

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025



From the Editor's Desk



Dr. Arvind Kumar
President
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Dear Readers,

Mid-2025 marks a moment of sobering clarity. The Sustainable Development Report 2025, released this June, confirms what we feared but perhaps refused to fully acknowledge: not a single Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is currently on track for delivery by 2030. Let that sink in. Despite the grand declarations, the well-documented urgency, and the near-universal adoption of national SDG action plans, 190 out of 193 UN member states, to be precise only 17% of the global targets are on course. The rest? Trapped in the quicksand of rhetoric, institutional inertia, and underwhelming policy ambition.

Yes, there have been bright spots: mobile broadband access is expanding, child mortality continues to decline, and digital connectivity is leaping across regions. But if we were to grade ourselves on collective sustainability, the results would be less than flattering. The newly introduced SDG index, meant to capture headlines reveal a deeply fractured global landscape. East and South Asia are forging ahead on momentum, while Europe holds the lead in overall performance. Yet even among top performers, the gap between ambition and action yawns wide. China holds the 49th spot; India squeezes into the top 100 at 99. But here's the twist: even these rankings are built on data that, in many cases, simply doesn't exist.

One of the most glaring findings in this year's report is the widespread unavailability of recent and reliable data, particularly from developing countries. In fact, for over half the SDG indicators, the latest data is from 2020 or earlier, a pre-pandemic world with a radically different reality. This is not a small technicality; it's a systemic failure. Without timely, transparent data, how can we measure progress? And more importantly, how do governments hold themselves accountable or be held accountable at all? Governments must understand that development without data is like flying blind in a storm; rhetoric may steer the headlines, but only data drives real direction.

Meanwhile, deeper challenges persist. Fiscal constraints, misaligned policies, fragile institutions, and a chronic failure to bring local realities into national strategies are still doing the rounds, uninvited but ever-present. And let's not forget the elephant in every multilateral negotiation room: finance. Developing nations continue to face a steep climb as climate finance, green investments, and SDG-aligned funding remain elusive dreams rather than fiscal realities.

The call for reforming the Global Financial Architecture, amplified ahead of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, is now not just appropriate rather it is existential.

So, what now? Certainly not more glossy reports or recycled policy language. Incrementalism is dead. The time has come to pivot to systems thinking the kind that understands that water is climate, that biodiversity is economy, and that justice must be the connective tissue between equity and sustainability. We must break the silos that make ministries behave like fiefdoms and programs like isolated pilots. At India Water Foundation, we advocate this transversality as not just a principle, but a working model. Our engagements at the Bonn Climate Change Conference, SDG6-climate dialogues, and ongoing work on circular water economies are part of a broader effort to collapse the walls between sectors and stitch together a more resilient fabric of sustainable governance.

This edition of the newsletter captures this ethos in action. We explore the aftermath of World Environment Day’s clarion call to “Beat Plastic Pollution,” and recount our official side event during the UN Ocean Conference 2025, which advanced multi-sectoral partnerships for coastal and marine restoration. We journey into the Himalayas through HimSamwaad 2025, where health, tradition, and water security coalesced in Arunachal Pradesh. The newsletter also offers insights from the Global Risks Report 2025, reminding us that geopolitical fragmentation and climate volatility are no longer looming threats they are here, reshaping development in real time.

And because optimism must be fuelled by proof, we highlight two success stories that show what is possible: Ladakh’s solar revolution, leveraging altitude and sunlight for clean energy dominance; and Tiruppur’s textile renaissance, where industrial wastewater is no longer a liability, but a closed-loop asset. Our new podcast section, “EcoEcho: Conversations that Matter,” brings expert voices and fresh perspectives on climate finance, resilient infrastructure, and SDG localization. We also preview a calendar of catalytic global events from the Financing for Development Summit to the UN’s Water Action Agenda each representing a milestone moment, should we choose to seize it.

The final question is not whether we understand the stakes. We do. The question is: will we move fast enough to matter? Because in this race to 2030, moral posturing and conference diplomacy will not deliver results. Only bold, integrated, and well-financed action will. If not, we risk letting the SDGs drift into the dustbin of missed opportunities buried under the weight of their own noble intentions.



Cover Story

High-level official side event during the UN Ocean Conference 2025 on “Multi-sectoral Partnerships for the Conservation and Restoration of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems.”

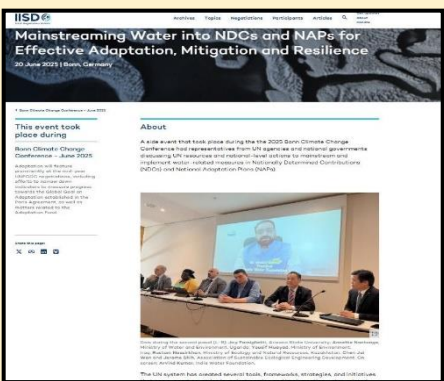


As part of its commitment to advancing SDG 14 and sustainable ocean governance, the India Water Foundation (IWF) hosted a high-level official side event during the UN Ocean Conference 2025 on the theme “Multi-sectoral Partnerships for the Conservation and Restoration of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems” on 11 June 2025. The virtual session brought together global leaders from governments, UN agencies, research institutions, and financial bodies to emphasize the urgent need for integrated, science-based, and inclusive ocean action.

Key speakers highlighted the critical role of oceans in climate regulation, livelihoods, and food systems, while also underscoring the threats posed by acidification, coral bleaching, and pollution. Discussions focused on enhancing marine spatial planning, mobilizing blue finance, incorporating Indigenous knowledge, and supporting community-led restoration efforts. Notable interventions included calls for establishing National Blue Resilience Funds, advancing Marine Protected Areas, scaling ecosystem-based fisheries, and promoting natural capital accounting. The session showcased successful models from India, Belgium, Bangladesh, Timor-Leste, and beyond, emphasizing collaboration, innovation, and equity.

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Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025 Side Event Recap: Mainstreaming Water into Climate Policy



On 20 June 2025, a key side event titled “**Mainstreaming Water into NDCs and NAPs for Effective Adaptation, Mitigation, and Resilience**” was held during the Bonn Climate Change Conference. Organized under the UN-Water Expert Group on Water and Climate Change—coordinated by UNESCO, WMO, and UNECE—in partnership with COP29 Azerbaijan, UNEP, India Water Foundation, Arizona State University, and ASEED, the session emphasized the critical role of water in climate action.

Ms. Sonja Köppel (UNECE) opened the discussion by highlighting water’s transboundary nature and its centrality in national climate strategies. **Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti (India)**, shared India’s experience in integrating water into its NDCs and promoting nature-based solutions like tree planting. **Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation**, underscored the role of water as a unifying force to overcome institutional fragmentation and stressed the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in climate planning. The event called for holistic, water-centered approaches to accelerate adaptation and resilience across sectors.

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HimSamwaad 2025

HIMSamwaad 2025, held in June in **Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh**, marked the fourth edition of this flagship initiative by **Sewa International**, dedicated to addressing the unique challenges of the Himalayan region through collaborative dialogue and action. This year’s event focused on two critical themes—health (SDG 3) and water security (SDG 6)—reflecting the urgent needs of Himalayan communities where access to clean water and quality healthcare remains a daily struggle. The conference brought together policymakers, researchers, civil society leaders, indigenous faith representatives, and government officials from across the region.

Participants emphasized the importance of localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by integrating modern innovations with traditional knowledge and ensuring community empowerment. The event featured plenary sessions on health and water, where speakers highlighted the interconnectedness of these issues: clean water is not only essential for sustenance but also a key determinant of public health and community resilience, especially in the face of climate change and glacier retreat. Voices from indigenous communities stressed the need to protect natural resources and maintain cultural traditions that have long fostered a symbiotic relationship with the environment.

Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation served as the Distinguished Chair for the panel discussion on **Reviving the Springs: Traditional Knowledge and Modern Solutions for Spring Rejuvenation**. At the summit, he offered strategic insights into safeguarding springs and promoting community-based, climate resilient solutions.

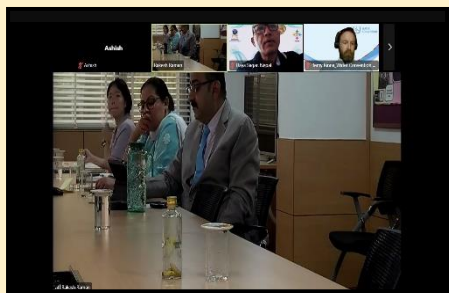
WATCH NOW



Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on SDG6 Water and Climate Change Nexus: Priorities for South and South-West Asia

On 30th June 2025, a **high-level hybrid Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on the SDG6 Water and Climate Change Nexus** was jointly organized by the **United Nations ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office** and the **India Water Foundation**. This timely dialogue brought together regional experts, civil society, think tanks to address the growing challenges posed by climate-induced water stress across South and South-West Asia. The session highlighted the urgent need for integrated water resource management strategies, inclusive governance, and adaptive solutions to mitigate the intensifying risks of glacial melt, erratic rainfall, droughts, and water pollution in one of the world’s most climate-vulnerable regions.

Key discussions revolved around identifying best practices, persistent challenges, and actionable policy recommendations to accelerate progress on SDG 6. Delegates emphasized the need for early warning systems, nature-based solutions, resilient infrastructure, and enhanced regional cooperation. India Water Foundation presented a progress review of SDG 6 implementation in the SSWA region, calling for stronger convergence of climate and water policies and more robust multi-level stakeholder engagement. The event concluded with a shared commitment to scale up efforts in building water-secure, climate-resilient communities and fostering transboundary water cooperation as a pathway to sustainable development and peace.



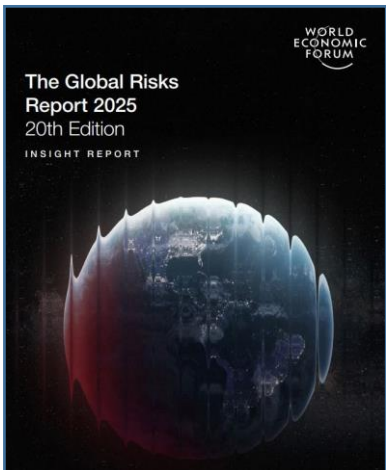
Knowledge Hub



Sustainable Development Report 2025

The Sustainable Development Report (SDR) reviews progress made each year on the Sustainable Development Goals since their adoption by the 193 UN Member States in 2015. Ahead of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (Ff4D) in Seville, Spain, the 10th edition of the SDR outlines urgent reforms to the Global Financial Architecture (GFA). This edition also includes for the first time an assessment of which countries have most progressed on the SDGs using a headline SDG Index (SDGi).

[CLICK HERE](#)



Global Risks Report 2025

The 20th edition of the Global Risks Report 2025 reveals an increasingly fractured global landscape, where escalating geopolitical, environmental, societal and technological challenges threaten stability and progress. This edition presents the findings of the Global Risks Perception Survey 2024-2025 (GRPS), which captures insights from over 900 experts worldwide. The report analyses global risks through three timeframes to support decision-makers in balancing current crises and longer-term priorities.

[CLICK HERE](#)

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.](#)

EcoEcho: Conversations that Matter

Beyond Action: The Role of Inner Development Goals for a Sustainable Future

The IDGs offer a framework for cultivating the human capabilities, qualities, and skills essential for building a sustainable, equitable, and thriving future for all.

In this episode, we will explore how the IDGs complement the SDGs by focusing on the inner dimensions of change, such as self-awareness, emotional intelligence, mindfulness, and resilience. These inner qualities are critical for addressing the complex challenges of our time and for driving meaningful, systemic change towards sustainability. Our discussion with Åsa Jarskog, the Director Global Collaboration of the Inner Development Goals will cover the origins, development, and applications of the IDG framework, showcasing how it equips individuals, communities, and organizations with the inner skills needed to effectively contribute to the global sustainable development agenda. Let us unlock the synergy between inner transformation and outer action, illuminating a holistic path to achieving a sustainable future for all.

Listen to the episode....



LISTEN NOW



SUCCESS STORIES



Can Ladakh's Harsh Climate Help It Emerge as India's Solar Energy Leader?

Basking in the sun-drenched heights of the Himalayas, Ladakh embraces over 300 sunny days annually. Through initiatives like the ITBP's solar power system and plans for a massive 13 GW renewable energy park, Ladakh is turning its harsh climate into a solar energy hub.

[Read more](#)

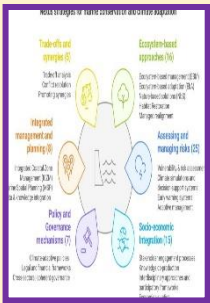
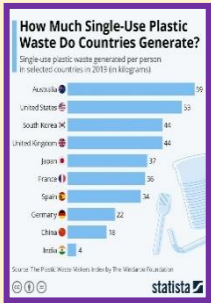


How This Tamil Nadu City Recycles 130 Million Litres of Water Daily

A Once infamous for pollution, Tiruppur's textile industry is now a model for water recycling and sustainability using Zero Liquid Discharge systems.

[Read more](#)

FRIDAY BLOGS



Eliminating Plastics: A nature's call for Emergency?

Beyond the Surface: Listening to the Ocean's SOS?

Pricing the Priceless: A Path to Sustainability

Assuring that No One is Left Behind?

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

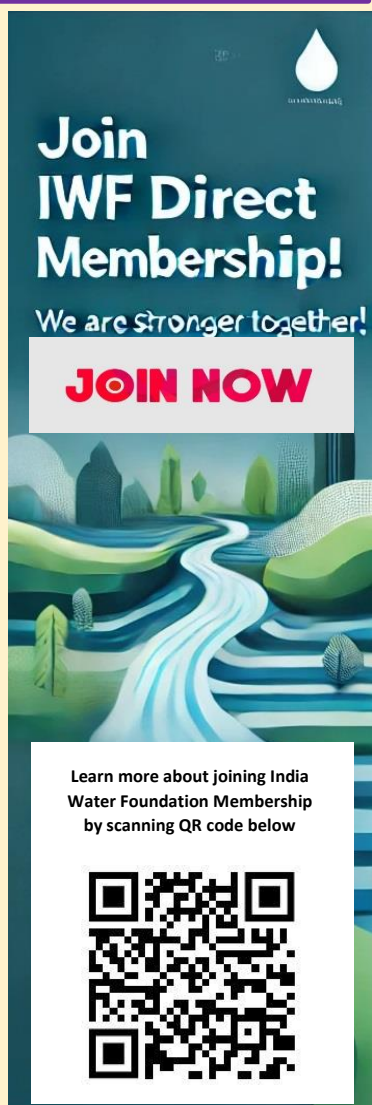
The JalMitra outreach program encourages sustainable living practices by promoting sustainable conservation and restoration projects. The campaign fosters awareness and behavioural change at the grassroots level, enabling communities to adopt environmentally responsible lifestyles that reduce ecological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

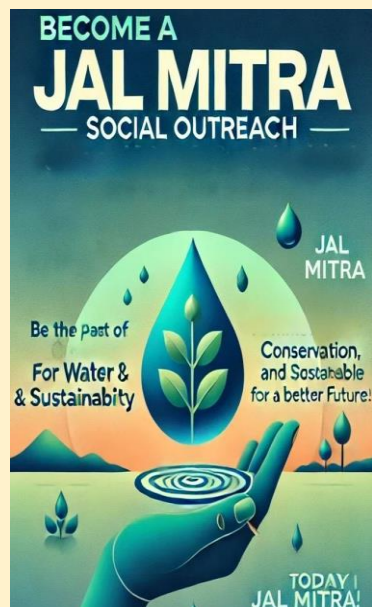


Join IWF Direct Membership!

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 —

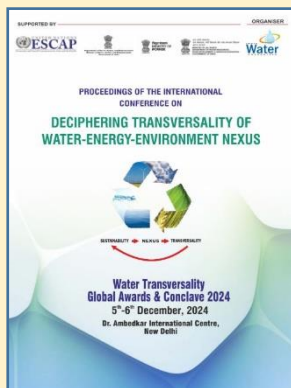
Be the part of For Water & Sustainability

Conservation, and Sustainable for a better Future!

JAL MITRA

TODAY I JAL MITRA!

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **03 July: United Unlocking Water and Sanitation Financing Through the Heads of State Initiative.** This event will highlight country experiences and foster dialogue on how political leadership can drive sustainable financing and mutual accountability. The event will convene as a side event during the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)
<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=h4uJxObXOG456GaXbs1SWAGvoUydrJPhQqv1PZlmv1UNUVJRjJVN0s3WEzXUE5T1VTQzKzVZMUY4u&route=shorturl>
- **06–07 July: 17th BRICS Summit.** It will be hosted by Brazil. As the Chair of BRICS, Brazil is focusing on the theme, 'Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance'.
<https://brics.br/en>
- **09 July: Preparatory Meeting for the 2026 UN Water Conference.** The President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) will convene a one-day meeting to promote the achievement of SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) and to agree on the themes of the interactive dialogues for the 2026 UN Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation).
<https://www.un.org/pga/79/2025/02/05/letter-from-president-general-assembly-on-water-conference/>
- **22 July: SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Event.** It is one of a series of high-profile special events taking place on the sidelines of the 2025 session of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The event takes place annually during the HLPF to facilitate space for discussion on water-related SDG targets.
<https://sdgs.un.org/2025-hlpf-special-events>
- **27-29 July: Second UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4).** It aims to accelerate sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems transformation that benefits people, the planet, and shared prosperity and contributes to broader efforts to shape a coherent narrative on sustainable development and synergies among the SDGs. The 2025 Summit will build on the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit and the First UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moment in 2023 (UNFSS+2).
<https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/latest-updates/news/detail/save-the-date-for-the-2nd-un-food-systems-summit-stocktaking-moment-unfss-4/en>



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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