

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025



FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS

- **World Environment Day & Biodiversity Spotlight**
- **High-Level Policy Dialogue on Plastic Pollution**
- **IWF Joins the UN Mountain Partnership**
- **Climate Innovation Summit 2025 Highlights**
- **National Advisory Committee Meet for IFAT India 2025**
- **Success Stories & Knowledge Exchange**



From the Editor's Desk



Dr. Arvind Kumar
President
India Water Foundation

Dear Readers,

As we step into June, the world pauses to commemorate two powerful global observances that define our environmental ethos, **World Environment Day (June 5)** and the **International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22)**. These annual milestones are not only symbolic of our planetary commitment but are also vital barometers of the progress and gaps in our collective environmental journey.

This year, World Environment Day called on the global community to Beat Plastic Pollution, spotlighting the urgent crisis of plastic waste that now permeates every corner of our planet. With over 350 million tonnes of plastic waste generated annually and 19 million tonnes leaking into the environment each year, plastic pollution is clogging rivers, polluting oceans, and infiltrating our food, water, and even our bodies. The economic and social cost is staggering estimated at \$300–600 billion per year—while microplastics are now found in soils, marine life, and human tissues. This year's campaign, led by the Republic of Korea, emphasizes the need for a circular economy: reducing single-use plastics, improving waste management, and accelerating innovation across the plastics lifecycle. The global movement is gaining momentum, but experts warn that we must go further, faster, with collective action from governments, businesses, and individuals to prevent plastic pollution from undermining planetary health.

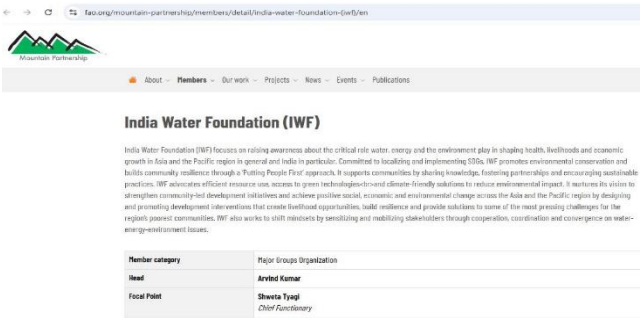
Interconnected with this, the International Day for Biological Diversity 2025 adopted the theme “Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development,” underscoring how plastic pollution directly threatens the rich biodiversity that sustains humanity. As plastic waste chokes aquatic ecosystems and microplastics accumulate in soils, countless species face heightened risks of extinction and habitat loss. Achieving harmony with nature requires integrating sustainable development into every facet of society—restoring degraded habitats, protecting vulnerable species, and transitioning to eco-friendly alternatives. Therefore ending plastic pollution is not only about cleaner cities and oceans, but also about preserving the intricate web of life on which all development depends. By aligning our efforts to beat plastic pollution with the pursuit of harmony with nature, we can secure a resilient, thriving future for people and planet alike.

At India Water Foundation, this month marked a series of purposeful engagements. We hosted a High-Level Policy Dialogue on Ending Plastic Pollution, supported by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, highlighting the health, climate, and biodiversity consequences of unchecked plastic use. We became an official member of the United Nations’ Mountain Partnership, strengthening our commitment to fragile ecosystems. At the Climate Innovation Summit in Dehradun, we spotlighted the role of circular water economies and green finance in achieving net-zero transitions. And as part of the National Advisory Committee for IFAT India 2025, we helped chart a sustainability roadmap for wastewater, solid waste, and industry transformation.

These collective actions reflect our belief that environmental restoration and biodiversity protection are not isolated goals—they are deeply interconnected missions essential for a livable planet.

Let the rest of 2025 be the year where commitment transforms into action. Whether it’s a regulatory reform, a research initiative, a community-led solution, or simply a citizen planting a tree—every act matters. Together, let us reimagine a future where people and nature thrive in unison.

IWF Becomes Official Member of UN’s Mountain Partnership

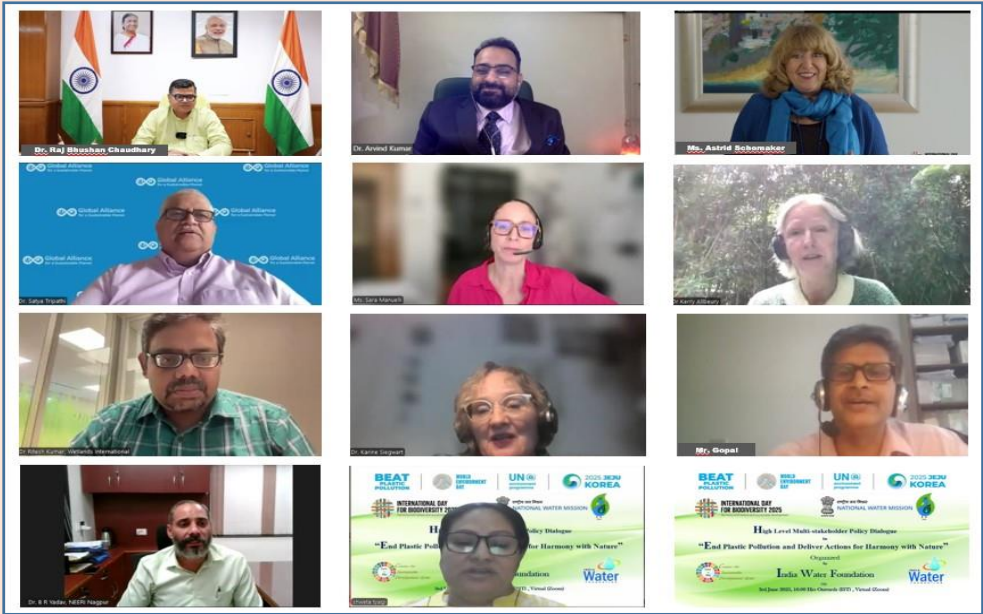


Another feather in the cap of India Water Foundation on being selected as an official member of the **Mountain Partnership**, a United Nations alliance dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. This collaboration places us alongside renowned 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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COVER STORY

High-Level Multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue on Ending Plastic Pollution and Delivering Actions for Harmony with Nature



Plastic pollution is now recognized as a central driver of the triple planetary crisis: climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Over 8.4 billion tons of plastic have been produced in the past six decades, with more than 14 million tons entering oceans annually—threatening to outnumber fish by 2050 if current trends continue. Microplastics have infiltrated food, water, and even the human bloodstream, posing significant risks to both human and ecosystem health. The persistence of single-use plastics, despite regulatory bans, underscores the need for robust enforcement and comprehensive behavioural change

The Policy Dialogue reaffirmed the urgent need for a paradigm shift from incremental change to transformative action. Ending plastic pollution requires systemic interventions across the value chain, robust regulatory frameworks, and an empowered citizenry. India’s initiatives, rooted in tradition and innovation, provide a scalable blueprint, but success hinges on sustained political will, cross-sectoral collaboration, and global solidarity. The dialogue called for all stakeholders—government, industry, civil society, and international partners—to unite in delivering actions that restore harmony with nature and secure a sustainable future for all

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EXPLORE IWF



Climate Innovation Summit



The Climate Innovation Summit 2025, held on May 9 at Hotel Regenta in Dehradun, emerged as a landmark event in India's climate action landscape. The summit gathered over 150 climate leaders and more than 25 expert speakers from government, industry, finance, research, and the startup ecosystem, all united under the theme “Driving Climate Innovation for a Net-Zero Future”.

Dr. Arvind Kumar, President , India Water Foundation in his keynote address as a Chief Guest highlighted that the path to net zero is not just about emissions—it is about reimagining development, restoring our relationship with nature, mainstreaming sustainability across sectors, and driving convergence between climate, health, food, and water. In the panel on Circular Economy & Green Industry Transformation he articulated why it is imperative to foster collaborations across the entire value chain from suppliers to recyclers- to build closed-loop systems that not only maximize resource recovery but also drive long-term sustainability, innovation, and resilience across industrial and municipal sectors to truly embed circularity in water management. The session brought together prominent voices in the field, including Mr. Ratnesh Jha, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network India; Dr. Mahesh Kasture, Chief Manager (R&D), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited; and Dr. Dimitrios Dimitriou, Group Vice President of ESG & Sustainability, Emsteel, UAE. Other distinguished speakers at the event included Mr. Erik Solheim, Former Executive Director of UNEP; Mr. Upendra Tripathy, Advisory Board Member, Indian Carbon Market; Mr. Ratnesh Jha , Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network India ; among others. The event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, academia, and innovators to discuss and shape India's sustainable future.

Throughout the day, participants engaged in dynamic sessions and panel discussions that spotlighted breakthrough innovations in clean energy, green hydrogen, circular economy solutions, and climate technology, while also addressing the urgent need for industrial decarbonization and climate-resilient infrastructure. A key highlight was the focus on mobilizing green finance, with experts exploring strategies such as venture funding, blended finance, and sovereign green bonds to unlock capital for climate action.

The summit emphasized the pivotal role of policy frameworks, public-private partnerships, and advanced technologies—including AI and digital twins—in accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy. Dehradun, through this summit, positioned itself as a hub for climate leadership, fostering actionable ideas, investment roadmaps, and collaborations that will propel India toward its ambitious net-zero targets by 2070. The event’s palpable energy, bold vision, and commitment to real solutions signalled a new chapter in India’s journey toward sustainability and climate resilience.



1st IFAT India 2025 National Advisory Committee



The first meeting of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) for **IFAT India 2025** set the stage for a high-impact sustainability conference by convening experts from government, industry, academia, and civil society. Chaired by Mr. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, the meeting focused on curating dynamic tracks on **wastewater** and **solid waste management**, aligned with India's sustainability and circular economy goals.

The deliberations emphasized the need for improved water governance, stronger regulations, PPP models, financing mechanisms, and technological interventions. Members proposed both **sector-agnostic sessions** and **industry-specific roundtables**—covering textiles, food, biomedical waste, and more. Dr. Arvind Kumar advocated for integrating **environmental compliance**, **financial mechanisms**, and **policy enablers** to support industries in sustainable water use. He emphasized incentivizing **green investments** and highlighted the role of **real-world regulatory case studies** in driving environmental accountability.

The meeting concluded with actionable plans to form sub-committees and working groups to shape the **IFAT India 2025** agenda.

EVENT ALERT!



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!



High Level Policy Dialogue on Multi-sectoral Partnerships for the Conservation and Restoration of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems

The policy dialogue will bring together global experts and stakeholders to explore how restoring ecological balance by including ecological considerations into coastal planning and governance can both enhance the resilience of coastal ecosystem and increase the diversity of coastal livelihoods.

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KNOWLEDGE HUB



Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly concludes: historic outcomes, consequential highlights

The Assembly, WHO’s highest decision-making body, convened from 19 May to 27 May, under the theme “One World for Health”. Member States considered approximately 75 items and sub-items across all areas of health, engaging in lively debate and adopting consequential resolutions to improve health for all.

“The words ‘historic’ and ‘landmark’ are overused, but they are perfectly apt to describe this year’s World Health Assembly,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

To read more on outcomes and decisions.....

[CLICK HERE](#)



UNSG’s Report Calls for Multi-stakeholder Cooperation to Advance SDGs

The report calls for countries to, inter alia: identify specific measures to break down barriers to coordinated policy implementation; develop strategic foresight capacities and integrate such foresight into decision making to adapt to future scenarios; and engage with parliaments, scientific institutions, civil society, supreme audit institutions, and peer review mechanisms to strengthen accountability mechanisms.

It recommends leveraging networked multilateralism and digital solutions through the Global Digital Compact and facilitating anticipatory planning, foresight, and futures literacy in line with the Declaration on Future Generations.

To read full report.....

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SUCCESS STORIES



After Floods Destroyed Their School, Sustainable Design Gave a Tribal Village in Maharashtra a School Like No Other

Saraswati Vidyalaya once battled annual floods, broken walls, and dwindling hope. Now, it stands tall on stilts, reborn through local wisdom, low-carbon design, and collective will. This is how architects at unTAG Architecture and Interiors gave a school and a community a second chance.

[Read more](#)



The State That Did It First: How Sikkim Went 100% Organic & Changed Indian Farming

A small Himalayan state quietly achieved what most regions only talk about — going completely organic. Here's how Sikkim made it happen.

[Read more](#)

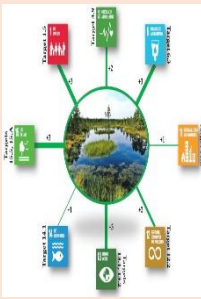
FRIDAY BLOGS



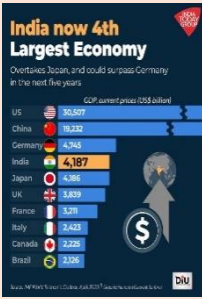
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From Risk to Readiness: Adapting Dam Safety to Climate Extremes

Reclaiming People first Approach for Harmony with the Nature?

Reimagine Wetland Governance: Bridging Policy and Implementation Gaps

Re-calibrating India's Next Leap

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 —

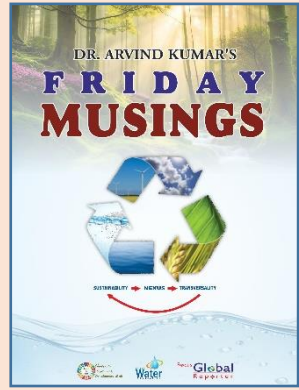
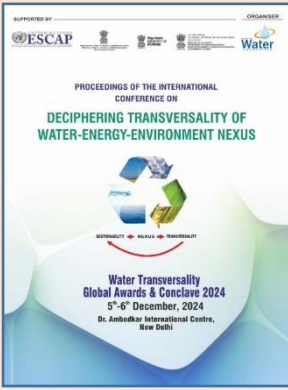
Be the part of For Water & Sustainability

Conservation, and Sustainable for a better Future!

TODAY I JAL MITRA!

Join for Free

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **09-13 June:** United Nations Ocean Conference 2025. France and Costa Rica will co-host the high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (the 2025 UN Ocean Conference).
<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025>
- **16-18 June:** TED Countdown Summit 2025. This year's TED Countdown Summit will bring together a visionary group of global innovators, business executives, scientists, policymakers, next-generation leaders, artists, activists — all united in their commitment to building a brighter future.
<https://conferences.ted.com/countdown2025>
- **19 June:** GLF Africa 2025. Africa's landscapes are facing a triple crisis: land degradation, biodiversity loss and the climate crisis. Can we still restore them to the powerhouses they once were? Join to learn how Africa can build a restoration economy that works for nature and people. Discover new innovations in agro-ecology, nature finance and tree-based commodities, and get inspired by like-minded people from across the continent and beyond.
https://connect.globallandscapeforum.org/en/checkout/africa2025/tickets/order?_gl=1*1003tzb*_qcl_au*MTQ5NzMyNzkwMS4xNzQ5MDE0NzI1*_ga*MTQwNzMyNzU0MCAxNzQ5MDE0NzI1*_ga_TJW62P93SH*c2E3NDkwMTQ3MjkibzEKzAKdE3NDkwMTQ3MjkjYwJGwwJGgw
- **16-26 June:** 2025 Bonn Climate Change Conference. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is set to host the 62nd sessions of its subsidiary bodies (SB 62) at its headquarters in Bonn, Germany.
<https://unfccc.int/sb62>
- **30 June – 03 July:** 4th International Conference on Financing for Development. It will bring together leaders of global financial institutions to discuss funding for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will assess progress on development finance since the first International Conference on Financing for Development in 2002, address new and emerging issues and explore how the international financial architecture can be reformed to achieve the SDGs.
<https://financing.desa.un.org/ffd4>



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