

Competition Cosmos

World Toilet Day

In 2001, World Toilet organisation established World Toilet Day and made it an official UN day in 2013. The resolution (A/RES/67/291) of declaring World Toilet Day titled, 'Sanitation for All' was adopted on July 2013. It encourages increasing access to sanitation among the poor along with a call to end the practice of open air-defecation which is harmful to public health. UN-Water leads a task force of international agencies to campaign around a common theme. Let us tell you that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, also promises sanitation for all by 2030.

About 'Safely Managed Sanitation'

When a person has 'safely managed sanitation' that means that he or she has hygienic toilet facilities that are not shared with other households and excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated off-site. It is also separated from human contact. In this way, it protects people and environment from disease agents. For an example; flush, pour flush toilets that are connected to piped sewer systems, septic tanks or latrine pits, ventilated improved pit latrines, composing toilets or pit latrines with slab covers.

KNOW THIS

- More than half the global population, around 4.2 billion people live without safely managed sanitation.
- Do you know that in the whole world around 673 million people still practice open defecation.

- Around 3 million people lack basic hand washing facilities.
- Sanitation crisis is untreated human waste is spreading **diseases** into water supplies and the food chain for billions of people.
- Every year about 432,000 diarrhoeal deaths are caused due to inadequate sanitation and is a major cause of various diseases including intestinal worms, trachoma and schistosomiasis.
- Every year around 297,000 children die from diarrhoea due to unsafe drinking water, sanitation and hand hygiene.
- Countries that are affected by protracted conflict and children living there under the age of five are on average; nearly 20 times are more likely to die. They die due to diarrhoea caused by a lack of water, sanitation and hygiene than by direct violence.
- Loss of productivity to water and sanitation related diseases costs various countries up to 5% of GDP.

Therefore, World Toilet Day raises awareness about the sanitation and focuses to have an access to a clean toilet for good health globally. Sanitation is a human right and to come out of poverty it is necessary to focus on sanitation.

World Toilet Day 2019: Theme

The theme for World Toilet Day 2019 is "Leaving No One Behind" and in 2018 was "When Nature Calls".

In 2019, the theme focuses on the expanding sanitation access to the more than 4.2 billion people living without safely managed sanitation options. The USAID's Water and Development plan is to help in closing the sanitation gap and to provide sustainable access to sanitation services to 8 million people by 2022. The approach of this agency is to engage the private sector to develop affordable products, strengthen sanitation and encourage its use and maintenance.