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Senior Adviser - SUWASI
Principal Advisor to the Election
Commission of India

Akshay Rout is a seasoned leader with over 36 years of experience in development management, governance, and the WASH sector. He currently serves as Senior Adviser at SUWASI, supporting the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban (SBM Urban), and as Principal Advisor to the Election Commission of India.

Akshay played a key role in achieving ODF India as Director General of SBM by driving a nationwide people's movement and forming strategic partnerships. He also led initiatives at the Election Commission that resulted in record voter enrolment and turnout and established the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM).

Previously, Akshay served as Director General of Doordarshan News and Senior Fellow at NITI Aayog, as well as Senior Adviser with UNICEF and UNOPS. A respected media commentator, Akshay mentors national and international civil servants and serves as a speaker at eminent institutions.