



NEWS BULLETIN

Plants and Pollution ENVIS RP-NBRI

Vol. 03, March 2022

World Water Day-2022

CSIR-NATIONAL BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LUCKNOW

Message for World Water Day 2022

UN Environment Programme, 22 March 2022

I do not need to tell you that the global water challenge we face is one of epic proportions – that of quality, of quantity, of equity, of access, of climate, of peace, and of poverty and human dignity. The most recent SDG monitoring cycle revealed that over 3 billion people are at risk because they don't know enough about the health of surface and groundwater resources.

This is why World Water Day this year draws attention to the invisible but essential ingredient of all life on earth –our groundwater resources. Groundwater provides almost half of all drinking water worldwide but is under siege the world over.

We at UNEP speak of the triple planetary crisis facing humanity – of climate change, of nature and biodiversity loss, and of pollution and waste. In its focus on the drivers, pressures and responses to freshwater quality – we have a real opportunity to understand the nexus of water pollution, health, food security and ecosystems.

We need a two-pronged approach. One, is to address the over-exploitation of groundwater resources by human activity and consequently, strengthen groundwater governance. Globally, the amount of water extracted from aquifers has increased three-fold in the past fifty years. As we draw indiscriminately from ground water, we put human health and well-being at risk. As UNEP's work has shown, smart solutions like deploying more efficient metering technology in urban areas can help reduce water consumption. In our work in Algeria, Libya and Tunisia, strengthened institutions and the sustainable use of water resources has greatly supported climate smart livelihood activities in the harsh Sahara climate.

Second,.....

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World Water Day 2022: Groundwater, invisible but vital to health

WHO, 22 March 2022

The only time many people really think about groundwater is when things have gone terribly wrong— when they hear about community wells drying up or when toxic chemicals have leached into the groundwater, causing long, arduous walks to distant water supplies or cancers that appear after years of exposure.

The reaction is one of horror and sympathy. They look at the water in their glasses differently for a moment. Then they forget.

But it's important to remember that groundwater provides half of all water used by households worldwide, a quarter of all the water drawn for irrigated agriculture, and one third of the water supply required for industry.

This year's World Water Day aims to make groundwater more visible.

The launch of the UN World Water Development report sounds the alarm on the many current and impending threats to groundwater, exacerbated by climate change and ever-growing demand — and therefore to the health and wellbeing of billions of people — and challenges to its safe use.

But there are also solutions to these threats that deliver outsized health benefits. It's time for the world to make good its commitment to fulfil the 2030 sustainable development goal of ensuring universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene. Improving sanitation management can have a profound,.....

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World Water Day 2022: History, theme and significance of the day

[The Indian Express, 22 March 2022](#)

Water is a quintessential part of everyone’s life as it has enormous and complex value in our households, food, culture, health, education, economics and natural environment.

However, due to its injudicious consumption and pollution, billions of people are deprived of access to safe water, risking their lives.

Observed on March 22 every year, World Water Day is, therefore, a significant celebration, aimed at focusing on the importance of water and raising awareness about more than 2 billion people living without access to safe water.

“It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis.

A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030,” according to the United Nations.

Every year, UN-Water sets a special theme to observe the day. This year, the day is celebrated with the theme – Groundwater, making the invisible visible.

“Groundwater is invisible, but its impact is visible everywhere. Out of sight, under our feet, groundwater is a hidden treasure that enriches our lives. Almost all of the liquid freshwater in the world is groundwater.

As climate change gets worse, groundwater will become more and more critical. We need to work together to sustainably manage this precious resource.

Groundwater may be out of sight, but it must not be out of mind,” worldwaterday.org wrote,.....

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World Water Day 2022: 5 simple steps to conserve water

[Times of India, 22 March 2022](#)

Water is the wonder liquid without which the existence of human beings would cease. It is one of the few basic necessities of survival for mankind. However, due to rampant use and unawareness about the depleting water resources, a huge amount of water is wasted daily. It is painful to know that close to 2.2 billion people in the world are currently surviving without access to safe water.

The groundwater level, an invisible resource with an impact visible everywhere as said by the United Nations, is decreasing gradually. "Life would not be possible without groundwater. Most arid areas of the world depend entirely on groundwater. Groundwater supplies a large proportion of the water we use for drinking, sanitation, food production and industrial processes. It is also critically important to the healthy functioning of ecosystems, such as wetlands and rivers," says the UN and emphasizes on curbing overexploitation of the groundwater. "We must protect them from overexploitation – abstracting more water than is recharged by rain and snow - and the pollution that currently haunts them, since it can lead to the depletion of this resource, extra-costs of processing it, and sometimes even preventing its use," it says.

In order to create awareness on fresh water, the United Nations observes World Water Day on 22 March every year. The first World Water Day was observed in 1993.

"A core focus,.....

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