

Speech by Ambassador of India to Japan H.E. Shri Sibi George
at the event marking the World Environment Day 2024
(June 05, 2024)

Good afternoon everyone,

- Thank you for joining us today.
- We are here to commemorate the World Environment Day 2024, which is an annual global event celebrated on June 05 to raise awareness on the protection and preservation of the environment.
- Our planet is facing unprecedented challenges: climate change, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and pollution are just a few of the critical issues that demand immediate attention. The World Environment Day reminds us of our responsibilities towards Mother Earth, motivates individuals, communities, and governments to take positive environmental actions and encourages sustainable living and responsible use of resources for a greener and clear environment.
- This year, the theme of World Environment Day is - Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience. According to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, up to 40 per cent of the planet's land is degraded, directly affecting half of the world's population. The number and duration of droughts has increased by 29 per cent since 2000 - without urgent action, droughts may

affect over three-quarters of the world's population by 2050

- India has taken a number of initiatives aimed at environmental conservation. Mission LiFE, initiated by India, seeks to channel the efforts of individuals and communities into a global mass movement of positive behavioral change. The mission underscores the principle that small changes in our daily lives can lead to significant positive impacts on the environment. It calls for a transformation in our lifestyles, encouraging us to adopt sustainable practices that contribute to the well-being of our planet.
- Mission Lifestyle for Environment recognizes that Indian culture and living traditions are inherently sustainable. The importance of conserving our precious natural resources and living in harmony with nature are emphasized in our ancient scriptures. The need of the hour is to tap into that ancient wisdom and spread the message to as many people as possible.
- On this World Environment Day, let us renew our commitment to the environment. Let us embrace Mission LiFE as a guiding principle for our daily lives. We can all make a positive impact by embracing sustainable practices in our daily lives, conserving resources, and advocating for eco-friendly solutions, and create a sustainable future for ourselves and for generations to come. Even small steps like planting trees, reducing water and energy consumption, minimizing plastic use, recycling, and supporting sustainable products can

collectively make a substantial difference. Lets commit to make changes to our lifestyles to make them more sustainable and environment conscious to ensure a thriving future for our planet!

- Thank you.