

ICTS MONTHLY COLLOQUIUM

THINKING ENVIRONMENTALLY ABOUT BENGALURU'S WATER

I argue that environmental thinking demands thinking at two levels: values and science. '*Environmental soundness*' is first and foremost a value, and a multi-dimensional one at that, including sustainability of, but also equity in, material and spiritual well-being. But environmental thinking also recognises '*connectedness*' as a feature of the world, and water is a classic case: connecting upstream to downstream, polluter to pollutee, river to well, forest to sea, dams to farmers, and rooftops to lakes. Water is therefore also inherently a site for conflict, requiring attention to knowledge and social institutions. I use the example of Bengaluru city to highlight the potential for, and challenges in, evolving and implementing an environmentally sound urban water management strategy.



SHARACHCHANDRA LELE

Sharad Lele is an interdisciplinary environmental researcher, trying to bridge ecology, hydrology, economics and political science in understanding the concepts of and pathways to environmentally sustainable and socially just development, primarily in the forest and water sectors. He has worked at Pacific Institute, Harvard University, ISEC, CISED and is now a Distinguished Fellow in Environmental Policy and Governance at ATREE, Bangalore. His most recent (edited) book is 'Rethinking Environmentalism', published by MIT Press. He was a member of the Bellandur Lake Rejuvenation Expert Committee in 2016 and Secretary of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission's Task Group on Water Policy during 2018-19.

3:30 pm, 14 October, 2019
Madhava Lecture Hall
ICTS Bengaluru