

## Message

World Environment Day is the most renowned day for environmental action. Since 1974, it has been celebrated every year on 5 June and widely celebrated in over 100 countries; engaging governments, businesses, celebrities and citizens to focus their efforts on a pressing environmental issue. It is our day, as human beings, to thank the environment, the earth for providing us with a suitable and healthy habitat.

Above all, World Environment Day offers a global platform for inspiring positive change. It recognizes that global change requires a global community. It pushes for individuals to think about the way they consume; for businesses to develop greener models; for farmers and manufacturers to produce more sustainably; for governments to safeguard wild spaces; for educators to inspire students to live in harmony with the Earth; and for youth to become fierce gatekeepers of a green future.

For healthy living, environment plays an important role. It provides us air, food, etc. It is correctly said that 'the difference between animals and humans is that animals change themselves for the environment, but humans change the environment for themselves'. Environment is just like our neighbourhood, its surrounding conditions influence us and modify growth and development. In a world like today, it has become necessary to address the environmental issues like deforestation, increasing global warming, wastage and losses of food, pollution etc.

Today the entire world is hit by the Pandemic, Covid-19. The world has cut its daily carbon dioxide emissions at the peak of the pandemic shutdown. The sky is more clearer, the waters are less polluted, promoting co-existence of all beings. This shows, we as humans should show gratitude to the nature and the efforts should be to strike a fine balance between environment and development. We must strive towards sustainable development.

Recently the 'Cyclone Nisarga', which made landfall in the western coast of India, left a trail of destruction in coastal states including Goa after gusty winds and heavy rain damaged trees and homes across these states.

When the nature turns hostile, there is absolutely no place where life can hide. The nature's fury is inescapable. Therefore we all must respect nature and our environment and try to harmonize our life with it.

Goa is blessed with scenic beauty and greenery. And it's our duty to save it and maintain its purity. As citizens we must spread awareness by talking to our children, family, colleagues about how we can save our environment from manmade hazards. Encourage yourself, your children and family to plant saplings. Make and maintain a small farm or garden. Grow fruits, vegetables. Learn about various seeds, plants and manure. People staying in urban areas may face space constraints; they can still use their balcony, rooftops, window panes for small plants and pot gardening. Reduce the use of vehicles, thereby reducing pollution. Walk or ride a bicycle when possible. "Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Restore, Recycle". Take time on this World Environment Day to learn about these concepts. There are many things that you can do on a personal level, if you just keep these 5R's in your mind.

(Satya Pal Malik)  
Secretary to Governor

4<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.