

22ND MARCH 2023

World Water Day

Theme: “Accelerating Change”

World Water Day became a UN observance day in 1993. It seeks to focus attention on the global water crisis and to understand the importance of conserving water. One of the most important things to have is access to clean drinking water. Life on Earth would be impossible without a sufficient and reliable supply of water. Unfortunately, water resources are contaminated and misused in such a way that we have reached a point of severe water scarcity today.

Every year, World Water Day is celebrated on 22 March, which raises awareness and inspires action to tackle the water and sanitation crisis. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water.

This year's theme is about accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis. It aims to urge governments, civil society, and individuals to accelerate progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and sanitation. To ensure safe drinking, bathing, and using proper sanitation facilities for everyone, we need more action, ambition, and innovation.

Why World Water Day is important?

The growing demands for water, coupled with poor water management, have increased water stress around the world.

◆ *It affects millions of people*

An estimated 780 million people live without clean, accessible drinking water. Drinking contaminated water can lead to a host of life-threatening diseases.

◆ *Water pollution affects wildlife*

It is not only humans that require access to clean water. Every year, countless animals die as a result of water pollution. Pollution can occur in many ways, from physical litter to wastewater and chemical runoff, which causes the water to become toxic to the animals that depend on it for drinking and habitation.

◆ *Water relates to many other environmental issues*

Many of the environmental problems we are coping with are intertwined- climate change and ecosystem degradation are related to, and sometimes direct causes, of water pollution, floods, and droughts.

Four things to know about water










1. Water for sustainable development: Approximately 35% of treated water is currently lost in urban water systems. Policy, institutional and regulatory reforms are needed for sustainable and equitable water use.

2. Water for climate resilience: Nearly 955 of infrastructure losses and damage reported between 2010 to 2019 were due to water-related disasters. To build resilience, sustainable use of water resources is key to dealing with climate and environmental emergencies.

3. Water for health: Drinking water and sanitation are human rights. An accelerated rate of progress on water, sanitation, and hygiene is needed to meet the SDG targets.

4. Water for cooperation: 153 countries share transboundary rivers, lakes, and aquifers. Joining the UN-Water Conventions is a practical step to bolster political support for transboundary water cooperation.

Some things you can do to celebrate/observe World Water Day

-  Organize a photo contest or local exhibition themed on water and sanitation.
-  Visit a lake, wetland, or river and learn more about your closest water ecosystem.
-  If you are a teacher or student, organize/ propose a lesson on water or get the whole school involved in water and sanitation-themed activities.
-  Host a concert, play, or sports event to draw attention to local water and sanitation issues.
-  Organize a talk in your school, university, community, office, or organization to start a conversation on water and sanitation.
-  Think about what water and sanitation mean to you and make an artwork, song, or film as inspiration for others.
-  Clean up your local water source.
-  Try to reduce your water footprint.
-  Plant more trees to help the environment as it will improve soil quality, prevent soil erosion, prevent flooding, and minimize climate change impacts.

