

## River's Day

Rivers are the major component of hydrologic cycle and the habitat of billions of species. A healthy river creates a peaceful and recreational environment; give life to communities by providing moisture to forests and plants, creating a healthy ecosystem to create diversified opportunities for multipurpose projects.

The world River's Day is celebrated by more than seventy countries worldwide on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of September.

River Water User Association (India)-IRDRA (RWUA) and International River-Basin Foundation(IRBF) are working since a decade for the rivers and surrounding communities for better life in and around it. Prof. Rajendra Kumar Isaac, President, RWUA(I) has taken many initiatives to aware the people regarding river ecosystems, its services. The major initiatives include research on river water quality, floods and disasters, hydrologic modeling, Ground water budgeting; communicating and meeting the communities residing near rivers, designing and implementing and monitoring watershed development programmes, River Mapping, regular meetings on water , agriculture and Livelihood and Organizing International River Summit; the initiative taken to organize the first International River Summit 2016, was the pioneer effort by him in India as chairman organizing committee.

River basin In 2020, when whole world was suffering from Covid 19, He initiated many online programmes to keep the people informed about importance of Rivers, how the contaminated water may affect the health of communities living near to it. His efforts and initiatives were very well recognized by the Board of Directors when he proposed the celebration of River's Day in India. The proposal for celebration of Indian River's Day with World River's Day, was accepted by overwhelming majority. He also suggested a weeklong celebration each year to talk on various aspects of River Ecosystem and appealed to form a Transboundary River Council for better initiation of interaction, talks and resolving policy issues on water, floods and disasters. His vision for sustainable life in and around the river, was well adopted by the Board Members of River Water User Association (India)-IRDRA (RWUA) and International River-Basin Foundation(IRBF).

Keeping his vision alive, Indian River's day was declared on September 27, 2020 by the resolution of special committee chaired by Mr. Mahindra Mehta Ex. Commissioner, Ministry of water Resources, New Delhi. GOI. He also declared "Prof. Rajendra Kumar Isaac", as "Founder of Indian River's Day" to recognize his dedication and efforts towards reviving the life in and around the rivers and disseminating awareness for rejuvenation and restoration of rivers. Professor Gyanendra Singh. Advisor and Ex Vice Chancellor, Ex. DDG ICAR, New Delhi, GOI thereafter also declared the formation of Transboundary River Council under the chairmanship of Prof. R.K.Isaac. Mr. Upendra Pratap Singh, Secretary Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi, GOI, was the Chief guest for the occasion, with other important special guests from India and abroad on virtual platform.