

# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Sunday 5 June, 2022

National Seminar on Global Theme

**“ONLY ONE EARTH”**

(Projected by United Nations Environment Programme)

Indian Water Resources Society (IWRS) Meerut Center in collaboration with Department of Environmental Science, Chaudhary Charan Singh (CCS) University Meerut, organized above seminar on World Environment Day (WED) in Brihaspati Bhawan, CCS University campus.

More than anything else it is water which sustains our ecosystem while its degradation is also reflected most in water resources like dying rivers, vanishing ponds & lakes, rising sea levels, receding glaciers, shrinking Arctic & disintegrating Antarctica polar caps, plummeting groundwater levels and fast approaching Day Zero in many metros across the globe. Also the whole cultural gamut of rituals in any faith revolves around water & water bodies right from birth unto death, even though sometimes instrumental in polluting them also. It is therefore in fitness of things that Indian Water Resources Society (IWRS) should lead from front the crusade for conserving ecology on this landmark World Environment Day.

“Only One Earth” was the slogan of first WED which was declared by UN General Assembly in 1972 and it was again made the theme of this WED after 50 years, more for stocktaking of environmental degradation in this period – as also of our preparedness to keep this planet ecologically sustainable for a healthy existence. But the theme is so vast and encompasses so many dimensions of Environment that confining our discussions only to that would have not only been unfocussed but futile in arriving at conclusions and recommendations. Hence IWRS subdivided the theme into five topics where immediate action was called for – making our function equivalent to five seminars, each with a different and expert keynote speaker.

Before the start of Technical session, a voice message of good wishes and blessings to IWRS Meerut from **Dr Anil Joshi Padma Vibhushan and famous environmentalist** was played to the audience, in which he also regretted his inability to grace our function personally despite our pressing invitation.

**First keynote speaker on “Global Warming & Water Resources” was Prof Y. Vimla, Pro Vice Chancellor CCS University.** She underlined that global warming was increasing due to unrestricted carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, resulting in rising sea levels which combined with shrinking polar caps, receding glaciers etc, will spell doom on water resources and therefore human life itself. She suggested measures to control and reverse emissions by minimizing use of fossil fuels & adopting new technologies.

**Second Topic was “Wildlife and Deforestation” on which Sri D.V.Kapil IFS (Retd) was our keynote speaker.** He emphasized that ecological balance can only be maintained when we respect the space, needs and culture of our wildlife which sustains our ecosystem to a great extent. He lamented indiscriminate felling of trees for development activities of which not even 10% are neither sown nor shifted despite available technology. Forest cover should be increased.

**Mr. Pramod Kumar Additional Municipal Commissioner Meerut was third keynote speaker on “Population Urbanization and Migration”.** He identified migration from rural to urban areas and population explosion as main causes of worsening sanitation system in towns. Maintenance of essential services is obstructed by encroachments on drains and sewers, and their removal is delayed due to lengthy legal tangles. He felt that new norms to suit present conditions be laid down for municipal areas, as existing laws have become obsolete.

**“Noise Pollution and Habitat Problems” was fourth topic which was dealt with by keynote speaker Er. G.C.Tripathi, Consultant for MSME & Smart City Programme.** He emphasized that although Noise Pollution gets lesser attention but prolonged exposure to loud noise on all living beings is lethal. It causes hearing loss, heart attacks and scores of psychological problems. Caused by vehicular and air traffic, construction activities, functions/processions etc, there are specific rules/laws to keep noise levels within permissible limits but are hardly invoked or implemented seriously. He called for technological sound control, curb on horns & also people’s involvement in the drive against Noise Pollution.

**“Zero Waste Management” was another topic on which Ms Somi Tandon Former Secretary Defence Accounts, Government of India was speaker by special invitation.** She shared her personal efforts in this very important sector of Environmental conservation, due to which she actually produces zero waste from her house. In addition she uses solar energy for most of her electrical requirements,

uses solar cookers for excellent culinary preparations, and practices rainwater harvesting. For zero waste management (to quote her) she creates “something out of nothing”; her preparations from waste range from garden manure to flower pots to cleansing liquids and many more.

Earlier the WED ceremonies started with offering floral tributes to Jal Kalash as per IWRS tradition and playing Rashtra Geet. Simultaneously the panel of judges finalized their examination of posters submitted by students on the theme of WED. Prof A.K.Chaube, Chairperson welcomed the honoured guests, participants, eminent speakers, distinguished audience and students. Er. B.D.Sharma, Convener IWRS Meerut Center gave an introduction of IWRS & its activities. He emphasized that any person who understands and cares for water can be a partner in these activities by becoming member of IWRS. Er S.K.Kumar Chairman IWRS Meerut Center introduced the Theme of the seminar and gave the background for its adoption for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WED. He also explained subdivisions of the theme into five most important topics which also he introduced briefly along with their keynote speakers. A Souvenir containing abstracts of papers on the theme submitted by participants was then released by Prof Y.Vimla, Pro Vice Chancellor of CCS University.

The function was concluded with presentation of mementoes to keynote speakers and awards to three winners of poster competition. Address of blessings was given by Prof Y.Vimla Pro Vice Chancellor CCS University. Vote of Thanks was presented by Er B.D.Sharma Convener IWRS Meerut.