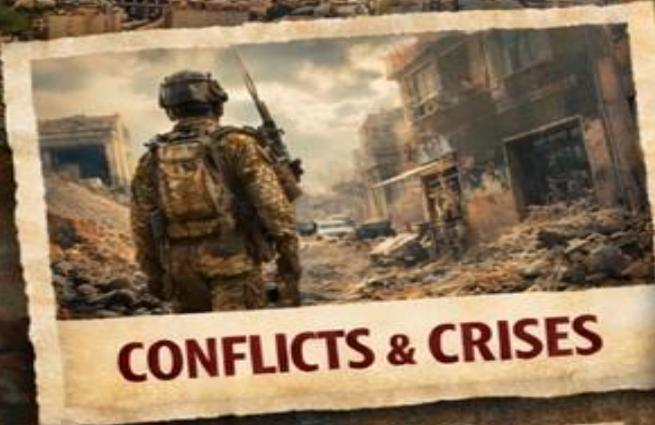




NAVIGATING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Addressing the Complex Issues of Today



**INNOVATION, UNITY & RESILIENCE
IN DIFFICULT TIMES**

INDIA WATER FOUNDATION'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026 EDITION

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dr. Arvind Kumar
President
India Water Foundation

Dear Readers,

The global community today stands at a profound crossroads. The early decades of the twenty-first century were expected to be defined by unprecedented technological advancement, economic integration, and collaborative solutions to humanity's greatest challenges. Yet, the world now finds itself navigating a turbulent landscape shaped by geopolitical tensions, armed conflicts, economic protectionism, and deepening environmental crises. From ongoing wars and regional conflicts to the resurgence of tariffs and trade barriers, the global order is being tested in ways not witnessed for decades. Amid this uncertainty, one truth becomes increasingly clear: sustainable development and collective action are no longer aspirational ideals—they are necessities for global stability.

Across continents, conflicts continue to consume resources, attention, and human potential. The economic implications of war extend far beyond battlefields. Military expenditure worldwide has surged, diverting billions of dollars that could otherwise address urgent issues such as climate resilience, water security, healthcare systems, and sustainable infrastructure. The global community has repeatedly been reminded of this imbalance by leaders such as António Guterres, who has emphasized that the resources spent on conflict could transform humanity's capacity to combat climate change, poverty, and inequality if redirected toward sustainable development. His message resonates strongly today: humanity's greatest security lies not in expanding arsenals but in strengthening cooperation and sustainability.

Parallel to geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation is also reshaping global relations. Increasing tariffs, trade restrictions, and economic rivalries are challenging the principles of globalization that defined the late twentieth century. While nations understandably prioritize domestic resilience and strategic autonomy, excessive economic protectionism risks undermining the collaborative spirit needed to address global challenges. Climate change, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and public health threats do not respect national borders. These issues demand shared responsibility and coordinated responses among nations, institutions, and communities.

Even amid geopolitical disruptions and economic uncertainties, a powerful counter-movement is steadily gaining momentum: the global transition toward sustainability guided by Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. What once began as a niche concept within responsible investing has now evolved into a central framework shaping governance, policy, and economic strategy worldwide. Governments, corporations, financial institutions, and civil society organizations increasingly recognize that long-term economic progress must be aligned with environmental stewardship and social equity. ESG today represents not merely a compliance mechanism but a comprehensive approach to responsible development that integrates sustainability into the core of decision-making.

This global shift reflects a deeper realization that lasting prosperity cannot be achieved without safeguarding the planet's ecological systems while ensuring inclusive growth. International frameworks such as the United Nations's Sustainable Development Goals and the global climate commitments under the Paris Agreement highlight how multilateral cooperation remains essential for sustainable progress. These initiatives encourage countries to integrate climate action, water security, energy transition, and social inclusion into national development strategies, reinforcing the idea that sustainability must be addressed through collaborative global action rather than isolated efforts.

Within this evolving global context, the concept of transversality—integrating multiple sectors and disciplines to address interconnected challenges—has gained increasing relevance. Issues such as water security, energy access, environmental protection, and public health are deeply interlinked. Approaching them independently often results in fragmented policies and limited outcomes. Instead, integrated approaches that recognize the nexus between water, energy, health, and environmental sustainability offer more resilient and effective solutions. Such perspectives emphasize that sustainable development requires coordinated policies, cross-sectoral collaboration, and the alignment of economic, environmental, and social priorities.

Encouragingly, many nations are demonstrating leadership in advancing sustainability agendas. Investments in renewable energy, climate adaptation, green infrastructure, and circular economy models are expanding across the globe. Financial markets are increasingly incorporating ESG metrics into investment decisions, recognizing that responsible corporate practices contribute to long-term economic stability and resilience. This growing alignment between sustainability objectives and economic strategy indicates that the global community is gradually redefining development beyond traditional measures of growth.

Equally important is the need to reconsider global resource allocation. As repeatedly emphasized by António Guterres, the enormous financial resources spent each year on military expansion could instead support transformative investments in climate resilience, sustainable infrastructure, education, and public health. Redirecting even a portion of global military expenditure toward sustainability initiatives could significantly accelerate progress toward a more equitable and secure world.

Ultimately, the challenges confronting humanity—conflict, economic fragmentation, climate disruption, and resource scarcity—are interconnected. Addressing them requires integrated solutions grounded in cooperation, responsible governance, and sustainable development.

India Water Foundation Felicitated for Integrated Transversality Leadership

INDIA WATER FOUNDATION FELICITATED FOR INTEGRATED TRANSVERSALITY LEADERSHIP

The India Water Foundation (IWF) was honoured with a prestigious award by the Nurserymen Association of India in recognition of its outstanding contributions across diverse domains including water conservation, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and community empowerment. The award was presented during “Prakriti Diwas” organised by Nurserymen Association of India on 12 February 2026 at the India International Centre.

The recognition reflects the shared vision between the two institutions in promoting ecological restoration, strengthening green livelihoods, and advancing sustainable natural resource management. The award acknowledges India Water Foundation’s integrated aligned with national priorities and global sustainability goals.

The event was graced by eminent dignitaries including Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Former Minister of Education, Government of India and Former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand; K. C. Tyagi, Former Member of Lok Sabha; and Sunita Narain, Director General of the Centre for Science and Environment. Addressing the gathering, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank appreciated the India Water Foundation for its sustained efforts in integrating water security with environmental stewardship.

[READ HERE](#)

HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON "WATER TRANSVERSALITY FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION"

High-level policy dialogue on "Water Transversality for Poverty Alleviation and Social Inclusion" organized by the India Water Foundation as an official side event of the 64th Session of the UN Commission on Social Development. The event spotlighted water not as a mere utility, but as a transformative force weaving through health, livelihoods, gender equity, and climate resilience especially in a nation where rural poverty and water stress intersect dramatically. He painted a vivid picture of India's water revolution under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, spotlighting Jal Jeevan Mission's leap from 60% to over 81% rural tap water coverage, reaching 15 crore homes.

There is an urgent need to adopt a transversality approach to water governance, one that breaks sectoral silos and embeds water at the centre of planning for poverty reduction, health, agriculture, energy, and climate resilience. Traditional, single-sector strategies are no longer adequate in the face of complex and socio-economic inequalities. Instead, we need integrated policy frameworks that bring government, industry, civil society, and communities together to co-create solutions that benefit both people and the planet" highlighted Sh. Raj Bhushan Chaudhary, Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Government of India, captivating over 500 online participants, experts, and global participants

Echoing this urgency, Sh. Amit Gosh, Additional Chief Secretary for Health, Medical Welfare, and Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh, shared a stark personal tale: as a young trainee, contaminated village water hospitalized him yet locals endured it daily. In UP, where 53% of female adolescents' battle anaemia tied to waterborne ills, Gosh framed water transversality a "pro-poor poverty intervention. He called for convergence: linking water to nutrition, health surveillance, and even medical colleges for evidence-based inclusion, declaring poverty "the biggest polluter."



World Water Leadership Congress & Awards

19th February, 2026 | Taj Lands End, Mumbai



WORLD WATER LEADERSHIP CONGRESS AND AWARDS 2026

We are pleased to share that Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation was felicitated with the Leader's Award for the Most Impactful Water Management Water Management, conferred by the World Federation of CSR Professionals, recognizing his outstanding contributions to sustainable water management and policy leadership.

We are also proud to share that Dr. Kumar delivered an insightful presentation titled **"Deciphering the Ripple Effects of Climate Change on Water Resources"** at the **World Water Leadership Congress & Awards**, themed **"The Changing CSR Landscape: Sustainable for the Future,"** on **19 February 2026** at **Taj Lands End, Mumbai**.

In his presentation, he highlighted how climate change is intensifying water stress, altering hydrological cycles, and creating cascading impacts on ecosystems, public health, and economic stability. He also emphasized the critical role of integrated water governance, climate-resilient infrastructure, and responsible CSR investments in safeguarding future water security.



13TH ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We are pleased to share that our recent high-level side event on Accelerating SDG 6 through science based solutions and enabling frameworks across the water-climate nexus.

Convened by India Water Foundation in collaboration with UNESCAP, UNHabitat, and UNESCO during the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the session brought together leading policymakers and experts to advance integrated, scalable solutions for water security across the Asia–Pacific region.

During the discussion, Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation highlighted the urgent need to move beyond fragmented pilots toward systemic action through integrated water–climate frameworks, innovative finance, and strong multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The dialogue reinforced a clear message: achieving SDG 6 will require policy coherence, data sharing, nature-based solutions, and stronger regional collaboration to secure water, climate resilience, and sustainable development by 2030.

13th APFSD
Participate • Accelerate • Innovate

“Accelerating SDG 6 through science-based solutions and enabling frameworks across the Water–Climate Nexus”
on
26 February: 12:45 – 13:45, Room- MRG-84

 MR. ENGIN KONCAGUL Senior Programme Specialist & Chief of Natural Sciences Unit UNESCO Regional Office Jakarta	 MR. TARIK HASSAN Regional Coordinator – Groundwater Cooperation and Climate Resilience UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok	 MR. ANSHUMAN VARMA Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Policy Section	 MR. AVI SARKAR Head of Office, Lao PDR Regional Advisor South-East Asia, UBS UN-Habitat
 DR. ARVIND KUMAR President India Water Foundation	 PROF. LI YALONG Director Changjiang Water Resources Commission	 MR. RONGKUN LIU Water Policy Specialist ICIMOD	 MS. MIKIKO TANAKA Director & Head SSWA Office UN ESCAP (MODERATOR)

CO-ORGANIZERS

 UNESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	 unesco	 UN-HABITAT	 INDIA Water FOUNDATION
---	---	--	---



VIDEO MESSAGES

World Wetlands Day 2026

On World Wetlands Day 2026, Dr Arvind Kumar, President India Water Foundation highlights why wetlands must be recognised as strategic natural infrastructure central to **India's water security, biodiversity, livelihoods, nutrition, climate resilience, and cultural heritage**. This year's theme, **Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage**, reminds us that community-led wisdom, integrated with modern science and policy, offers scalable solutions for sustainable development. As India reaches 98 Ramsar Sites, the call is clear: protect wetlands not just as ecosystems, but as foundations of economic resilience and human well-being



7-Day Countdown to the Water Transversality Global Awards & Conclave 2026 Begins



Dr. Arvind Kumar, President and Founder of the India Water Foundation, invites global leaders, policymakers, industry partners, researchers, and practitioners to unite at the Second Edition of the Water Transversality Global Awards & Conclave.

Set against the backdrop of the triple planetary crisis the Conclave will champion **ESG Transversality** to advance a **sustainable Water–Energy–Health – Environment Nexus**. The focus moving from dialogue to decisive action through policy innovation, collaborative governance, and scalable, real-world solutions

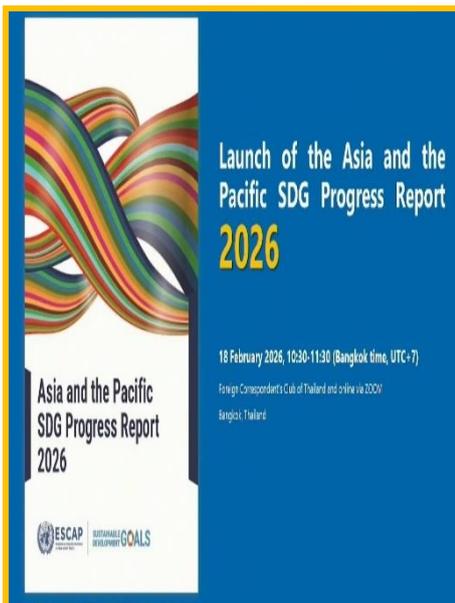
7th Senior Officers' Meeting



The Ministry of Jal Shakti held its 7th Senior Officers' Meeting on February 6, 2026, to coordinate preparations for India International Water Week 2026 (scheduled for September 22-26 in New Delhi), including session planning, website launch, and media strategies. The National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), under the National Water Mission, conducted a sponsored training "Climate Modeller's Toolkit for Water Resource Management" from February 2-6 in Roorkee, focusing on climate data tools for water resources—free for select professionals with hands-on sessions.



Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2026



The Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2026, launched by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on February 18 in Bangkok, delivers a sobering assessment of the region's trajectory toward the 2030 Agenda. It reveals that Asia-Pacific is on track to miss 88% of measurable SDG targets (103 out of 117), with progress stalled or too slow across all 17 Goals despite gains in poverty reduction (SDG 1), undernourishment (SDG 2), health, infrastructure, and industry.



SUCCESS STORIES



In the Himalayas, Architects Are Building Structures That Stay Warm Naturally & Withstand Harsh Conditions

In the Himalayas, architects are turning to traditional materials and local craft to build homes that stay warm naturally, use fewer resources, and withstand earthquakes and harsh weather. These three projects show how building with the land — not against it — can shape a more sustainable future.

**READ
MORE**



How These 8 Rainwater Techniques Help Indian Families Save Up to 1 Lakh Litres

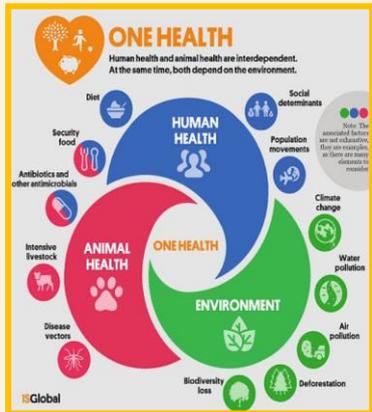
Indian homes are turning to simple, affordable rainwater harvesting ideas—from matka filters to soak pits—to save water and build resilience, one drop at a time.

**READ
MORE**



Mother of all Agreements, will it be a Blockbuster?

Heralding Indo-America Relations in New Perspective



Is It Time to Rethink Planetary Health Diplomacy Through a Nexus Approach?

Recalibrating ESG-Aligned Finance & Governance to Combat Greenwashing



INVITATION TO JOIN DIRECT 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!

JOIN NOW



**IWF Direct
Membership!**
We are stronger together



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



INVITATION TO JOIN SOCIAL OUTREACH MEMBERSHIP

Our Special JalMitra Social Outreach Membership

The JalMitra outreach program and 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.

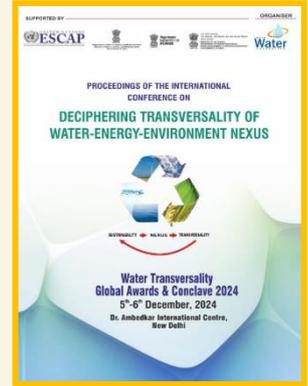
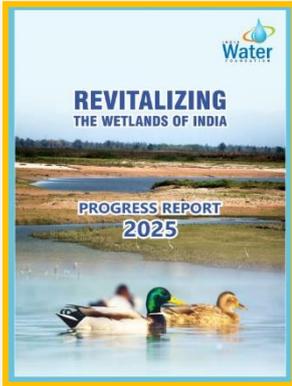
How to Join?

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!

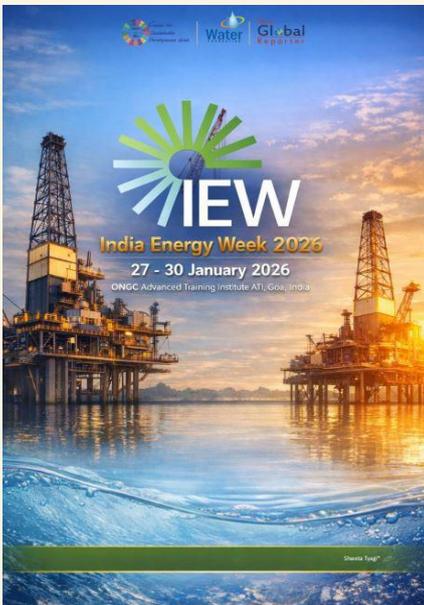
<https://indiawaterfoundation.org/jal-mitra/>



KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



REPORTS



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **3–5 March: Sustainability Week 2026.** Held in London, UK, this event gathers business leaders, policymakers, and innovators to explore circular economy models, sustainable finance, biodiversity protection, and corporate net-zero strategies.
<https://sustainabilityweek.com/>
- **10–12 March: Asia Sustainable Energy Week (ASEW) 2026.** Taking place in Bangkok, Thailand, ASEW drives discussions on renewable energy scaling, green hydrogen adoption, energy efficiency in urban areas, and ASEAN-wide sustainability transitions.
<https://www.sustainableenergyweek.com/>
- **16–18 March: World Water Tech Innovation Summit.** Hosted in London, UK, it convenes water sector experts on smart water management, climate-resilient infrastructure, wastewater reuse, and financing for SDG 6 in emerging markets.
<https://worldwatertechinnovation.com/>
- **17–19 March: Sustainable Infrastructure Summit 2026.** In Mumbai, India, this summit focuses on green building standards, resilient urban planning, low-carbon transport, and public-private partnerships for sustainable cities.
<https://www.terlin.org/event/sustainable-infrastructure-summit>
- **23–25 March: International Conference on Climate Change and Sustainability (ICCCS 2026).** Organized in New Delhi, India, ICCCS addresses adaptation strategies, carbon markets, nature-based solutions, and policy frameworks for India's NDC updates.
<https://www.iccs2026.org/>
- **24–26 March: ESG India Summit 2026.** At Hyderabad, India, leaders discuss ESG reporting mandates, sustainable supply chains, biodiversity credits, and investor strategies for green growth in South Asia.
<https://esgindiasummit.com/>
- **30 March – 1 April: Green Fintech Summit 2026.** In Singapore, this forum highlights digital tools for sustainable finance, climate risk analytics, blockchain for carbon tracking, and impact investing in Asia-Pacific.
<https://greenfintechsummit.com/>

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.

Compiled and Edited by: Ms. Shweta Tyagi, and Mr. Ashish Sharma

INDIA WATER FOUNDATION

Spaces, 17th Floor Max Towers, Sector 16B, DND Flyway Noida-201301, India
Phone: 91-0120-7185304, 91-0120-7185305

