



Water.
People.
Planet.
Progress for All.

INDIA WATER FOUNDATION'S
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY UPDATES

SEPTEMBER 2026



SUSTAINABILITY



COLLABORATION



KNOWLEDGE



ACTION



EVERY DROP COUNTS.
EVERY ACTION MATTERS.
TOGETHER, WE FLOW FORWARD. ♡

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dr. Arvind Kumar
President
India Water Foundation

Dear Readers,

The year 2026 is increasingly revealing a fundamental truth: water is no longer simply an environmental concern; it is an economic, developmental and geopolitical imperative. From Stockholm to Ulaanbaatar, and from devastating floods in the Himalayas to preparations for the next generation of global climate and water action, the year's major developments point towards one defining priority building resilience into the foundations of sustainable development.

World Water Week 2026, under the theme "Water for People and Progress," placed equity, water security and climate resilience at the centre of the global development conversation. Its emphasis on moving from knowledge and commitments towards implementation offers an important bridge to the 2026 UN Water Conference in Abu Dhabi, where governments and stakeholders will seek to accelerate SDG 6 through investment, partnerships, cooperation and practical solutions.

The message was reinforced at UNCCD COP17, where land degradation, desertification and drought were considered not as isolated ecological problems but as threats to livelihoods, food systems, stability and human security. Water, land and climate resilience are inseparable.

The devastating August 2026 flash floods in Nepal brought this interdependence into stark reality. The Bhote Koshi–Trishuli disaster damaged communities, transport networks, hydropower facilities and health infrastructure, demonstrating how climate and geological risks can rapidly become economic and humanitarian crises.

Meanwhile, trade and economic policy are becoming increasingly intertwined with sustainability. Green technologies, resilient supply chains, clean energy and environmental standards are reshaping the architecture of international commerce. India's economic trajectory supported by strong growth must therefore increasingly be assessed not only by output, but by the resilience and sustainability of that growth.

Looking ahead, COP31 in Antalya and the UN Water Conference in Abu Dhabi offer two critical opportunities to convert ambition into implementation. COP31's focus on resilient cities, climate finance, water and drought, clean energy and green industrialisation complements the water agenda.

The future will ultimately belong to economies that can anticipate risk, invest in resilience and integrate water into every dimension of development. For India and the wider Global South, this is not merely a climate imperative, it is the pathway to secure, inclusive and sustainable prosperity.

AN EXCLUSIVE **INTERVIEW** WITH

**DR. SHAJI KRISHNAN V., CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL BANK FOR
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NABARD)**

In a thought-provoking interview, Dr. Shaji Krishnan V., Chairman, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), shares with Dr. Arvind Kumar, Editor, Focus Global Reporter, a comprehensive perspective on the transformation of India's rural economy in the context of Viksit Bharat 2047. Drawing from his extensive experience in development finance, rural banking and institutional transformation, he reflects on NABARD's evolving role from a development finance institution to a catalyst for integrated rural transformation, driven by digitalisation, climate resilience, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, stronger rural institutions and innovation-led growth.

Dr. Shaji discusses NABARD's Climate Strategy 2030, the emerging architecture of green and blended finance, the expanding reach of agricultural credit, and the institution's efforts to ensure that finance reaches small, marginal, tenant and tribal farmers. He offers valuable insights into the transformative impact of the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme, the graduation of ultra-poor households through GRIP, and the growing importance of cybersecurity and digital resilience in rural financial institutions. The interview further explores the transformation of PACS into digitally enabled multipurpose rural service hubs, as well as the role of the RuralTech CoLab in bringing start-ups, technology firms, research institutions and other non-traditional stakeholders into India's rural innovation ecosystem.



READ HERE

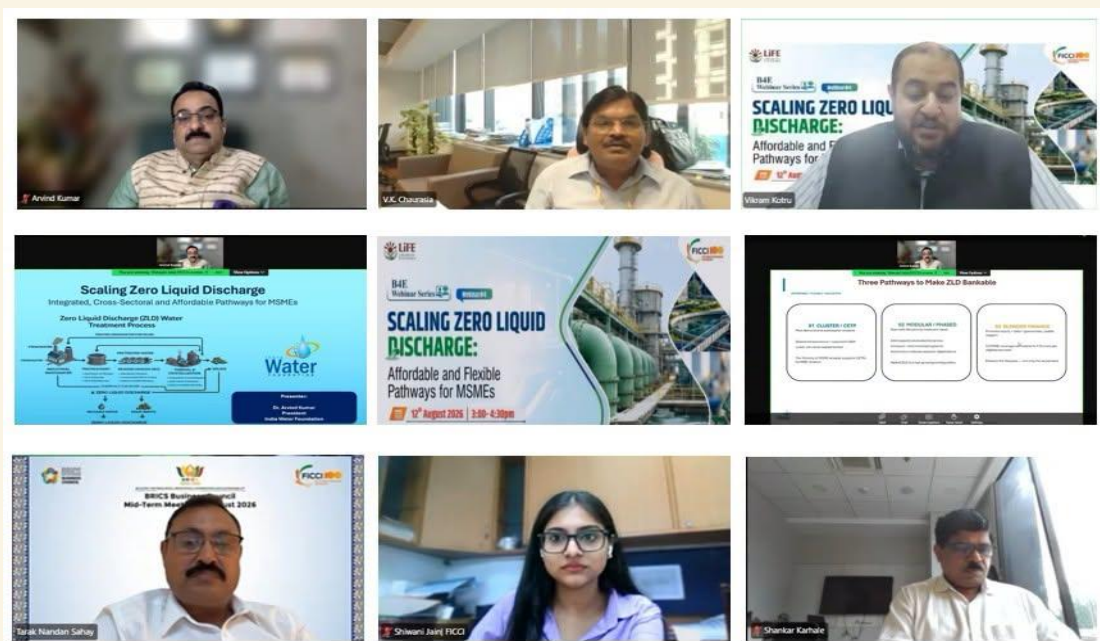


ADVANCING AFFORDABLE ZERO LIQUID DISCHARGE SOLUTIONS FOR MSMEs

Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation, participated in the 4th webinar of FICCI's Business for Environment (B4E) Webinar Series on "Scaling Zero Liquid Discharge: Affordable and Flexible Pathways for MSMEs." The discussion examined practical approaches to making Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) technically feasible, financially viable and scalable for India's MSME sector.

Dr. Kumar emphasised that ZLD cannot be approached as a one-size-fits-all compliance obligation. He highlighted the need for shared cluster infrastructure, modular and phased treatment technologies, blended finance, fit-for-purpose solutions and lifecycle economics to enable MSMEs to adopt sustainable wastewater management systems. He further underscored the importance of moving beyond individual compliance towards water-resilient, resource-efficient and climate-ready MSME clusters, where wastewater is treated as a source of recovered water, resources and economic value.

The webinar brought together experts from government, industry and leading institutions to deliberate on emerging ZLD technologies, policy frameworks, financing mechanisms and pathways for long-term sustainability, reinforcing the need for collaborative approaches to accelerate water and resource efficiency across MSME clusters.

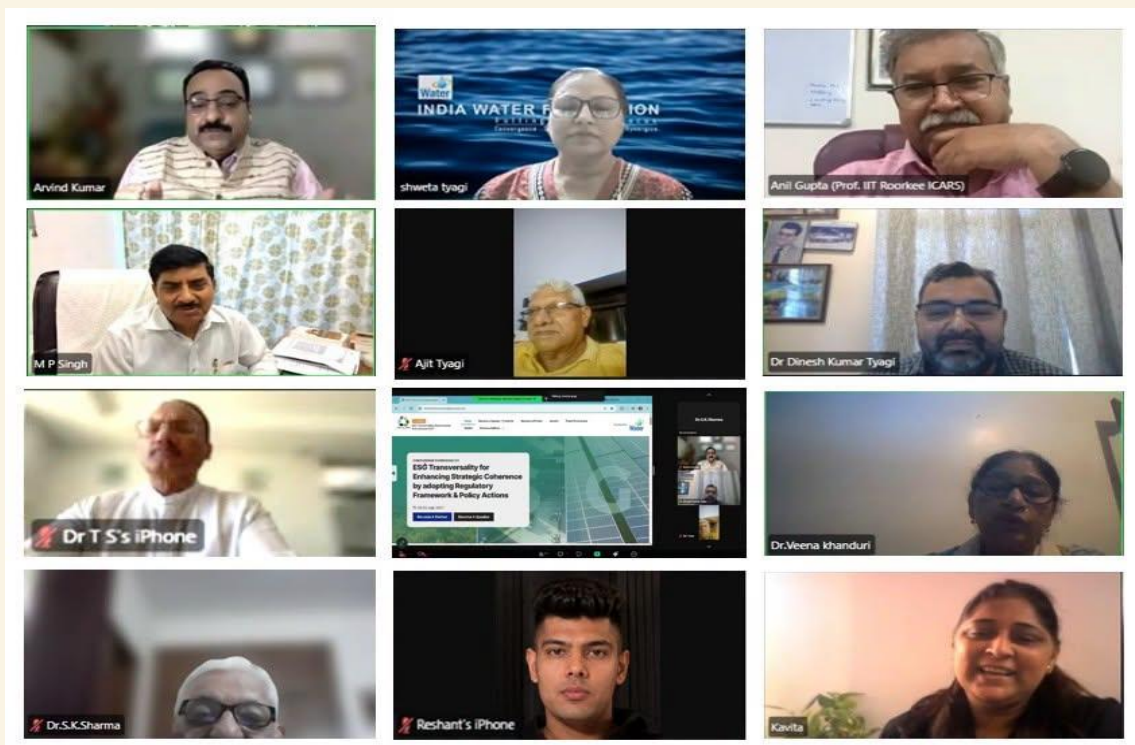


STRATEGIC PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR ESG TRANSVERSALITY GLOBAL AWARDS & CONCLAVE 2027

India Water Foundation convened the first Advisory Board Preparatory Meeting for the 3rd Edition of the ESG Transversality Global Awards & Conclave 2027 on 11 August 2026, marking the commencement of strategic preparations for the upcoming Conclave scheduled for 8–9 July 2027.

The virtual meeting brought together the IWF leadership and distinguished members of the Advisory Board to deliberate on the overarching theme, sub-themes, programme architecture, thematic priorities, stakeholder engagement and strategic direction of the 3rd Edition. The discussions reflected a shared vision to make the Conclave more strategic, substantive and action-oriented, with greater emphasis on policy coherence, regulatory alignment, cross-sectoral partnerships and measurable implementation.

The meeting laid an important foundation for strengthening ESG Transversality as a platform for translating commitments into coordinated policy action and sustainable outcomes, while deepening collaboration among governments, institutions, civil society, academia and the private sector.



RAJASTHAN WATER CONCLAVE 2026



Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation, participated in the Rajasthan Water Conclave 2026, held on 24 July 2026 in Jaipur, focusing on the critical role of partnerships in advancing water security. Speaking at the panel discussion on “Partnerships for Water Security: Unlocking the Potential of CSR & PPP,” he emphasised the need to move beyond fragmented CSR interventions towards long-term, outcome-based partnerships anchored in ESG principles, stressing that water security must be supported by sustained investment, monitoring and measurable impact.

The Conclave brought together senior policymakers, water experts, civil society organisations and private-sector leaders, and was graced by Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan, and Shri Suresh Singh Rawat, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, Government of Rajasthan. Dr. Kumar also participated in a high-level roundtable chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, which highlighted the importance of collective action, innovation and convergence among government, communities, civil society and the private sector for strengthening Rajasthan's long-term water security.

INDIA WATER FOUNDATION ON ALL INDIA RADIO: TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION FOR INDIA'S WATER SECURITY

Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation, participated in the "Countrywide" programme of All India Radio (Akashvani), sharing his perspectives on "Technology and Innovation for India's Water Security."

The discussion explored how AI, IoT, real-time monitoring, smart and micro-irrigation, wastewater reuse, Zero Liquid Discharge, groundwater management and data-driven approaches can strengthen India's water security. Dr. Kumar emphasized that technological solutions must extend beyond metropolitan centres to small towns and rural communities, supported by local capacity, appropriate financing and enabling policies.

He underlined that India's water future will depend not merely on creating greater water availability, but on managing, conserving, recycling and distributing water more intelligently and sustainably. Technology, policy, finance and public participation must therefore advance together to build a truly water-secure and resilient India.



Catch the Rain: A Renewed National Call for Water Conservation



In the 135th episode of Mann Ki Baat on 28 June 2026, the Hon'ble Prime Minister called upon citizens to save every drop of rain and ensure that the momentum of water conservation continues across the country. Responding to this call, a focused nationwide campaign was undertaken from 4 July to 4 August 2026 to intensify rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, restoration of traditional water bodies, plantation activities, and public participation.

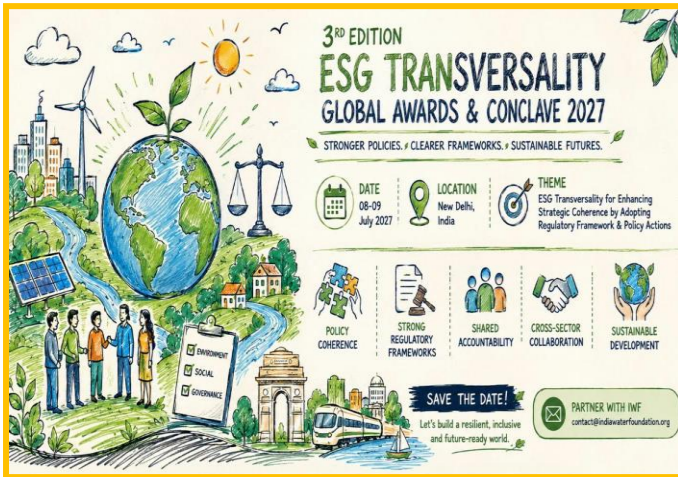
“Catch the Rain -Through this mission, we have to collectively save every drop of rainwater. My special appeal to save every single drop of rainwater collectively.” ~ Hon'ble PM. Shri. Narendra Modi

Progress on water, sanitation, hygiene, environmental cleaning and waste management in health care facilities 2015–2025



This new WHO and UNICEF report reveals significant gaps in essential water, sanitation, hygiene and environmental health services in health-care facilities worldwide. Despite notable gains since 2015, only four in ten facilities meet basic sanitation standards and fewer than six in ten achieve basic environmental cleaning standards such as patient rooms and wards, operating theatres, examination and treatment areas, toilets and sanitation facilities, leaving patients and health workers exposed to preventable health risks. The report provides the clearest global picture yet of these essential services in health-care facilities.

EVENT ALERT!



Join us for the **3rd ESG Transversality Global Awards & Conclave 2027**, a two-day conference on **ESG Transversality for Enhancing Strategic Coherence by adopting Regulatory Framework & Policy Actions**. This landmark event will explore ESG integration, the Water-Energy-Health & Environment Nexus, global collaboration, and innovations driving carbon neutrality. Don't miss this convergence of policy, industry, and sustainability leadership.

FROM THE NETWORK

Latest updates from the International Water Resources Association (IWRA)

Good things come in pairs! IWRA has two major international events on the horizon, two webinar series underway and two new Policy Briefs to explore.

Looking ahead to 2027:

- [2nd Islands Water Congress](#) | 27-29 January in Montego Bay, Jamaica: working to advance sustainable and resilient freshwater management in island contexts.
- [XX World Water Congress](#) | 4–8 October 2027, Istanbul, Türkiye: shaping global dialogue on the future of water management

IWRA is hosting two webinar series in September and October exploring regional water challenges:

- [Transboundary Aquifer Systems in Latin America](#): exploring different aspects of cooperation and governance of shared groundwater
- [The Mediterranean Basin Under Pressure](#): examining contrasting water realities and adaptation to increasing pressures

Two new *Water International* Policy Briefs were published in August:

- [Rivers, Lakes, and Aquifers: The Future of Basin Management](#): Outlining key priorities for robust basin governance.
- [Smart Water Management: Can it Engineer Sustainability?](#): Detailing institutional frameworks required to ensure smart technologies support long-term sustainability. For more information: iwra.org

SUCCESS STORIES



IIT Guwahati Finds a New Way to Remove Harmful Toxins From Water

What looks like clear water can still contain harmful arsenic and fluoride. Researchers at IIT Guwahati team have developed a low-cost system that removes both within minutes, bringing the technology closer to affordable groundwater treatment.

**READ
MORE**



100 Women Once Called 'Kachrawala' Decided To Disrupt How A Tripura Town Manages Waste

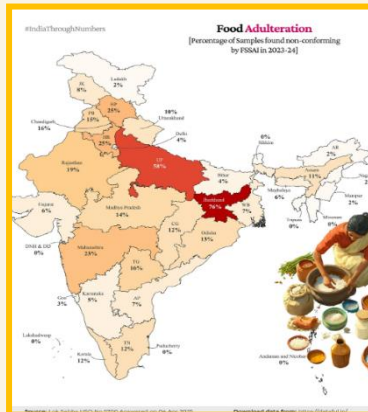
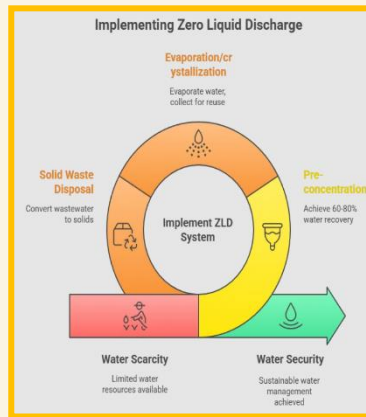
For years, Pinki Kar Deb sorted stinking waste with her bare hands while the town called her 'kachrawala'. Today she runs a waste centre in Khowai, Tripura, part of a system a hundred women now own outright.

**READ
MORE**



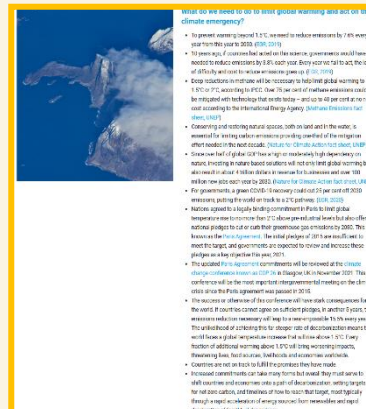
Is BRICS salient for Missing Architecture of the Global South?

Reweighting Circular Water Economy!



Reckoning India's Food Adulteration Menace

Is Climate Emergency the New Normal Now?



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

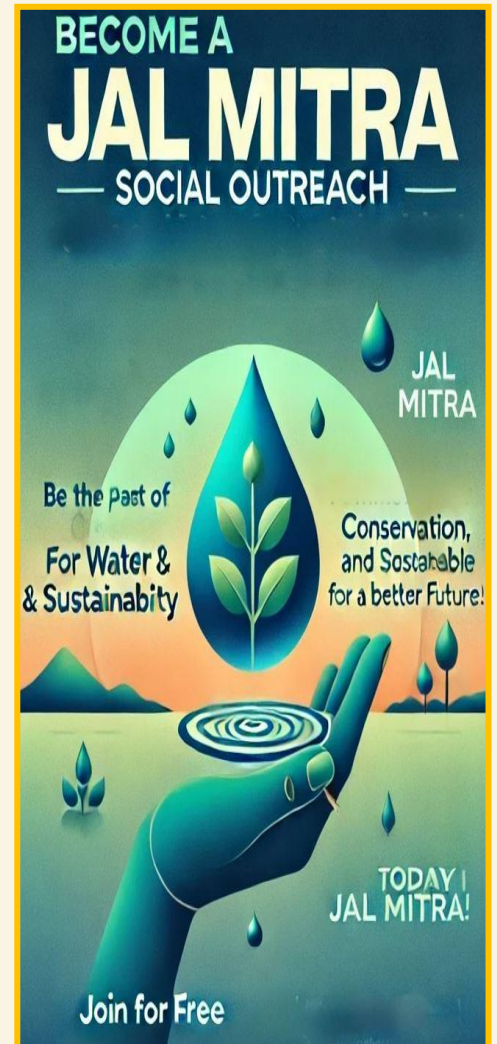
The JalMitra outreach program encourages sustainable living practices by promoting sustainable conservation and restoration projects. The campaign fosters awareness and behavioural change at the grassroots level, enabling communities to adopt environmentally responsible lifestyles that reduce ecological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

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

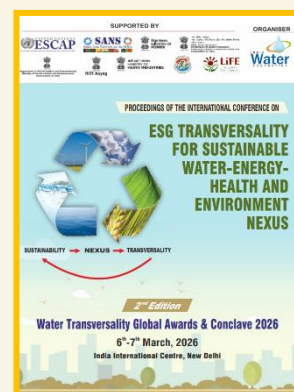
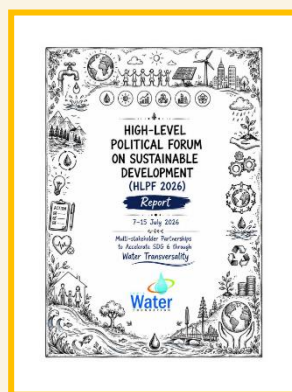
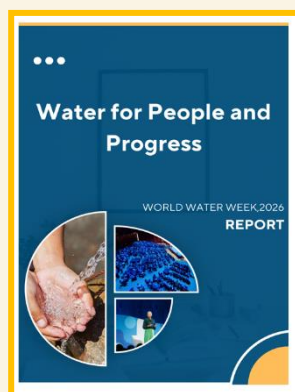
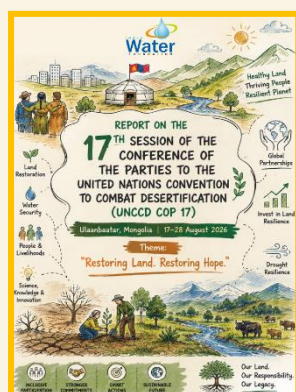
How to Join?

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



LEARNCASTS

Dialogues with the OECD - Regions in a changing world: territorial attractiveness, labour mobility and the new geographies of economic co-operation

This webinar series addresses the transformation of territorial attractiveness and international economic cooperation, focusing on place-based competitiveness, labour integration, and collaboration with Eurasian countries. Each session features an expert and a guest speaker from partner organisations. Working language: Italian only.

Webinar

Date
23 September - 15 October
2026

Time
14:30-16:00 CEST



Learn more and register

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **08–28 Sep:** [81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA 81\)](#). Held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the session will bring together world leaders for high-level discussions on global development, climate action, sustainable development, peace and international cooperation. The high-level General Debate begins on **22 September**.
- **09–10 Sep:** [14th International Conference on Sustainable Development \(ICSD 2026\)](#). To be held in Rome, Italy, the conference will focus on advancing sustainable development through research, policy and practice, addressing the interconnected environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainability.
- **10 Sep:** [High-Level Briefing on the 2026 UN Biodiversity Conference](#). Hosted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, this briefing will provide Parties and stakeholders with updates on preparations for the upcoming UN Biodiversity Conference and discussions on global biodiversity action.
- **14–17 Sep:** [Third International Conference on Health and Biodiversity](#). Taking place in Galway, Ireland, the conference will explore the links between biodiversity, human health and planetary well-being under the theme “Partnerships for People and Planet.”
- **17–18 Sep:** [Global Renewable Energy Conference 2026](#). To be held in Rome, Italy, the conference will address renewable energy technologies, energy storage, smart grids, sustainability and pathways for accelerating the global clean-energy transition.
- **20–27 Sep:** [Climate Week NYC 2026](#). Taking place in New York alongside the United Nations General Assembly, Climate Week NYC will convene governments, businesses, investors, civil society and international organisations to accelerate climate action, clean-energy transitions, resilience and sustainable economic transformation.
- **21–25 Sep:** [UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2026](#). Held in New York during UN General Assembly week, the summit will bring together business and sustainability leaders to advance responsible business, sustainable development, climate action and partnerships for global impact.
- **29 Sep–02 Oct:** [Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum 2026](#). Bringing together policymakers, civil society, academia and businesses, the Forum will address water security, cooperation, innovation and sustainable water management across the Mediterranean and neighbouring regions.

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>](mailto: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

