World Environment Day is the biggest annual event in the world run by the United Nations to mark the environmental awareness among the people. The United Nations, aware that the protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue, which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world, designated 5th June as World Environment Day.

The celebration of this day provides us with an opportunity to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in preserving and enhancing the environment. Since it began in 1974, it has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in more than 100 countries. The World Environment Day is popularly called as “People’s Day”. It is an important platform for promoting the dimensions of environmental Sustainable Development Goals.

This year the theme of World Environment Day 2020 is “Celebrate Biodiversity”.

World Environment Day 2020 will focus on Biodiversity.

World Environment Day 2020 calls for urgent action to protect biodiversity. Biodiversity describes the variety of life on Earth. It encompasses the 8 million species on the planet from plants and animals to fungi and bacteria; the ecosystems that house them; and the genetic diversity among them.

Biodiversity may be seen as an intricate web, in which each part is interdependent. When one component is changed or removed the entire system is affected, and this can produce positive or negative consequences. Biodiversity is the variation of Earth’s terrestrial, freshwater, and marine species, as well as their habitats. Biodiversity is vital to the survival of all life on earth and is also the cornerstone for the goods and services of the environment that allow human societies to thrive. Biodiversity provides us with food, water and resources as well as services such as climate control, pollination, flood mitigation and cycling of nutrients. The Global Assessment Report examined the rate of decline in biodiversity and found they the adverse effects of human activities on the world’s species is “unprecedented in human history”, one million species, including 40 percent of amphibians, almost a third of reef-building corals, more than a third of marine mammals, and 10 percent of all insects are threatened with extinction.

Ecosystems are relying on all parts from the smallest bacteria to the largest vertebrate. It’s all interconnected. Some are producing oxygen that others are breathing. Some provide food for larger species, which in turn become prey to even larger species. Every living organism has a role to play in the maintenance of balance.

The Department of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu embraced the World Environment Day as a powerful advocacy tool to create awareness and planned to conduct online quiz competition for College Students in the theme “Environment & Biodiversity”, emphasising the conservation of Biodiversity on 5th June 2020.