

WORLD WATER DAY

Indian Water Resources Society, Meerut Chapter

MARCH 22, 2022

THEME: GROUNDWATER - MAKING INVISIBLE VISIBLE

Celebration of World Water Day this year was unique in its concept and scope whereby water managers and end users were brought on a common platform to share views and problems on a wider canvass. Appreciating the importance of the theme this year, Sri Surendra Singh IAS Commissioner Meerut Division suggested IWRS Meerut Centre to convene the programme in his office auditorium and indicated that he would ask CDO's, DDO's, BDO's, ADO's, DPRO's, Gram Pradhans and some progressive farmers from his entire Division to join. Accordingly we had about 100+ participants which comprised of – in addition to above functionaries – officers from Minor Irrigation, Groundwater Board, Meerut Development Authority, Municipal Commissioner, Media & members of IWRS.

Programme started with floral tributes to Jal Kalash by Ms Medha Rupam IAS Addl Commissioner and Sri S.K.Kumar Chairman IWRS Meerut Centre, followed by welcome address and introduction of IWRS by Sri B.D.Sharma Convener IWRS Meerut. Introducing the theme Sri S.K.Kumar said that although groundwater sustains life and ecosystem on our planet, its invisibility is the main cause of its wastage and pollution. We must replenish what we extract from this precious storage by rainwater harvesting, harnessing surface flows into new and reactivated water bodies & by watershed management. Economizing in agricultural application & replacement by reused/recycled water was stressed upon. Superintending Engineer Minor Irrigation Meerut stressed the need of prior approval for private borings for agriculture, relieving ponds from encroachments, their revival and constructing new ponds. Er Nav Ratna Kamal from Groundwater Board showed graphically the alarming depletion of groundwater table in NCR and called for urgent rainwater harnessing for its uplift. Sri B. D. Sharma Convener IWRS Meerut and an expert on RWH gave detailed PP presentation of various techniques of rooftop RWH and replenishing groundwater from them. Addresses were followed by an open session in which participants raised queries about groundwater conservation and problems faced by them. All their doubts were successfully allayed. Several gram pradhans complained about unrestricted extraction, wastage & pollution of groundwater. Ms Medha Rupam Additional Commissioner suggested that there were existing provisions in law for punitive action against misuse and/or wastage of groundwater, and they should be invoked if necessary.

Sri Surendra Singh Commissioner who joined a little later spoke at length about the need of rainwater and surface flow harvesting for feeding aquifers using defunct tubewells, pumping sets and hand pumps. Before rains ponds should be cleaned, free flow to ponds is ensured, and encroachments on them be removed. Close monitoring is needed of all RWH infrastructures in place well before onset of monsoons. He appreciated the initiative taken by IWRS Meerut Chapter in creating focus on these urgent issues.

Mementoes were presented to Commissioner and Additional Commissioner by Sri S.K.Kumar Chairman IWRS Meerut, who also proposed vote of thanks to all participants, and especially to Commissioner Meerut Division for his kind support and cooperation in making the celebration of World Water Day a grand success. Function came to an end after National Anthem.