MESSAGE BY RAJENDRA SHENDE, CHAIRMAN TERRE POLICY CENTRE

He picked the spade and shovel thirty-five years back and started building ‘johads’, the earthen dams in the village around Alwar district of Rajasthan the driest state in India. He was passionate to bring back the traditional system of building network of earthen dams to hold water and let it percolate to recharge the aquifer. Such water-filled aquifers once made the rain-starved surrounding green, he was told by the old villagers. He wanted to dig into the history, made as dry as bone by the British Raj, by changing the geography. He did. And then he went on to win 2015 Stockholm Water Prize, touted as Nobel Prize for Water. On 24th August 2015, he received the award in the glittering ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.

His name is Rajendra Singh - a ‘Water Man’. Rajendra Singh, who studied Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery, went on to treat humanity’s troubling disease - called water-scarcity. His prescription was simple: start with community based actions. He helped communities to build nearly 9000 johads in 1200 villages of Rajasthan and made at least seven rivers flow again. That was the start of his global campaign of Right to Clean Flowing Rivers. He believes that United Nations’ recently adopted principle of ‘human right for water and sanitation’ will not be effective unless the right to flowing rivers is ensured first. He has now embarked on ‘World Water Peace Walks’ in all the five continents of the Earth. Walking connects you to the heart of the earth and the heart of the humanity right at the grass root levels. Mahatma Gandhi demonstrated it in the past.

Yes, one cannot walk on the water, but walking for water can change both history & geography.

FUTURE GREEN AMBASSADORS, BE READY…!!!
A JOURNALIST CAN NEVER BE AN ACTIVIST

‘A Journalist can never be an activist. He has to be stagnant in any situation he faces without any emotional or personal attachments.’ Mrs. Chaitrali Chandorkar, Senior Editor, Maharashtra Times, was addressing at Rendezvous, an interactive session covering environment related issues organized by TERRE Policy Centre on 19th August, 2015. She was addressing the event on the topic of ‘Environmental Journalism’.

‘Few years, post-independence, the preference was given to development and that was essential for nation’s growth. But since last 10 to 15 years, the news, blogs about environmental issues were started publishing in newspapers. Now awareness about the environment among people is being increased. Voice against the problems is being raised by society but more efforts must be done. Many times, the preference is to be given to the more important issue between development and environment.’ She said.

Chairman of TERRE Policy Centre Dr. Rajendra Shende honored the guest, Mrs. Chaitrali Chandorkar by presenting a gift. The president of TERRE Policy Centre, Mrs. Vinitaa Apte was also present for the session.
JSW’S INITIATIVE
FOR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

After successful launch of TERRE Education Kit at MITSOM in Pune last month, TERRE Policy Centre, in association with Maharashtra Education Board held one day workshop in MIT Medical College, Latur and Solapur for the teachers teaching the environment science as subject. Dr. Vinitaa Apte, President, TERRE Policy Centre was addressing the workshop. “Students should be taught the environment subject with interesting ways. So they can easily understand the subject. With the easy and small things, let the children think themselves about environmental projects.”

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Gangadhar Mhamane, President of State education board. Dr. Shivaji Shelke guided the teachers, attended the workshop. Many others experts were present for the workshop.

1200 MW thermal power plant was started by JSW in 2007 at Jaigarh, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra in India. Since then JSW is ahead for CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) work for the local people in the region. As an outreach partner of JSW, TERRE Policy Centre brought all the JSW work in light.

The region is dominated by forest cover and rural population. Most of the population had been practicing open defecation since long time. Therefore health issue was also a major problem. Readymade toilets constructed by government were also useless.

Mr. Ganesh Ghodke, CSR officer of JSW took an initiative for the eradication of open defecation. It was very difficult to convince local people from their traditional practice of open defecation. But after great efforts, women and old people agreed to build individual toilets. JSW and government helped the villagers financially. Now there are total 1845 houses in the villages and all have their individual toilets.
On the very fresh dawn of 7th August 2015, 45 software engineers of Persistant pvt. Ltd. volunteered for environmental cause and thus was present at SmritiVan hill at Warje to make the hill greener. More than 120 plants were planted by the volunteers with the help of TERRE Policy Centre team.

Different species of the plants like Babul, Peepal, Gulmohar, Apta along with some medicinal plants such as Shikekai, Neem, Amla were planted in the herbal theme park. All volunteers were very enthusiastic for the great work for serving the nature.

As every year, TERRE organizes international conference by taking global and environmental issues to evaluate the present environmental conditions and to find innovative and reliable solution for those issues. The subject of the conference is ‘Sustainable Livelihood’.

It will be a great chance for the participants to present their research and study to the experts of environment. This is a great opportunity for the participants to discuss and share their innovative implacable ideas to the main juries of the conference.

The juries for the conference are Mr. Ram Bhooj, National Program Officer, Ecological Science, UNESCO India;
Mrs. Karuna Singh, Country Director, Earth Day Network, India; Mr. Rajendra Shivraikar, Vice President, Garware - Wall Ropes, Pune.’ Also the selected paper will be published in the TERRE Policy Centre website and in Electronic Journal. Participants will be awarded with participating certificates. Best idea of the conference will be taken as initiative by TERRE with the participation of presenter to implement. The conference is going to be held on 18th& 19th September at MITSOM, Pune.

For further details, go to http://terrepolicycentre.com/pdf/TERRE-YuCon-Brochure.pdf

Tropical forests alone hold more than 210 gigatons of carbon, seven times the amount emitted each year by human activities.
The earth’s population is rapidly expanding. By 2050, food production would have to increase by 70% to meet the demands of 9.1 billion people, making diets rich in meat and dairy products unsustainable.

Deforestation
More than 97% of the soymeal produced globally is fed to livestock. Vast expanses of land are required to grow this soymeal, resulting in mass-deforestation in Latin America. Since 1970, almost 20% of the Amazon rainforest has been cut down.

Water and Land Resources
Agriculture, particularly meat and dairy products, accounts for 70% of global freshwater consumption.

38% of Earth’s cultivated land has been degraded by post-WWII agricultural practices.

CO₂ Percentage of Earth’s Human Induced Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 85.5% other
- 14.5% livestock
Global sea levels have risen 8cm since 1992, NASA research shows

Global sea levels have risen 8cm since 1992, NASA research shows. In 2013 a United Nations panel predicted sea levels would rise from between 0.3 and 0.9 metres by the end of the century. The new research shows that sea level rise would probably be at the high end of that, said a University of Colorado geophysicist, Steve Nerem.


Methanotrophs: Could bacteria help protect our environment?

New insight into methanotrophs, bacteria that can oxidise methane, may help us develop an array of biotechnological applications that exploit methane and protect our environment from this potent greenhouse gas.

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/08/150826135724.htm

Thousands of microbes found in house dust

The dust in our homes contains an average of 9,000 different species of microbes, a study suggests.

Researchers from the University of Colorado at Boulder analysed the dust found in 1,200 households across the United States.


Which is the state bird of Delhi?

1. House Sparrow
2. Grey Hornbill
3. Peacock
4. Indian roller

If you know the answer, send your entry to info@terrepolicycentre.com

Last Quiz Winner is
H.V. Paranjape

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