

# International Day of Actions for Rivers

**14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
2024**

*Theme: “Water for All”*

## About International Day of Actions for Rivers

The International Day of Action for Rivers is observed annually on March 14<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness about the importance of rivers and advocate for the sustainable management and protection of freshwater resources. This day serves as a platform for communities, organizations, and individuals worldwide to come together and take action to address the various threats facing rivers, including pollution, over-extraction, habitat destruction, and dam construction.

The International Day of Action for Rivers was first organized in 1997 by the International Rivers Network (now known as International Rivers), a global environmental organization dedicated to protecting rivers and defending the rights of river-dependent communities. Since then, it has grown into a global movement involving thousands of people participating in events such as river cleanups, advocacy campaigns, educational workshops, and community celebrations.

## Theme

The theme for International Day of Actions for Rivers 2024 is, “*Water for All*”, which highlights the need for clean and accessible water for everyone regardless of their social status. This day aims to promote sustainable water management practices and encourages people to take action to protect rivers and freshwater sources in their communities.



# Objectives of the International Day of Action for Rivers

- 1. Raising Awareness:** Increasing public awareness about the value of rivers and the importance of preserving freshwater ecosystems for biodiversity, human health, and sustainable development.
- 2. Promoting Action:** Mobilizing individuals and communities to take concrete actions to protect and restore rivers, such as reducing pollution, conserving water, advocating for policy changes, and supporting grassroots conservation initiatives.
- 3. Fostering Collaboration:** Facilitating collaboration and partnerships among governments, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, and other stakeholders to address common challenges and find sustainable solutions for river management.
- 4. Advocating for Rights:** Advocating for the rights of river-dependent communities, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized groups who rely on rivers for their livelihoods, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs.
- 5. Celebrating Rivers:** Celebrating the cultural, ecological, and economic significance of rivers through art, music, storytelling, and other creative expressions.

International Day of Action for Rivers is an opportunity to galvanize support for the protection and restoration of rivers, promote water justice, and advance the global goal of ensuring clean and healthy freshwater resources for all.

**Did you know?**

***Doyang river is the longest and the largest river in Nagaland.***



## Challenges faced by Indian Rivers

Indian rivers face a multitude of challenges, threatening their health and sustainability:

- **Pollution:** Industrial effluents, agricultural runoff, and untreated sewage discharge contribute to severe pollution in Indian rivers. This pollution not only affects the quality of water but also endangers aquatic life and poses health risks to communities relying on these water sources.
- **Over-Extraction:** Excessive extraction of water for irrigation, industrial purposes, and domestic use leads to reduced water flow in rivers, exacerbating water scarcity issues, particularly in dry seasons and drought-prone regions.
- **Deforestation and Encroachment:** Deforestation along riverbanks and encroachment into floodplains disrupt natural ecosystems, increase soil erosion, and reduce the capacity of rivers to absorb excess water during monsoon seasons, leading to more frequent and severe flooding events.
- **Dams and Water Diversion:** Construction of dams and diversion of river water for hydropower generation, irrigation projects, and urbanization disrupts natural river flow, alters ecosystems, and affects the livelihoods of communities dependent on rivers for fishing and agriculture.
- **Climate Change:** Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and melting glaciers contribute to changing hydrological cycles, leading to altered river flows, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and accelerated glacier melting, particularly in Himalayan rivers.



Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts from governments, policymakers, communities, and civil society organizations to implement sustainable water management practices, strengthen regulatory frameworks, promote eco-friendly development initiatives, and raise awareness about the importance of protecting and preserving India's precious river systems.

## Ways to Observe International Day of Action of Rivers

- ◆ Practice actively in social movements and initiatives.
- ◆ Help people understand the significance of rivers.
- ◆ Creating posters and slogans that focus on restoring and maintaining rivers.
- ◆ Clean up water and other water sources to show their importance.
- ◆ Organize a photo campaign that captures the importance of rivers.

**Did you know?**

***Estuary name is given to the lower part of the river as it nears the ocean.***

