



(L to R) Hon'ble Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri U.P. Singh, Secretary General, ICID, Shri A.B. Pandya, Hon'ble Secretary, DWS, Shri Parameswaran Iyer, Ambassador of Germany, Mr. Walter Linder, Hon'ble Justice T.S. Doaba and Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu.

## Water: A human right that must be maintained

Hon'ble Secretary, DoWR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri U.P. Singh commenced the plenary session by addressing the issue of scarcity of water resources in India, wherein 4% of freshwater reserves are catering to the needs of 17% of the world's population. Since the distribution of rainfall is not uniform throughout the country, the issues of water scarcity are extending towards groundwater reserves as well.

He mentioned that certain Indian states are heading towards scarcity because of the depletion of natural resources. Shri U.P. Singh shed light on several policies introduced by the government to the



Participants at the 6<sup>th</sup> India Water Week 2019.

frontline, that tackle issues such as water usage, regulation, more coverage area for irrigation (PMKSY), etc.

The Hon'ble Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri Parameswaran Iyer spoke about the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and Jal Jeewan Mission. He drew parallels between the Swach Bharat Abhiyan and Jal Andolan

where delivery of services includes all levels of society which ensures the success of the movement. Inclusivity promotes ownership, hence every individual feels responsible for the management and conservation of water.

He shed light on the aims of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, which is focused on the water stressed districts in Western India. The methods being used for relieving the water deficit are rainwater harvesting, reuse, recharge, watershed development, intensive afforestation etc.

Mr. Iyer also discussed the Jal Jeevan Mission which is working towards providing 100% household water supply in 5 years. The 4 pillars of the mission as are source sustainability, piped water supply, reuse of grey water and operation and maintenance. His Excellency, the Ambassador of Germany, Mr. Walter Linder, commenced his address by talking about the most pressing issue of climate change. He talked about how industrialisation and development have led to the destruction of natural resources of the world. Public participation and cognizance of the climatic situations at hand are essential. Since India is home to 17% of the world's population, solutions devised by India as a country will be helpful and implemented by other countries facing similar issues.

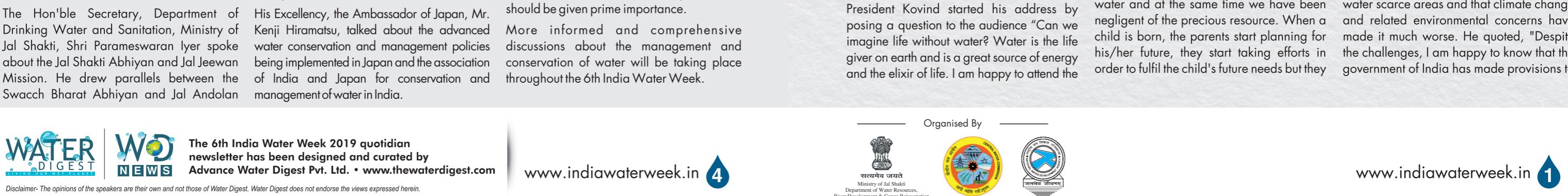
His Excellency, the Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, talked about the advanced water conservation and management policies being implemented in Japan and the association of India and Japan for conservation and management of water in India.

Hon'ble Justice T.S. Doaba talked about water as a basic human right. He stated that clean water should be available in every household.

Hon'ble Secretary General ICID, Shri A.B. Pandya, informed the gathering that most of the Indian states attain their water from transnational sources. He mentioned that the International and regional cooperation are extremely important in the water sector. He called international cooperation of water sources as a precondition for sustainable growth. According to Mr. Pandya, informed water diplomacy is the need of the hour to manage water. Innovation, adoption and communication between countries can lead to a productive solution for conflict ridden water areas. Bilateral and multilateral agreements, financial motivation and unbiased guidance can lead to improved international cooperation and organisation of water basins.

Shri U.P. Singh concluded the session by bringing out source sustainability and cooperation as the proactive solutions to the water issues at hand. He stated that the focus is to be shifted from conflict to positive management of the limited resources of water we have. Further, demand management and conventional and feasible storage of water should be given prime importance.

More informed and comprehensive discussions about the management and conservation of water will be taking place throughout the 6th India Water Week.



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सत्यमेव जयते  
Ministry of Jal Shakti  
Department of Water Resources,  
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

## Water is the Life Giver on Earth: Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind



(L to R) Hon'ble Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri U.P. Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri Rattanlal Kataria, and Chairman CWC, Shri A.K. Sinha

The Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 6<sup>th</sup> India Water Week 2019.

Other eminent personalities present at the event were the Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri Rattanlal Kataria,

the Hon'ble Secretary, DoWR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri U.P. Singh, Chairman Central Water Commission, Shri A.K. Sinha and the others.

President Kovind started his address by posing a question to the audience "Can we imagine life without water? Water is the life giver on earth and is a great source of energy and the elixir of life. I am happy to attend the

6<sup>th</sup> India Water Week and I hope all of us will engage in meaningful discussion and help find solutions to address water related issues in India. Our Vedas and Indian scriptures have highlighted its importance."

"Over the ages, great civilisations developed alongside water, be it the Indus Valley Civilisation, Egyptian, Chinese or be it cities like Varanasi, Madurai, Paris or Moscow, they are all next to rivers. Where there was water, humanity survived and thrived. Nowadays, we humans search for water and at the same time we have been negligent of the precious resource. When a child is born, the parents start planning for his/her future, they start taking efforts in order to fulfil the child's future needs but they

never think about their child's need for safe and clean drinking water for survival. We owe it to the future generations who make water conservation their priority", he added.

The Hon'ble President stated that water issues are too multi-faceted and complex to be solved by the government or a nation alone. All nations and their water committees must come together to build a water sustainable future. He mentioned that almost 40% of the world's population lives in water scarce areas and that climate change and related environmental concerns have made it much worse. He quoted, "Despite the challenges, I am happy to know that the government of India has made provisions to

provide safe and clean drinking water to all citizens as its prime motive. To ensure better development and sanitary conditions, the government merged several departments and ministries and created the new Ministry of Jal Shakti which will provide a single window process for all water related issues."

President Kovind highlighted the aspect of 'Jal Jeevan Mission' and termed it bold and ambitious, as presently only 18% of rural Indian households get piped water. He informed that the mission will focus on integrated demand and supply side management of water at the local level and will create infrastructure for rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge. He was confident that widespread participation of people will help the govt. achieve this goal. He also said that the PMKSY Yojana is a major initiative for farmers under the vision



The Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 6<sup>th</sup> India Water Week 2019.

of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He stated that India is blessed with many rivers and that cleaning these rivers has been a prime task that the government has been working on actively under the National

Mission for Clean Ganga (NCGM). NCGM maintains the cleanliness and aims at cleaning the holy Ganga and other rivers. And that it will be a joint effort of everyone. He requested the citizens to not immerse idols in the river bodies or opt for environmentally friendly idols during festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi and Durga Puja.

He also mentioned how India is on the verge of becoming ODF free and the spirit must be maintained for the Jal Shakti Abhiyan. The Hon'ble President also advised people to not forget the old methods of conservation but rather merge both the new and old technologies and create a more efficient system for suitable ways of conserving water. The Hon'ble President of India concluded his address by wishing success to India Water Week 2019.

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in his inaugural address mentioned that India Water Week is a platform to gather and discuss possible ways to find solutions pertaining in the waters sector. He quoted the



Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat felicitating the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind

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The Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, delivering his address at the 6<sup>th</sup> India Water Week 2019.

Rigveda saying, "Water has nectar like powers". He highlighted the aspect of considering water as a sacred commodity in the Indian culture and how it is a significant molecule in the field of science and spirituality.

The Union Minister also mentioned how cooperation and integrated effort is an essential aspect of sustainability and that every stakeholder at every level must come together to plan out a sustainable India for the future generations. Shri Shekhawat ended his address by extending a vote of thanks to all the national and international audience, representatives from all the key sectors, Ministry partners etc.

Shri Rattanlal Kataria mentioned how water is an important aspect



Shri Rattanlal Kataria delivering his address at the 6<sup>th</sup> India Water Week 2019.

of our life and that India comprises 17% of the world's population with just 4% of freshwater resources. Shri Kataria talked about how there are many problems with regards to water but then we will have to fight against the odds. He highlighted the aspect of wastewater treatment technologies and reuse of the same and stated that it should be given prime importance.

Shri U.P. Singh gave a detailed note of India Water Week and hoped that the 5-day conference would result in finding out solutions to water related issues in India.

The inaugural session witnessed the participation of almost 1,500 industry members, government representatives, private players and others.



Shri U.P. Singh delivering his address at the 6<sup>th</sup> India Water Week 2019.

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