

World Toilet Day

19TH NOVEMBER 2023

Theme: "Accelerating Change"

World Toilet Day:

The hummingbird is the symbol of World Toilet Day 2023 and the theme for World Toilet Day is *"Accelerating Change"*. This theme emphasizes the critical need to facilitate transformative actions and initiatives that address sanitation challenges head-on. It serves as a reminder that the global sanitation crisis demands not just attention but immediate and concerted efforts to bring about real and impactful change in the lives of millions who still lack access to clean and safe sanitation facilities. *"Accelerating Change"* outlines the collective resolve to advance toward a world where the dignity, health, and well-being of all individuals are upheld through improved sanitation practices and infrastructure.

Significance of World Toilet Day

- 1. Public Health:** Access to clean and safe toilets is essential for public health. World Toilet Day draws attention to the role of proper sanitation in preventing diseases and improving overall well-being, especially in communities with inadequate facilities.
- 2. Gender Equality:** This day brings attention to the increased vulnerability faced by women and girls in many parts of the world due to inadequate sanitation. This day advocates for gender equality by addressing the specific needs and safety concerns of women and girls.
- 3. Economic Impact:** Proper sanitation can have a positive economic impact as it reduces healthcare costs, increases productivity, and contributes to economic development.
- 4. Environmentally Sustainability:** Sustainable sanitation practices, such as wastewater management and eco-friendly toilet solutions, are essential for preserving the environment. It promotes eco-conscious approaches to sanitation.

- 5. Global Awareness: World Toilet Day** raises global awareness about sanitation challenges and mobilizes efforts to address them. It encourages governments, organizations, and individuals to take action.

Global Sanitation Crisis

- There are 3.5 billion people still living without safe toilets. 419 million people still practice open defecation. Which leads to the spreading of diseases killing 1000 children under five every single day. This global crisis poses a threat to nature and everyone's health, particularly women, girls, and other vulnerable groups.
- Inadequate sanitation facilities and the practice of open defecation contribute to the spread of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid.
- Improper disposal of human waste can lead to environmental pollution, contamination of water sources, and ecological challenges.
- Sanitation crisis can have economic consequences as well.

Importance of Toilets

- Toilets are given importance as it is a foundation stone of public health and play a critical role in protecting the environment.
- Without improved sanitation facilities and awareness, the risks of infections and other illnesses from fecal sludge are extremely high.
- Untreated human waste contaminates the environment, including important surface and groundwater resources. Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water for billions of people around the world and inadequate sanitation systems will put entire communities at risk.

