

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 5th JUNE 2021



“ On the world environment day today, it reminds us that how important is taking care of the environment and maintaining the ecological balance. The theme of the year is 'ecological restoration', a concern that is both urgent and existential. It also reminds us the important role water has in maintaining environmental balance to support life of earth. ”

CAN WE THINK LIFE ON EARTH WITHOUT WATER! THE CLEAR ANSWER TO IT IS ALWAYS A BIG 'NO'.

The environment we live in revolves around the water being the essential element and we can imagine the value of water. The more we think about it, we find that all our activities; be it the very survival, food, production, economy, ecological sustainability, in fact each phase of human life depends on water.

The population on planet earth is about to reach 8 billion. Can the earth produce enough food to feed 8 billion people? 10 billion people? 12 billion people? As we keep on adding the load on it. It seems very difficult as one of the main factors limiting future food production will be water. This scarce resource is facing heavy and unsustainable demand from users of all kinds, and farmers increasingly have to compete for water with urban residents and industries.

The global supply and demand for

food and water is highly tilted towards demand side and the farmers will indeed find it very difficult to meet the world's food needs. Hardest hit will be the world's poorest people. The inattentiveness of stake-holders in water-related policies, investments and infrastructure management may result in a severe water crisis, which will in turn lead to a pungent food crisis. A committed and focussed approach to sustainable water management through appropriate policies and matching investments will help in a water- and food-secure world.

Basic Human Need

Nothing is more fundamental to life than water. Not only is water a basic human need, but adequate safe water supplement the nation's health, economy, food security, and ecosystem. India, a country endowed with abundance of water not too far

ago, is now facing an unprecedented crisis of drinking water in all major cities. The situation is further worsening as demand supply gap is widening bigger and frequent water conflicts between states are always part of our news stories. The United Nations is repeatedly saying that 'access to safe water is a fundamental human need and, therefore, a basic human right.'

Clean drinking water that was easily available to masses globally a few decades ago has become a luxury now and remains out of reach of large number of people. Current estimates submit that more than a billion people have no access to clean and safe water sources putting their lives at greater risk. These people rank among the poorest in the world and the absence of a safe water supply contributes to an estimated 80 per cent of disease and death in the developing world.

“Ecosystem Restoration with Water”,
By Mr. Subhash Sethi, Chairman, SPML Infra Limited

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Value of Water

Safe and clean water is absolutely essential as it can affect our ability of living a full and healthy life, for our social and business needs and for the ecological sustainability. The value of water is much more than its price – as human needs water to survive similarly business needs water to thrive. Water has enormous and complex value for our livelihood, food, culture, health, education, economics and almost everything we can probably think about. If we overlook any of these values, we risk mismanaging this finite, irreplaceable resource. The United Nations' has an important target under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for global development, and that is dedicated to safe water. It has proposed the member countries to make significant efforts to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.

With just a fraction of world's fresh water sources in India for almost 18

per cent of global population, the crisis can be imagined that out of the very limited water availability, almost 80 per cent of our surface water is contaminated. Nearly 60 percent of our ground water reserves have already been polluted with biological, organic, and inorganic impurities. These are the symptoms of a larger problem that would affect availability and sustainability of safe water in the country.

Way to Water

India's constantly rising population, heightened economic activities, growing per capita income and lack of sensitivity about water wastage and reuse are posing a greater challenge for water. The need to proper management of water resources and ardent efforts towards reducing the water footprint is completely indispensable.

Innovative approach and technological intervention are required to be adopted swiftly for accurately measuring of water

consumption in agriculture, industrial and municipal sectors and properly plan the most suitable means to reduce water usage as much as possible. Each one of us has to play an important role by actively using limited amount of water whenever required to make a significant impact on water security. Water is important because it is needed for life to exist.

SPML Infra continues its dedication to promoting sustainable water management solutions, a task that is increasingly becoming essential and complex as the supply-demand management is plagued by water source depletion. The company has acquired a thorough understanding of water sector and business operations in India through its experience of 40 years of rich legacy completing more than 600 projects. The company's extensive experience and knowledge of the water sector has led it to be among the amongst top water management companies in the world."

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