



INDIA WATER FOUNDATION'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026 EDITION

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dr. Arvind Kumar
President
India Water Foundation

Dear Readers,

The world stands at a precarious inflection point. In early 2026, geopolitical and economic instability – from energy market volatility to climate-driven crises – underscores an era of heightened uncertainty. Against this backdrop, sustainability and energy trends present a mixed picture. Global energy demand continued to grow in 2025 (by ~1.3 %), with renewables (notably solar PV) making record contributions to supply. Yet fossil fuels remain dominant: energy-sector CO₂ emissions hit a new high in 2024 (37.8 Gt, ~0.8 % above 2023), and atmospheric CO₂ is now ~422.5 ppm (50 % above pre-industrial). Ambitious targets – for example the COP28 pledge to triple renewable capacity and double efficiency by 2030 – signal hope, but actual progress is uneven. Water challenges loom even larger: over 2.2 billion people lack safely managed drinking water, and some 4.0 billion face severe water scarcity for at least one month each year.

In this context, the May 2026 edition of India Water Foundation's Monthly Newsletter brings together a diverse array of insights, initiatives, and thought leadership aimed at addressing these critical issues. The edition highlights the Foundation's active engagement in global and national platforms, including its participation in international forums such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, where water and sanitation are increasingly recognized as fundamental human rights. It also features reflections on key events and recognitions, including high-level conclaves that underscore the importance of collaborative action in the water sector.

The newsletter further delves into thematic areas such as air pollution and its intricate linkages with water and health, offering a holistic perspective on environmental challenges. The latest volume of the Foundation's Chronicle continues to serve as a repository of knowledge, presenting research, case studies, and expert opinions that contribute to informed discourse and policy development. The Knowledge Hub section curates relevant resources, reports, and analytical pieces, enabling readers to stay abreast of emerging trends and innovations in sustainability.

Equally important are the success stories and field-level interventions showcased in this edition, which demonstrate the tangible impact of community-driven approaches and strategic partnerships. These narratives not only highlight best practices but also inspire replication and scaling of effective models. This edition of the newsletter serves as both a reflection of ongoing efforts and a call to action for all stakeholders to engage, collaborate, and lead with purpose.



GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR IWF'S WATER TRANSVERSALITY GLOBAL AWARDS AND CONCLAVE 2026 BY IWRA

The India Water Foundation's flagship Water Transversality Global Awards & Conclave 2026, held in New Delhi in March 2026, received notable recognition in the latest newsletter of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA). The Conclave, convened under the theme "ESG Transversality for the Sustainable Water, Energy, Health & Environment Nexus," brought together global thought leaders and practitioners to advance integrated approaches to sustainability challenges.

IWRA's Deputy Executive Director, Ulrike Kelm, actively contributed to key sessions, highlighting the critical importance of strengthened international cooperation, transparent governance, and accountability in addressing the interconnected water–energy–health–environment nexus.

A major highlight of the Conclave was the conferment of Lifetime Achievement Awards upon three distinguished IWRA leaders Dr Rabi Mohtar, Dr Eric Tardieu, and Mr Ignacio Deregibus in recognition of their exceptional contributions to global water cooperation, river basin governance, and sustainable resource management.

The acknowledgement by IWRA underscores the growing global resonance of IWF's Water Transversality platform as a convening force for advancing dialogue, partnerships, and action at the intersection of water and allied sectors.

Quarterly Update
March 2026
Issue 1 - 2026

Welcome to IWRA's quarterly newsletter!

This digital issue reflects on the first months of 2026, from events and publications to new projects, and looks ahead to the activities and initiatives still to come this year across our global network of members and partners.

IN THIS ISSUE

Lifetime Achievement Awards for IWRA at Water Transversality Conclave

In March, IWRA attended the [Water Transversality Global Awards & Conclave 2026](#) in New Delhi, India, an international conference on "ESG Transversality for the Sustainable Water, Energy, Health & Environment Nexus."

IWRA Deputy Executive Director Ulrike Kelm spoke at several key moments of the programme, and emphasised that addressing the water–energy–health–environment nexus requires stronger international co-operation, transparent governance, and genuine accountability.

Congratulations to three IWRA leaders, who received Lifetime Achievement Awards for their remarkable contributions to global water cooperation, river basin governance, and sustainable resource management:

- Rabi Mohtar, IWRA Vice-President
- Eric Tardieu, Chair of the IWRA Awards Committee and IWRA Honorary Member
- Ignacio Deregibus, IWRA Executive Director

[READ HERE](#)

IWF'S WATER TRANSVERSALITY CONCLAVE FEATURED IN GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE PLANET NEWSLETTER

The India Water Foundation's flagship *Water Transversality Global Awards and Conclave 2026*, held in New Delhi, has been prominently featured in the April 2026 edition of the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet (GASP) newsletter. The coverage highlights the Conclave's role in advancing the discourse on ESG transversality across the water–energy–health–environment nexus.

Organized by the India Water Foundation in partnership with the UNESCAP-SSWA Office, and supported by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, the Conclave brought together global leaders to deliberate on integrated governance frameworks and cross-sectoral collaboration.

The GASP newsletter underscored key thematic discussions from the event, including embedding ESG principles into policy and corporate systems, strengthening transparency through robust metrics and disclosure frameworks, addressing greenwashing risks, and leveraging ESG-aligned finance to drive measurable impact.

The feature also recognized the significance of the Water Transversality Global Awards 2026 in celebrating innovation and leadership across sectors, reinforcing the importance of collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to sustainability.

This international recognition reflects the growing global resonance of IWF's water transversality framework and its commitment to positioning water as a central connector in achieving sustainable and resilient development outcomes.

Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2026

From the Secretary-General's Desk

Dear friends,

The first months of 2026 have underscored a hard reality: climate risk is now systemic. Intensifying heatwaves, erratic rainfall, and escalating stress on coastal and marine systems are no longer anomalies—they are the baseline. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that the 1.5°C threshold is likely to be exceeded within the next few years without immediate, large-scale emissions reductions, while the United Nations Environment Programme Emissions Gap Report indicates that current commitments put us on a trajectory closer to 2.5–2.9°C.

This context demands a shift from fragmented interventions to integrated, systems-level strategies. Over the past months, our discussions with partners on ocean sustainability, resource security, and resilience have reinforced a central policy insight: climate, nature, and development agendas must be operationalized together. Delivering impact at scale will require tighter alignment between public policy, private capital, and scientific innovation—particularly in areas such as marine governance and water–energy–environment systems.

Importantly, sectors once framed as liabilities are emerging as strategic assets. Agriculture is a case in point. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, climate-smart and regenerative approaches can deliver productivity gains of up to 20% in climate-vulnerable regions while enhancing soil carbon and resilience. Unlocking this potential will depend on coherent policy frameworks, blended finance, and institutional support at scale.

The priority now is acceleration. This means moving beyond consensus toward execution—scaling proven models, embedding resilience into core economic systems, and ensuring that vulnerable communities are central to decision-making processes. The success of our collective response will be judged not by commitments made, but by measurable outcomes delivered.

Warm regards,
Satya S. Tripathi

Key Highlights

Advancing ESG for a Resilient Water-Energy-Health Nexus

Our Secretary General joined the Speaker of the Parliament of India at the recent Water Transversality Global Awards and Conclave 2026 in New Delhi. It was organized by the India Water Foundation in partnership with UNESCAP-SSWA Office and supported by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of the Government of India. Under the theme 'ESG Transversality for a Sustainable Water-Energy-Health and Environment Nexus', the event convened global leaders to explore integrated governance, cross-sectoral collaboration, and the application of ESG principles to water, energy, health, and environmental challenges.

Sessions highlighted strategies to embed ESG across policy and corporate frameworks, strengthen credibility through robust metrics and disclosure standards, and prevent greenwashing while emphasizing ESG-aligned finance as a key enabler of measurable impact. The conclave concluded with the Water Transversality Global Awards 2026, celebrating outstanding contributions to sustainability and innovation across sectors.

These initiatives underscore the critical role of ESG integration in shaping transparent, accountable, and nature-driven solutions, paving the way for a resilient and sustainable future across water, energy, health, and environmental systems.

Blue Economy Summit: Harnessing Innovation and Sustainability for Marine Prosperity

Our Secretary General joined the Speaker of the Parliament of India at the recent Water Transversality Global Awards and Conclave 2026 in New Delhi. It was organized by the

ADVANCING INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY: IWF AT UNHRC 61ST SESSION

Ms. Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary of the India Water Foundation, represented the organisation during the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, contributing to the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Disabilities.

In her intervention, she underscored that the Government of India is guided by a rights-based framework under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which guarantees equality, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity, including in political and public life, thereby promoting inclusive democratic participation.

She further highlighted India's targeted initiatives aimed at enhancing accessibility and inclusivity in electoral processes. These include accessible voter registration systems, Braille-enabled electronic voting machines, priority assistance at polling stations, home voting provisions for persons with benchmark disabilities, and dedicated awareness campaigns to encourage voter enrolment and participation.

The intervention reflected IWF's continued engagement in global policy dialogues, reinforcing the importance of inclusive governance frameworks and equitable participation in democratic processes.



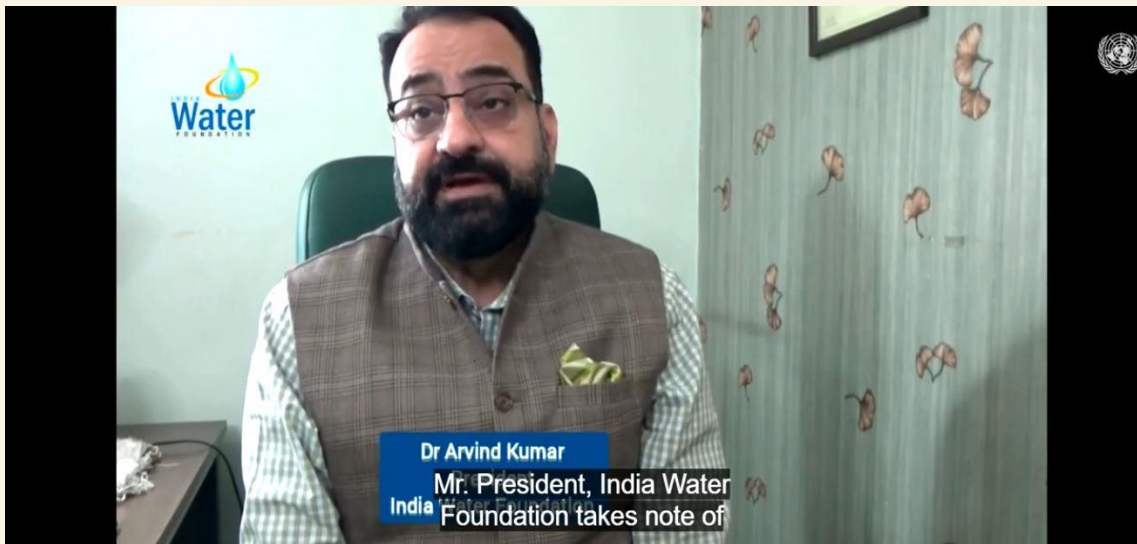
CHAMPIONING INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AT UNHRC 61ST SESSION

Dr. Arvind Kumar, President of the India Water Foundation, addressed the General Debate (Item 5) during the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva, highlighting India's evolving approach towards inclusive and equitable development.

In his statement, he emphasized that, in recognition of migration dynamics, historical disadvantage, and entrenched social hierarchies, India has strengthened inclusive development frameworks that prioritise women, youth, and marginalized communities.

He further underlined India's multi-dimensional policy approach, which addresses not only identity-based concerns but also the underlying structural drivers of vulnerability. Reaffirming the country's commitment to social harmony, pluralism, and participatory governance, he noted that India continues to view its diversity as a foundational strength in its ongoing nation-building journey.

The intervention reflects IWF's active engagement in global human rights discourse, contributing to conversations on inclusive growth, social equity, and sustainable development.



ADDRESSING AIR POLLUTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH AT UNHRC

Ms. Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary, India Water Foundation, participated in the General Debate (Item 3) at the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, highlighting the critical intersection of air quality, public health, and environmental governance.

In her statement, she emphasized that clean air is fundamental to the right to health and a healthy environment, while acknowledging the serious risks posed by air pollution, particularly for children, the elderly, and vulnerable communities.

She further noted that the Government of India has adopted a comprehensive, science-based approach to address air pollution, combining regulatory frameworks, policy interventions, and monitoring mechanisms. She underscored the increasing emphasis on accountability of private actors through environmental regulations, corporate sustainability reporting, and compliance systems.

Reaffirming India's commitment, she highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen air quality governance while balancing developmental priorities, ensuring that public health protection and environmental sustainability remain central to national policy frameworks.



UNVEILING CHRONICLE XIII: A CONFLUENCE OF IDEAS, INSIGHTS, AND GLOBAL ACTION

The India Water Foundation is pleased to present the 13th edition of its bi-annual magazine, *Chronicle*—a thoughtfully curated volume that captures the defining challenges and critical conversations shaping the contemporary global landscape.

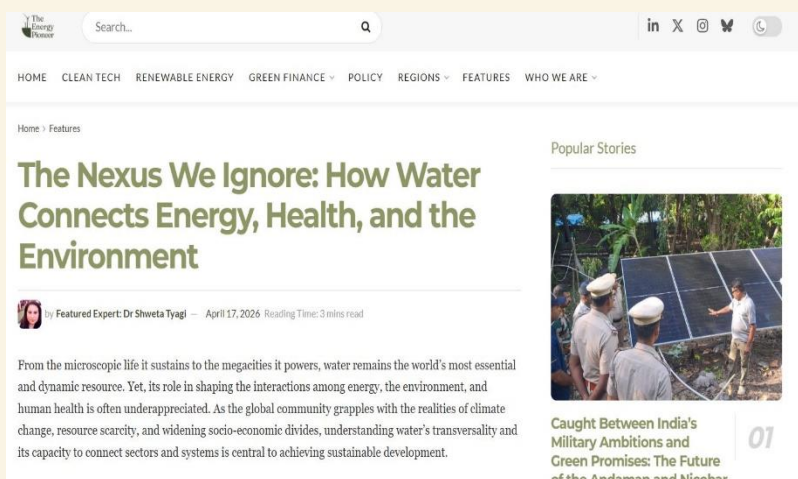
Chronicle XIII moves beyond conventional analysis to offer a multidimensional narrative on the cascading impacts of global conflicts, climate change, environmental degradation, food and energy insecurity, and evolving economic paradigms. The edition brings together a distinguished set of expert interviews and perspectives from global leaders, policymakers, and domain specialists, offering grounded insights on governance, sustainability, resilience, and the imperative for strengthened international cooperation.

A central highlight of this edition is its comprehensive coverage of the Water Transversality Global Awards & Conclave 2026, showcasing pioneering initiatives, leadership excellence, and innovative pathways emerging across the water–energy–environment–health nexus.

Through in-depth articles, expert dialogues, and field-driven narratives, *Chronicle XIII* serves both as a substantive knowledge resource and a compelling call to action, advocating a transition from fragmented approaches towards integrated, systems-driven solutions. Readers are invited to engage with the ideas and insights that are shaping a more sustainable and resilient future.



FEATURED ARTICLES




WED, MAY 06, 2026 | UPDATED 11:11 IST

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India's development, inclusion and environmental stewardship at UNHRC

India's development, inclusion and environmental stewardship at UNHRC

ANI | Updated: Apr 02, 2026 18:21 IST

PNN

New Delhi (India), April 2: The 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), held in Geneva from 23 February to 31 March 2026, took place against a backdrop of escalating global tensions, ongoing armed conflicts, and widening inequalities that continue to strain the international human rights framework. The session brought together representatives from over 100 countries, multilateral organizations, and civil society actors to deliberate on emerging and persistent human rights challenges.

This session was marked by a strong emphasis on the intersectionality of human rights with contemporary global issues. Key thematic priorities included disability rights, children's rights, minority protection and the integration of human rights

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Yashwanth Samra: A Tribute to Service, Compassion, and Quiet Impact

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026 AT 11:20 AM

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AHMEDABAD GANDHINAGAR GUJARAT POLITICS NATION WORLD SPORTS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT COLUMNS

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Others Specials

India's Strategic Tightrope in Global Turmoil



Dr. Anvish Kumar, President, India Water Foundation

TRENDING NEWS

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Fire erupts at plastic factory in Ahmedabad; no casualties

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Fire breaks out at Rajkot game zone, no injuries

The current global order is facing various overlapping crises, which are collectively being described as the poly-crisis era. Given this situation, New Delhi finds itself at a very significant moment, more so after the wars in the Middle East and the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war, when the traditional international security mechanisms are gradually becoming obsolete. India, being a major power with its GDP rising to US\$4.18 trillion, seems to be the centre of global politics; it should maintain a low profile and also do some courageous acts to preserve its strategic autonomy, besides ensuring the creation of a peaceful and stable internal environment, if it wants to be free of the geopolitical mess.

The Energy and Resource Frontier



FIRST INDIA

Wednesday, May 06, 2026

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LATEST NEWS Controversy-hit IAS Lalli Goll placed under APO

Home News India's Strategic Tightrope in Global Turmoil

India's Strategic Tightrope in Global Turmoil



By Firstindia

The current global order is facing various overlapping crises, which are collectively being described as the poly-crisis era. Given this situation, New Delhi finds itself at a very significant moment, more so after the wars in the Middle East and the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war, when the traditional international security mechanisms are gradually becoming obsolete. India, being a major power with its GDP rising to US\$4.18 trillion, seems to be the centre of global politics; it should maintain a low profile and also do some courageous acts to preserve its strategic autonomy, besides ensuring the creation of a peaceful and stable internal environment, if it wants to be free of the geopolitical mess.

The Energy and Resource Frontier

TOP NEWS

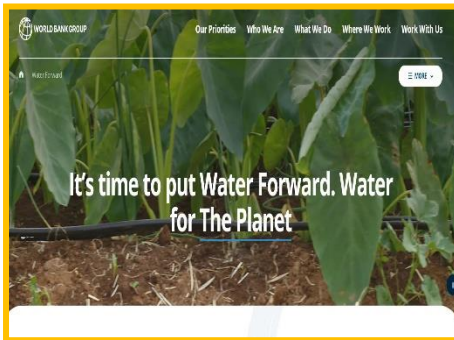
Controversy-hit IAS Lalli Goll placed under APO

TIGER RESERVE SARISKA

Tigers from Sariska expand territory into Jaipur forests



Launch of “Water Forward” Initiative



The World Bank Group, in partnership with multilateral development banks, development finance institutions and key partners, today launched Water Forward, a global platform to help improve water security for 1 billion people by 2030. The platform will align policy reforms, financing, and partnerships to expand reliable water services and strengthen systems against droughts and floods—essential conditions for job creation.

Water underpins health, food systems, energy, and an estimated 1.7 billion jobs worldwide; yet 4 billion people experience water scarcity. In many countries, unclear policies, weak regulations, and financially unsustainable utilities have slowed progress and deterred investment in the sector. Water Forward aims to address these challenges by helping developing countries build stronger, more reliable water systems that can unlock productivity, support livelihoods, and enable private investment. The initiative will support reforms to strengthen institutions, improve financial performance, and develop investment-ready projects.

Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2026



FFD4 took place during a moment of crisis and uncertainty. In mid-2025, United Nations Member States convened in Sevilla, Spain, for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4). The Conference was held amid a challenging global context: large and growing financing gaps for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a difficult macroeconomic environment with lingering effects of the pandemic, trade tensions, aid cuts and rising geopolitical tensions that increasingly put multilateralism under strain. The growing impacts of climate change, persistent inequality, and gaps and stresses in the international financial and debt architectures added to the headwinds for the development financing agenda. These initiatives complement the outcome document, often responding directly to commitments in the text, to advance tangible progress on investment, debt, and financial architecture reform.

SUCCESS STORIES



How Surat Turned Forests Into Water Banks Conserving 580 Crore Litres

In Gujarat's Surat Forest Division, a scientific ridge-to-valley approach is transforming forests into natural water banks—recharging groundwater, supporting 40,000 villages, and reshaping how India thinks about water conservation.

**READ
MORE**



For 20 Years, One Family-Run Company Has Helped Keep India's Waterbodies Clean — Across 25 States

One family-run company has spent over 20 years restoring lakes and rivers across 25 states, using mechanised cleaning and long-term maintenance. Their work is helping bring cleaner water, safer ecosystems, and communities back to the country's most vital waterways.

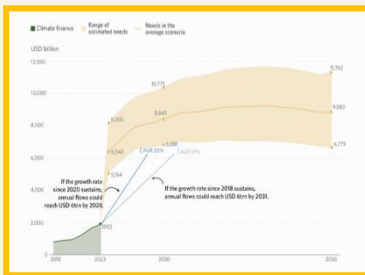
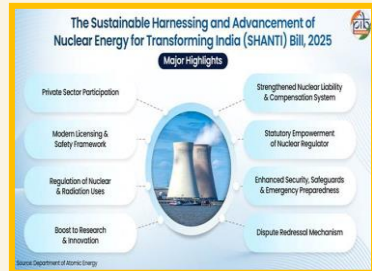
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FRIDAY BLOGS



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COP 31 at the Crossroads

Sustainable Rethinking for an Unsustainable World!



Reimagining the War-Economics in the Contemporary World



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
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INVITATION TO JOIN SOCIAL OUTREACH MEMBERSHIP

Our Special JalMitra Social Outreach Membership

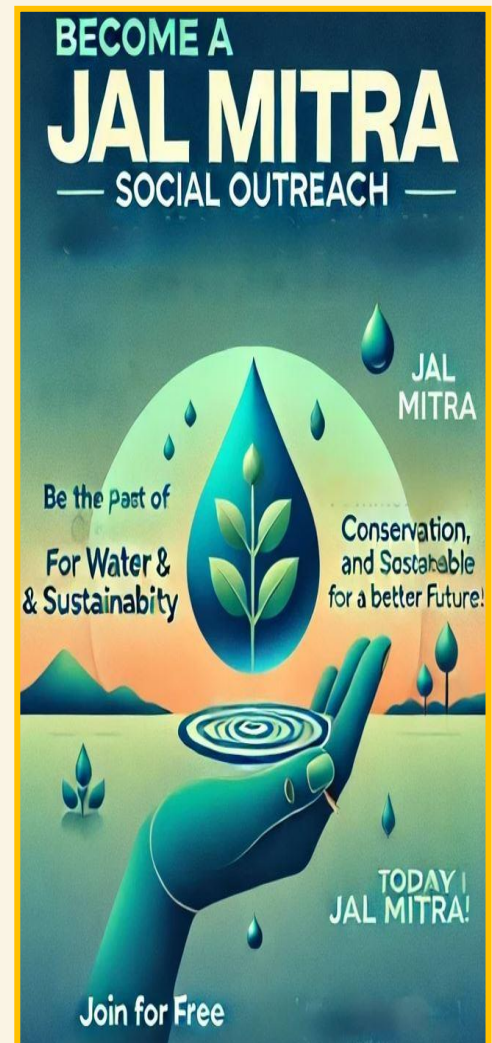
The JalMitra outreach program and encourages sustainable living practices by promoting sustainable conservation and restoration projects. The campaign fosters awareness and behavioural change at the grassroots level, enabling communities to adopt environmentally responsible lifestyles that reduce ecological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

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

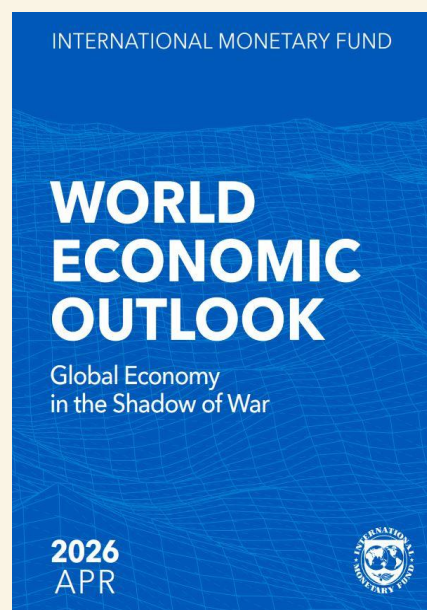
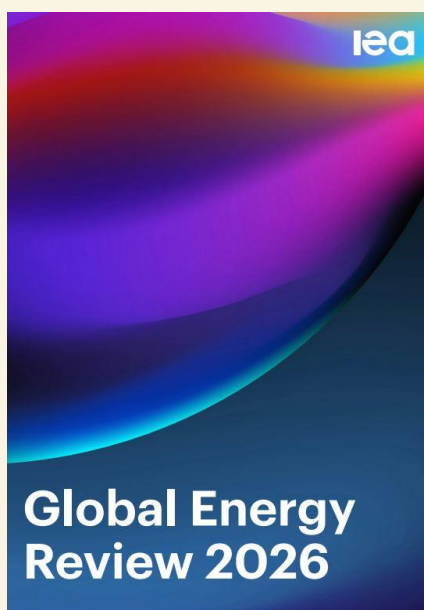
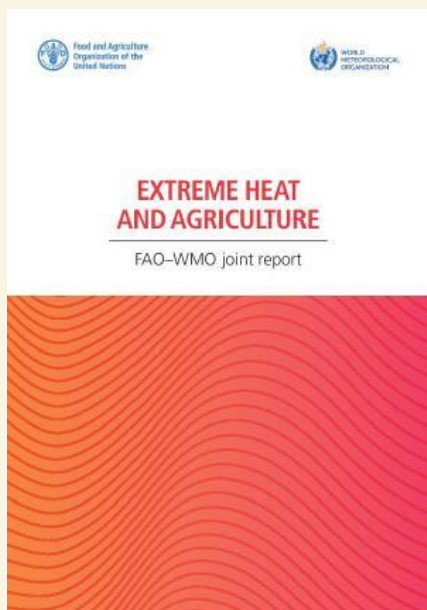
How to Join?

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



LEARNCAST

Do climate policies deliver? Evidence on emissions and carbon leakage

Green Talks LIVE

Webinar

Date	Time	Location
19 May 2026	15:00 CEST	Online

[Register for this Green Talks LIVE webinar](#)

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Governments around the world have adopted a growing range of climate policies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Yet, important questions remain on their real world effectiveness –and possible unintended effects, such as carbon leakage.

OECD climate policy data offers unique insight for policy evaluation. Aligned with the UNFCCC and IPCC reporting frameworks, they systematically track climate mitigation policies across countries and over time, enabling empirical analysis on their effects.

What can we learn from existing policies? Which ones work, and under what conditions? How robust is the evidence? And how can better policy data strengthen ex-post evaluation and inform future climate action?

OECD Environment Director Jaime de Bourbon de Parme will give introductory remarks followed by a discussion moderated by Nathalie Girouard, Head of the OECD Environmental Performance and Information Division.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **6–7 May: UN Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum).** Held at UN Headquarters, New York, this UN-organised forum convenes governments, the private sector, and knowledge institutions to align science, technology, and innovation with the 2030 Agenda, including climate- and water-related solutions.
<https://sdgs.un.org/events>
- **11–12 May: OECD Conference on the Future of International Development Co-operation.** Hosted by the OECD in Paris, this ministerial-level conference brings development-co-operation members together to review DAC policy advisories, strengthen multilateralism, and align climate, biodiversity, and SDG-17 partnerships with evolving global crises.
<https://sdg.iisd.org/events/oecd-conference-on-the-future-of-international-development-co-operation/>
- **12 May: UNEP-WCMC Nature Action Dialogues.** Organised by the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, UK, this peer-driven forum links business, finance, and conservation leaders to advance collaborative action at the nexus of biodiversity, climate, water, and health.
<https://www.natureactiondialogues.org/>
- **18–22 May: United Nations Global Conference on Sustainable Development (UNGCSd) 2026.** Hosted at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre, London, this UN-linked conference convenes policymakers, civil society, private-sector leaders, and youth to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda, with dedicated tracks on climate-resilient infrastructure, resource-efficient cities, and sustainable finance.
<https://www.uncsds-summit.org/ungcsd-2026.html>
- **27–28 May: OECD Global Forum on Local Development 2026.** Organised by the OECD in Maastricht, the Netherlands, this forum focuses on local-level governance, climate-resilient infrastructure investment, and regional fiscal frameworks, providing a platform for sub-national authorities and multilateral development partners to share innovation and financing models.
<https://www.oecd.org/en/events/2026/05/oecd-global-forum-on-local-development-2026.html>

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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