

Editorial

*In the midst of the Waters is moving the Lord, surveying men's truth and men's lies.
How sweet are the Waters, crystal clear and cleansing!
Now may these great divine Waters quicken me!*
The Rig Veda

Whatever sin is found in me,
whatever wrong I may have done, if I have lied or falsely sworn, Waters, remove it far from me.
The Rig Veda

Water is life. This lesson taught in our childhood days has gathered more elements of truth in the face of large scale urbanization, industrialization and destructive life-style based on plastic and electronic gadgets. Water is facing crisis and in turn so is life on this planet. In retrospect, we see water was considered sacred in every culture in ancient times not just because of lack of scientific thoughts, but because of the very realization through thousands of years of experience. Same is the case with animal and natural world. A bond of instinct with water operates everywhere. Long ago the Greek philosopher formulated the first scientific theory of water when he said that life came from water. Most of the myths of creation indirectly support such theory. And our modern science repeats in scientific language what was in the perception of the religions and arts.

But science is a neutral branch of knowledge that can be applied both for good and evil purposes. The fault lies with human nature: excessive human greed and selfishness in exploiting nature beyond limits, especially in misuse of water, is turning out to be a kind of collective suicide. The idea of progress has been instrumental in the process of evolution in building civilization. But the same human spirit, proud of its conquest of the spirit of nature, is playing with the forces which are too powerful even to control.

For every civilization, water bodies especially rivers have remained as arteries and veins supplying vital sap of life. But in the name of water management the free flows have been stopped and consequently many rivers died out. For cynical corporate people, death of a river hardly means anything. But it is a fact that a culture also dies with a river. When the apocalyptic day of natural destruction comes, the same people take scientist stance and call it natural disaster. Damming a river has never been beneficial to the people dependent on a river. Damming is actually a profitable venture only sections of the society.

The crisis now does not only concern natural disasters and climate change etc. it has come down to the questions of drops of drinking water. Statistics are grave for many years but the authorities are still lost in the dream of development and the multinational companies are exploiting the situation with bottled water and farther polluting the earth with the plastic bottles. Talks of policies are always there but actions fall very short of required level of action.