

Monthly e-Newsletter

May 2025 Edition

Water | Climate | Sustainability | SDGs | Development



Feature Highlights

- Riyadh Diaries: IWF at the 11th World Water Forum Kick-Off
- Geneva Engagement: IWF at the 58th UNHRC Session
- Special Focus: Water Security as National Security
- Success Stories: Zero-Waste Villages & Agrivoltaics in India
- Global Spotlight: IWF joins the UN Mountain Partnership
- Events Ahead: Plastic Pollution Dialogue, Climate Innovation Summit, and more!



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From the Editor's Desk



Dr. Arvind Kumar
President
India Water Foundation

Dear Readers!

As the global climate regime grows increasingly volatile and natural resources more contested, water has emerged as a decisive strategic factor not merely a developmental resource, but a linchpin of national security. The fast growing water consumption, demand owing to economic, and population growth, rapid urbanization and changing lifestyles is making interstate water competition a major security issue, increasing the likelihood of geo-pol tensions and instabilities. The likely consequences extending to internal and external security, economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, food security, public health, poverty alleviation, migration flows and inter riparian relations.

A case in point is India's recent move to place the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) under reconsideration. Once praised as a hallmark of post-conflict diplomacy, the IWT now stands at a critical juncture, as persistent cross-border tensions and asymmetric cooperation erode its viability. Its current abeyance is more than a bilateral concern—it is a global signal that the frameworks governing transboundary water-sharing must evolve to address the cascading challenges of the 21st century.

At the core of this shift lies a foundational recognition: water is the ultimate connector across all sectors. It binds together the imperatives of food and energy security, supports climate resilience, safeguards environmental and ecosystem integrity, and fuels public health, economic productivity, and social equity. Where water is insecure, all these domains suffer; where water is managed sustainably, prosperity and peace takes root. In this sense, water is not just a development input; it is the enabler of holistic, long-term progress.

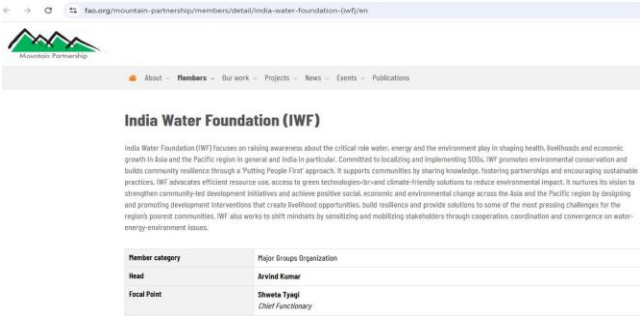
Against this complex and urgent backdrop, the India Water Foundation (IWF) continues to champion the understanding that water must be viewed as a strategic resource—central to governance, peacebuilding, and sustainable development. Our work is grounded in the belief that securing water is key to securing our collective future; one that is environmentally just, socially inclusive, and geopolitically stable.

This edition captures our multi-dimensional engagements, highlighting IWF’s presence at the **Kick-off Meeting for the 11th World Water Forum** in Riyadh, where water was reaffirmed as a lynchpin of sustainable peace and development. Our parallel involvement in the **58th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council** in Geneva further underscored how water, environment, and rights intersect across the global governance spectrum.

In the spirit of **Earth Day’s** resonant theme **“Our Power, Our Planet”**—we reaffirm our belief in collective responsibility and action. We look forward to continuing this momentum at the upcoming **High-Level Policy Dialogue on World Environment Day**, focusing on plastic pollution and nature-based solutions, and to our new journey as a **proud member of the UN’s Mountain Partnership**.

Through this newsletter, we not only document progress but invite dialogue, cooperation, and innovation. Let it serve as a reminder that while challenges abound, so do the possibilities for those willing to act.

IWF Becomes Official Member of UN’s Mountain Partnership for Global Ecosystem Resilience



Another feather in the cap of India Water Foundation on being selected as an official member of the **Mountain Partnership**, a United Nations alliance dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. This collaboration places us alongside renowned international institutions such as the **ADB, FAO, WMO, ICIMOD, IUCN** all of whom are already part of this transformative alliance. This partnership marks a significant step in our commitment to sustainable development, climate resilience, and integrated ecosystem approaches. We look forward to engaging with like-minded organizations, sharing knowledge, and fostering collaborations that strengthen the mountain agenda both regionally and globally.

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EXPLORE IWF



COVER STORY: Riyadh Diaries

The Kick-off and 1st Stakeholders' Meeting for the 11th World Water Forum

The Kick-off and 1st Stakeholders' Meeting for the **11th World Water Forum** (scheduled for March 22–28, 2027, in Riyadh) convened on 14–15 April 2025 at the Hilton Riyadh Hotel & Residences, officially launching preparations for the global event themed “**Action for a Better Tomorrow**”. Organized by Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (**MEWA**) and the World Water Council (**WWC**), the gathering brought together over 200 stakeholders, including ministers, policymakers, technical experts, and civil society leaders, to strategize on addressing urgent water security, climate resilience, and achieving SDG 6.

Discussions centered on bridging water demand and supply gaps through infrastructure investments, fostering transboundary cooperation, and leveraging technology-driven innovations. Saudi Minister **Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Fadley** emphasized the necessity of global collaboration amidst rising water scarcity, echoed by **Loic Fauchon (President, WWC)** who highlighted water as a paramount global priority needing immediate policy action. **Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation (IWF)**, represented India's civil society fraternity, contributing insights on the water-energy-food nexus and advocating for ecosystem-based adaptation.

In his address, Dr. Kumar emphasized the critical role of water in ensuring peace, stability, and sustainable development. Highlighting IWF's work in transboundary basins like the **Barak-Meghna and Indus**, he noted that nearly 60% of global freshwater flows cross international borders, yet fewer than half of these basins have cooperative management frameworks, posing significant geopolitical and humanitarian challenges. He noted IWF's selection as a founding member of **SANS (South Asian Network for Sustainable Development Goals)** by **UN ESCAP**. Dr. Kumar also spoke on the theme of “Water for Humans and Nature,” stressing the urgent need to harmonize human development with ecological sustainability through nature-based solutions and inclusive water governance, recognizing water as a shared resource essential for both human communities and the natural world. This collaborative initiative is rooted in the **transversality approach**, recognizing that water is not siloed. It permeates across health, education, agriculture, industry, energy, and beyond for nature and ecosystems as well making it cross-sectoral by nature and multi-stakeholder in practice.

The meeting underscored Saudi Arabia’s commitment to establishing a Global Water Organization to drive equitable access and innovation. Technical panels, led by **Abdulaziz Al-Shaibani (Saudi Deputy Water Minister)**, underscored water as an “economic enabler,” while **Wu Wenqing (China’s Chief Water Planner)** shared integrated governance strategies.

Participants proposed scaling AI-driven water monitoring, circular-economy practices, and decentralized sanitation systems, alongside public-private partnerships for resilient infrastructure financing. The roadmap to 2027 prioritizes policy integration for disaster risk reduction and global advocacy via platforms like the G20 Water Initiative, positioning the India Water Foundation as a pivotal advocate for equitable governance in the lead-up to the Forum. This foundational meeting solidified Riyadh's role in advancing collaborative and sustainable water management solutions amid growing global challenges.



Sneak peek of IWF at 58th session of UNHRC

The *58th Session* of the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** in Geneva brought together global leaders, policymakers, and civil society representatives to discuss pressing human rights issues, including digital privacy, minority rights, religious freedom, gender equity, and environmental sustainability. The sessions addressed challenges posed by climate change, the digital revolution, and global conflicts, emphasizing the need for stronger international cooperation and policy frameworks to uphold human rights. Key discussions included the protection of vulnerable communities, advancing gender rights, and ensuring data privacy in the digital age, and human-rights based approach to countering terrorism

Amid these global conversations, **India Water Foundation (IWF)** actively participated, engaging in key discussions on cultural rights, environmental sustainability, and human development. Throughout its two-week filled with interventions and dialogues, IWF made significant contributions by addressing critical global issues, advocating for policy advancements, and collaborating with international organizations.

Dr. Arvind Kumar, President of IWF, delivered a statement during the *General Debate on Minority Issues*, where he highlighted India's proactive policies aimed at empowering minority communities through education, employment opportunities, and inclusive development programs. He also spoke at the *High-Level Segment on Digital Rights*, emphasizing India's leadership in data privacy and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, which ensures a balanced approach between innovation and user protection. Furthermore, in a *panel discussion on 'AI and Human Rights'*, Dr. Kumar detailed how AI-driven governance is transforming service delivery and promoting transparency in India.

Ms. Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary of IWF, reinforced India's efforts in religious freedom and gender equity. She participated in the *General Debate on Freedom of Religion*, detailing India's constitutional safeguards and the importance of interfaith dialogue in maintaining harmony. She was also a panelist in a *discussion on 'Women's Rights and Sustainable Development'*, where she spoke about the role of policy reforms and community engagement in empowering women, particularly in rural areas.

IWF also played a pivotal role in conversations on sustainability, particularly in agriculture and environmental conservation, underscoring India's self-sufficiency in food production and holistic governance approaches. A significant moment of IWF's engagement came on World Water Day along with its 17th foundation day when, in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Mountain Partnership, it convened a **High-Level Policy Dialogue on Protecting Receding Glaciers**. Dr. Kumar highlighted the dire consequences of glacier retreat, calling for global cooperation and sustainable resource management. In his chair address, **Shri Dr. Raj Bhushan Chaudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India**, highlighted the devastating impact of glacier loss on India's major rivers—Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Indus—which sustain millions. **Sh. Bharat Lal Secretary General of the National Human Rights Council of India** in a much nuanced way in his keynote speech articulated that in a country like India with 1.4 billion population water security is national security. Paucity of water hinders socio economic development. Additionally, IWF organized a compelling **public exhibition at Broken Chair Square, highlighting India's commitment to religious pluralism and climate resilience**. These efforts reinforced India's position as a global leader in sustainable development, human rights, and cross-sectoral collaborations. By actively participating in high-level discussions, policy dialogues, and public outreach, IWF reaffirmed its commitment to addressing pressing global challenges in water security, climate change, and inclusive governance.



EVENT ALERT!

Water Transversality Global Awards and Conclave 2026

Home International Conferences Become A Partner Awards Past Events

Organized by:

International Conference On
Deciphering ESG Transversality for Sustainable Water, Energy, Environment Nexus (2026)

New Delhi
13-14 March, 2026

[Become A Partner](#) [Become A Speaker](#)

Join us for the **2nd Water Transversality Global Awards & Conclave 2026**, a two-day conference on “*Deciphering ESG Transversality for Sustainable Water, Energy, and Environment Nexus.*” This landmark event will explore ESG integration, the Water-Energy-Environment Nexus, global collaboration, and innovations driving carbon neutrality. Don’t miss this convergence of policy, industry, and sustainability leadership.

[Please click here for more information.](#)

COMING UP!

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY 2025

High Level Multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue
to
“End Plastic Pollution and Deliver Actions for Harmony with Nature”
Organized by
India Water Foundation

3rd June 2025, 16:00 Hrs Onwards (IST), Virtual (Zoom)

High Level Multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue to End Plastic Pollution and Deliver Actions for Harmony with Nature

The policy dialogue will bring together global experts and stakeholders to explore the impact of plastic pollution on ecosystems and biodiversity across all environments. Aligned with the CBD, Global Plastics Treaty, and SDGs, it aims to foster collective action for conservation and pollution reduction. [CLICK HERE](#)

SUCCESS STORIES



How These 6 Indian Villages Went Completely Zero-Waste

What if waste wasn't something we 'threw away', but something we transformed? In a country that generates over 62 million tonnes of waste each year, a quiet revolution is happening – not in megacities, but in the heart of India's villages.

[Read more](#)

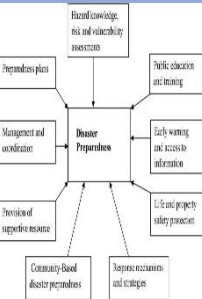


What are Farmers Growing Under Solar Panels in Their Farms? Understanding Agrivoltaics

Across India, farmers are experimenting with a new model — one that doesn't take away land, but adds to its potential. It's sustainable, surprising, and quietly powerful. In Parbhani, something remarkable is growing under the sun. And it's not what you'd expect.

[Read more](#)

FRIDAY BLOGS



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**Rethinking
Disaster
Resilience**



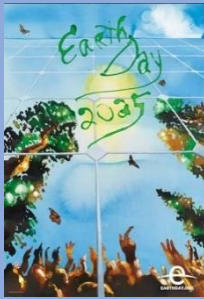
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**Reweighting
“Neighbours
First”
Approach
for Global
Leadership**



[CLICK HERE](#)

**Besides
Linking
Trade,
Linking
Civilizations
& Cultures:
Will IMEC be
a Game
Changer?**



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**Towards a
Cooler
Planet:
Renewing
Renewables**

INVITATION TO JOIN MEMBERSHIP

At the India Water Foundation (IWF), we're more than just a network—we're a movement. By becoming a member, you join hands with individuals, organizations, and institutions passionate about sustainability, environmental conservation, and driving meaningful change.

Why Join Us?

We're committed to creating opportunities for every member to make a real impact. Here's what we offer:

- **Shape Policies with Us:** Be part of advocacy efforts that influence sustainable development strategies.
- **Learn and Grow Together:** Attend our exclusive workshops and training programs, designed to keep you at the forefront of innovation.
- **Connect with Change-makers:** Collaborate with a global network of experts, innovators, and leaders.
- **Make a Grassroots Impact:** Help us drive community-led projects that promote resource efficiency and environmental resilience.
- **Be Recognized for Your Efforts:** Let us celebrate your contributions through awards, features, and event opportunities.

Who Can Join?

We welcome everyone who shares our vision, including: Companies, institutions, and organizations of all sizes, NGOs, government bodies, and Intergovernmental organizations Individuals—from young professionals to retirees, who want to create positive change

Whether you're a policymaker, innovator, or community advocate, there's a place for you here!

Our Special JalMitra Social Outreach Membership

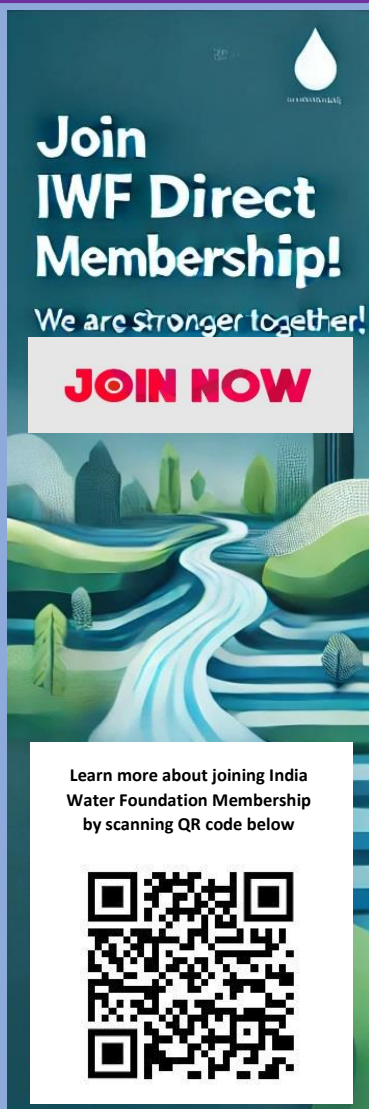
The JalMitra outreach program encourages sustainable living practices by promoting sustainable conservation and restoration projects. The campaign fosters awareness and behavioural change at the grassroots level, enabling communities to adopt environmentally responsible lifestyles that reduce ecological footprints and contribute to national and global sustainability goals.

Anyone can join this collective effort and become a Jal Mitra free of cost.

How to Join?

Take the first step today! Visit [Become an IWF Member](https://indiawaterfoundation.org/jal-mitra/) to apply and join this transformative movement. Together, let's shape a sustainable future!

<https://indiawaterfoundation.org/jal-mitra/>




Join IWF Direct Membership!

We are stronger together.

JOIN NOW

Learn more about joining India Water Foundation Membership by scanning QR code below



BECOME A JAL MITRA — SOCIAL OUTREACH —

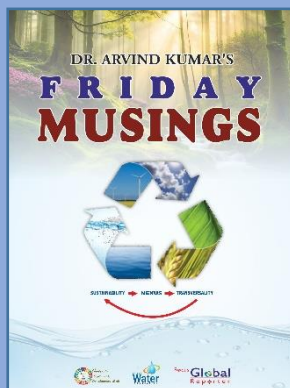
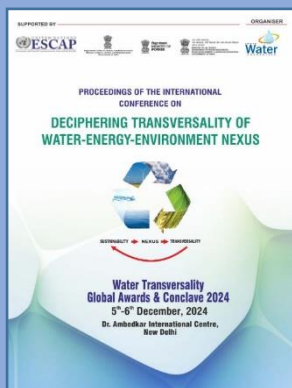
Be the part of For Water & Sustainability

Conservation, and Sustainable for a better Future!

TODAY I JAL MITRA!

Join for Free

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **12-14 May:** Global Water Summit. This summit focuses on bringing together the water industry to discuss and address critical issues related to water management and sustainable solutions.
https://www.watermeetsmoney.com/#:~:text=JOIN%20US%20IN%20PARIS%2C%20MAY_water%20industry's%20most%20anticipated%20event.
- **05-09 May:** UN Forum on Forests. This forum, organized by DESA, focuses on forests and their role in sustainable development, potentially including water management aspects.
<https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>
- **07 May:** 10th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. This forum will be held at the ECOSOC Chamber, UN HQs, New York.
<https://sdgs.un.org/tfm/STIForum2025>
- **12-13 May:** Expert Group Meeting on SDG14. This meeting will focus on advancing science and evidence-based solutions for SDG14, which relates to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources.
<https://sdgs.un.org/events/expert-group-meeting-sdg14-preparation-hlpl-2025-advancing-sustainable-inclusive-science-and>
- **05 May:** Webinars on the UN SIDS Partnerships Awards 2025. to recognize and reward the efforts of the best and most noteworthy, genuine and durable partnerships in the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).
<https://sdgs.un.org/events/webinars-sids-partnerships-awards-2025>
- **07 May: 1st IFAT India 2025 National Advisory Committee** meeting will take place on Wednesday, 7th May, at The Hotel Sahara Star in Mumbai. The intention of the meeting is to deliberate & thereafter finalise the overarching theme and session topics that would be apt, timely, current & pressing for the wastewater & solid waste management industries in India.
- **09 May: Climate Innovation Summit 2025** The summit will feature thought-provoking keynotes policy-driven panels startup showcases and opportunities to build meaningful public-private collaborations.



IWF e- newsletter is a monthly compilation of news items on IWF-related issues in the domain of Water, Agriculture, Climate Change, SDGs, inclusive development and Water Resources Management that might be of interest to the IWF fraternity. The information contained in the NEWSLETTER does not purport to be exhaustive and is taken "as it is" from external sources and is freely available on the internet. No evaluation on the part of the IWF Office is being made in terms of the authenticity of the information that it may contain. IWF Office makes no guarantee, either express or implied, as to the accuracy of the information published. Your valuable feedback on the usefulness of the bulletin is solicited at contact@indiawaterfoundation.org.

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