

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

'Jalaraksha Jeevanraksha' project launched in Thrissur

The initiative to conserve water resources should also be a water literacy campaign for posterity, says the Agriculture Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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THE district-level Jalaraksha Jeevanraksha (Save water Save life), water conservation project was launched by Agriculture Minister V S Sunil Kumar here on Monday. Addressing the inaugural function, he said the loss of microbial bio film is a major threat faced by the state today. "Loss of the microbial bio film is the major threat we are facing today and it can not only wreck the agriculture sector but also the economy and all other aspects of the state," he said.

Listing out the three major calamities faced by the state in the immediate past - severe drought in 2016, Ockhi cyclone in 2017 and the flood havoc in 2018 - Sunil Kumar urged everyone to draw lessons from it.

Vital activity

The Agriculture Minister emphasised the importance of persisting with the farming activities since even one cent of farm land can save 1.44 lakh litres of water.



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V S Sunil Kumar, Agriculture Minister

"Kerala is one of the few regions which receives copious rain. But what we face today is scarcity of drinking water and flash flood situations," he said, adding, the initiative to conserve water resources should also be a water literacy campaign for posterity.

Referring to the Chief Minis-

ter's comment on migratory birds native to parched lands frequenting the state, Sunil Kumar said, "Though I don't know the scientific reasons for it, but it is definitely not a good sign. Nowadays people are concerned about presence of more peacocks in residential areas. Aged people consider it as an indication of impending drought," he said.

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District Collector T V Anupama, who presented the project report, said participation of college and school students in Jalaraksha Jeevaraksha in the backdrop of the flood havoc is indeed remarkable.

"Water clubs called Blue Army were formed in over 1,000 educational institutions in the district. They were involved in various activities like flood mapping, recharging the wells, super-chlorination of wells after flood, etc," she said, underscoring the project's significance in times of climate change and global warming.

District panchayat vice-president Udayaprakashan N K, district panchayat members, district planning officer V.R Maya attended. Earlier, several thousand college and school students participated in the Blue Army volunteers' rally from Palace Road to Town Hall.



Agriculture Minister V S Sunil Kumar inaugurating the Jalaraksha Jeevanraksha water conservation project in Thrissur on Monday | EXPRESS