

## ***Editorial***

# **Water**

Water means survival. Be it the biological or civilisational growth, water has been pivotal for the humans. Water acquires social and political overtones. Water, which is the bounteous gift of nature, has become a contentious issue over the years. The most intense form of poverty, in fact, is parched throats and drought-ridden lands.

It is an irony that the state of Kerala, with forty-four rivers criss-crossing its small expanse, has severe water shortage. It is a simple case of crass mismanagement. This issue of the Journal is fully devoted to the water problems and management in Kerala. Just as the Kerala experience of development offers lessons, the water management, too, provides ample scope for reflection and maybe even replication.

The papers provide a holistic view of the whole problem. Current available data is presented. Lack of sufficient data base is decried. The case study of an experiment in Malappuram district offers valuable insights. The problem of effective utilisation of water is riddled with natural, anthropogenic, political, and cultural complexities. A holistic approach alone can provide a sustainable solution.

The highlights of the various papers are the inherent constraints in the utilisation of water, the need for a better data base, issues of sanitation, indiscriminate removal of sand from riverbeds, deforestation, industrial pollution, water contamination, over utilisation of water, need for water literacy, significance of watersheds, sub-surface and check dams, need for micro level involvement with community participation and finally, the need for a stronger political will to improve the situation.

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**MK George**  
***Chief Editor***