmental Policy in the Indian federal context: from the centre, state and local levels’</i> Kanchan Chopra, Visiting Professor, TERI University, former Director and Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi</p> <p>A Tyagi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests</p> <p><i>‘Environmental Regulations: Evidence from Research-Policy Partnerships in India’</i> Rohini Pande, Mohammed Kamal Professor of Public Policy and Director, Evidence for Policy Design, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University</p> <p><i>‘Environment performance index and rewards’</i> Indrani Chandrasekharan, Advisor, Planning Commission</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>

16:00 – 16:10 **Tea break**

Session IV

16:10 – 17:30	Capacity and accountability
	<p><i>Chair:</i> S. M. Vijayanand, Additional Secretary, Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Affairs and former Additional Chief Secretary, Kerala & Director, Institute of Management in Government, Thiruvananthapuram</p> <p>While states may be better positioned to respond to the challenges of balancing environmental, economic and social needs of the region, they require greater institutional strengthening and capacity to efficiently discharge their duties, or the capacity of local government to be more accountable to people for the</p>

	<p>improved environmental governance locally. This session would discuss how capacity and accountability can be strengthened through institutional convergence amongst the multiple agencies involved in environmental management at various jurisdictional levels to improve efficiency.</p>
	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p><i>‘Sub-National Governance and Capacity Development for Environmental Risk Management’</i> P G Dhar Chakrabarti, Additional Secretary, Inter State Council</p> <p>George Mathew, Director, Indian Institute of Social Sciences</p> <p><i>‘Natural resource governance and local governments’</i> R Raghunandan, former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj</p> <p>P D Rai, Member of Parliament</p> <p>Discussion</p>

17:30 – 18:00	Valedictory Session
	<p><i>Chair:</i> Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, Thirteenth Finance Commission and Chairman, Forum of Federations</p> <p>Valedictory address K Kasturirangan, Member, Planning Commission</p>
	<p>Key issues and wrap up Rupak Chattopadhyay, President, Forum of Federations</p> <p>Ligia Noronha, Executive Director (Research Coordination), TERI</p>

18.30

Dinner