

## The Value of Water

### Mainak Ghosal\*

Secretary, Consulting Engineers Association of India (E&NE). Kolkata; Governing Body Member, Indian Association of Structural Engineers, New Delhi, India

**\*Corresponding Author:** Mainak Ghosal, Secretary, Consulting Engineers Association of India (E&NE). Kolkata; Governing Body Member, Indian Association of Structural Engineers, New Delhi, India.

**Received:** April 01, 2022; **Published:** April 30, 2022

**DOI:** 10.55162/MCAES.02.036

The United Nations observes 22<sup>nd</sup> March as world water Day. Last year's (2021) theme was 'Valuing Water'. Can you imagine that water is priceless that is you can get it free almost without paying any price but without water, you can't live? So, water has got a value that is different from the price we pay for other commodities like food, clothing, and housing and we call it the "USE VALUE". Also, water is the most consumable material on the whole planet. Nature ensures that Water renews itself.... (saagram prathi gajjathi....manthra pushpam is about water being the essence of life). Sir. C.V. Raman has called it the Elixir of life. It is aptly said that water has

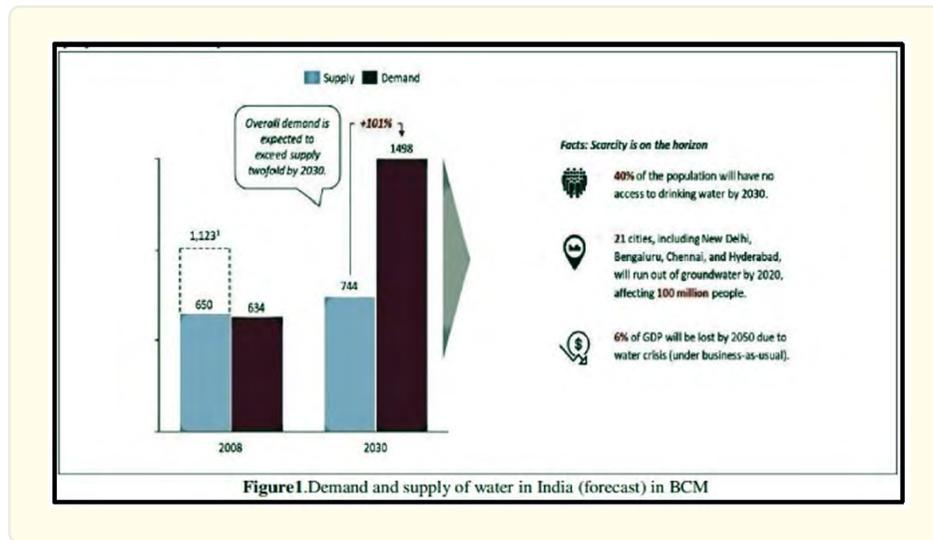
*No Colour, No Shape, No Place, But Still Very Important for Life.....!!!!*

From fulfilling our thirst to make agriculture possible, from hydropower generation to industrial production and also transport one can't go a single tread without water. Water is responsible for civilization, culture, economic growth, etc. Earth's crust is 3/4<sup>th</sup> covered by water and only 1/4<sup>th</sup> is by land. The Earth has 1386 million cubic kilometers of water including liquid and frozen forms of groundwater, oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams. But 97.5% of them are saltish and 2.5% are freshwater. Of the freshwater, 68.7% is locked up in glaciers, 29.9% exists as sub-surface fresh water and only 0.26% of the total amount of freshwater is easily accessible in reservoirs, lakes, and river systems.

In the Hindu Puranas, Varuna is the god of water(oceans), his vehicle is a Makara (crocodile) and his weapon is a Pasha (noose, rope loop) He is the guardian of the west and is particularly associated with oceans and waters. Thus, he is often attended by the river goddesses Ganga and Yamuna. So, in India, water has been an object of worship from time immemorial but in recent years, water issues have been the focus of increasing concern and debate. The NITI Aayog, also called as National Institution for Transforming India, a policy think tank of the Government of India, established with the aim to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and to enhance cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of State Governments of India has released a 'Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) in 2018 which states that all other things remaining constant India's water demand will exceed supply by a factor of two by 2030.

### Note

1. Water supply for 2008 is Narasimhan's estimate of 650 BM which differs from the Planning Commission's estimate of 1123BCM.
2. Demand for 2008 is based on Planning Commission's estimate.
3. Supply & Demand for 2030 are projections by McKinsey & Water Resource Group (WRG).



Niti Ayog further states that 40% of India's population will have no safe access to drinking water by 2030. It further goes on to state that 21 cities including metros like New Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, etc will run out of groundwater in the future affecting 100million people with 6% of our GDP will be lost by 2050 due to the water crisis only. Building upon the relevant Millennium Development Goals, there are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), SDG 6 – the 'water goal' – is to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Unless we manage our water resources carefully and satisfactorily this water issue may be the ground where the 3'd World War will be staged.

**THE EARTH, WATER AND  
THE AIR ARE NOT  
A GIFT TO US FROM OUR  
PARENTS BUT A LOAN  
FROM OUR CHILDREN**

**An Old Indian Saying**

Volume 2 Issue 5 May 2022

© All rights are reserved by Mainak Ghosal.