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PRESS RELEASE

Dr Rajendra Singh, waterman of India, underscores the significance of community participation for water conservation; throws light on the effectiveness of traditional community driven decentralized water management system.

Dr Rajendra Singh, renowned environmentalist and water conservationist, who is also known as Waterman of India highlighted the significance of community driven decentralized water management system in ensuring proper utilization of water.

He was delivering a key note address at Golden Jubilee Lecture Theatre of IIT (ISM) as part of a lecture series being organized by Department of Environmental Science & Engineering under Mission Life, during which large number of faculty members, students and research scholars were present and underscored the point that apart from government, community and society will have to come forward to ensure water conservation.

Beginning his lecture in interactive way he said that our traditional Indian Way of Living had the inbuilt system where the community used to ensure effective management of water but as we modern era of development began started on concentrating primarily on extraction of resources without concentrating on rejuvenation or replenishment of the same leading to the generation of problems, like flood, drought etc.

He narrated the initial phase of his transformation from a government servant to an environmentalist after leaving his job as an Ayurveda doctor and later working incessantly for conservation of rivers with the help of common people.

Elaborating about the advantages of community driven decentralized water management system he cited the example of Jaisalmer from where a lot of trade used to take place from Middle East from than 700 years ago.

He further said that during that period there was a community driven system where the common people were informed on regular basis about the availability of water in their area and that was the reason for lack of crisis of water in those days.

He, however rued that in present time despite making all the progress we are not aware about the stock of water in our respective areas which is very pathetic state of affairs.

He further stressed upon the need for conservation of rivers and said that making large dams over the rivers are not going to water instead of that small but multiple dams are required in order to conserve water.

“This is time to nourish water and our technocrats should come forward with innovative ways of nourishing, rejuvenating and replenishing our earth in order to ensure their sustainability.

Prof Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director of Dhanbad who was also present during the function informed Dr Rajendra Singh that IIT (ISM) has taken a lot of steps towards the water conservation



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and institute at present has 700 KLD of Sewage Treatment capacity and treated water is used for watering the plants in the institute etc.

Dr Anshumali, HoD Environmental Science and Engineering while delivering the welcome address apprised the gathering about the life of and work of DR Rajendra Singh.

Rajni Singh

Dean (Media & Branding)