

# WORLD WATER DAY

THEME : ACCELERATING CHANGE



## CENTRE FOR WATER RESOURCES

Water is one of the most essential resources that we need to survive, yet it is also one of the most undervalued and taken for granted.

Meghalaya is home to numerous rivers and streams, many of which are important sources of water for domestic, agricultural, and industrial purposes. Despite its abundant water resources, Meghalaya continues to face water shortages.

World Water Day is observed annually on March 22nd to raise awareness about the importance of freshwater and the need for sustainable management of water resources. The United Nations introduces a new theme every year aimed at raising awareness and promoting action on a particular issue. This year theme is "*Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis*", the theme calls for individuals to change how they use, consume, and manage water in their own lives.

The Centre for Water Resources was established to better understand the state's water resource problems and to develop effective and long-term solutions. The centre is the result of inter-departmental collaboration and convergence, and it encompasses a broad range of activities.

BE THE  
CHANGE YOU  
WANT TO SEE  
IN THE  
WORLD

AN ESSENTIAL  
REMINDER TO  
CONSERVE  
AND PROTECT  
OUR WATER  
RESOURCES

## CENTRE FOR WATER RESOURCES

Khlieh Umtrew, a village located in Ri Bhoi district, has been grappling with water scarcity for many years. The village, with a population of 750 and 138 households, covers an area of about 3.32 square kilometers and has a total of 10 springs. The community heavily relies on these springs for drinking and consumption, while farming remains the primary source of livelihood.

According to Bah Wahlang, the headman of Khlieh Umtrew, water scarcity has caused several problems in the village, including health issues. However, the most significant impact has been on agriculture and food production, leading to lower crop yields, livestock losses, and reduced access to food. In addition to this, the village faces challenges with inadequate or outdated infrastructure such as wells, pipelines, and water treatment plants, which makes it difficult to meet the water needs of the community..

*“Upon the arrival of this Jal Abhayaranya Campaign (JAC) project in our village, I felt a great sense of joy and gratitude, as I knew that our community was in great need of such initiatives due to the prevalent scarcity of water. We learned about the Himalayan springs, spring revitalization methods and the significance of conserving the environment from the Water resources team.”*

He further added that the Water Resources team and their project have provided invaluable assistance to the village, offering training on techniques such as building check dams, gabion walls, and water storage and filtration processes. This has helped in ensuring the availability of clean water which is safe for drinking, industrial use and other purposes.

In addition to providing access to safe and clean water to the village, the CWR team has also assisted with afforestation in the catchment areas, promoting the growth of diverse plant and animal life and helping to create a more balanced ecosystem in Khlieh Umtrew village.

