



WATER
CONSERVATION



KNOWLEDGE
SHARING



A SUSTAINABLE
PLANET



COLLABORATION
FOR IMPACT

INDIA WATER FOUNDATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY UPDATES

OCTOBER 2026



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. Amit Kumar Ghosh, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary (Health & Family Welfare and Medical Education), Government of Uttar Pradesh

In a thought-provoking interview, of **Shri Dr. Amit Kumar Ghosh, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary (Health & Family Welfare and Medical Education), Government of Uttar Pradesh**, with **Dr. Arvind Kumar** Editor, **Focus Global Reporter**, explores the changing architecture of public health governance in Uttar Pradesh.

Drawing from over three decades of administrative experience across industries, infrastructure, social justice and health, Shri Ghosh offers a compelling perspective on how execution, equity, technology and cross-sectoral convergence are shaping Uttar Pradesh's health transformation.

The conversation examines the state's remarkable progress under the SDG India Index, its transition into the Front Runner category, the expansion from 17 to 81 government medical colleges, and the strengthening of health care delivery through faculty development, Public-private partnerships and institutional capacity building. It also highlights Uttar Pradesh's intensified TB elimination efforts, including technology-enabled case finding, molecular diagnostics, shorter treatment regimens and community supported nutrition.



READ HERE



We are pleased to share that an insightful article by **Dr. Arvind Kumar, President & Founder, India Water Foundation**, titled **“Adulterated Trust: A Grave Indian Crisis!”**, has been featured in **The Daily Guardian – New Delhi Edition**. Published in the **“Comments & Analysis”** section, the article highlights India’s growing adulteration crisis and the widening gap between **quality, safety, and consumer trust**.

Dr. Kumar highlights the urgent need to move beyond food security towards ensuring that what reaches the consumer is safe, genuine, and trustworthy. The article explores the challenges of adulteration across food and medicines, while also highlighting emerging regulatory measures, traceability mechanisms, stronger enforcement, inter-agency coordination, and critical role of consumer awareness.

The article calls for an integrated approach from farm gate to household, focusing on traceability, accountability, technology, and public participation to strengthen consumer protection and build trust across the food and healthcare ecosystem.

Adulterated Trust: A grave Indian crisis!

OPINION

DR ARVIND KUMAR



Cultural and social fabric in India is deeply woven around festivals, where faith, tradition and the sharing of food bring families and communities together. It is precisely this season of heightened demand and unquestioning trust that adulterators exploit. As production races to keep pace with consumption, synthetic substitutes, unsafe ingredients and relabelled products can find their way from the supply chain to the household table. Latest measures such as proposed red warning labels are an important step towards informing consumers. But labels alone cannot defeat a menace that operates across farms, factories, markets, medicines and digital platforms. India is working towards a more integrated systemic system of traceability, enforcement and accountability backed by a mass movement that makes food safety and consumer awareness a shared public responsibility.

For two decades, the national priority was simple: put food on every table. The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana today delivers free foodgrain to roughly 81 crore people every month, the largest food-security programme in the world, extended by the Cabinet through 2025 at an outlay of nearly 12 lakh crores. The 2025 Global Hunger Index India climbing from 105th a year earlier and well past its “alarming” scores of the early 2000s. Behind these numbers sits a quieter architecture of reform: a draft Pesticides Management Bill to replace the 1968 Insecticides Act with mandatory lab accreditation and traceability for farmers, a nationwide rice-fortification programme, and nearly 17,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras selling generic medicines that officials say have saved citizens close to 38,000 crore in a decade.

But the next and equally important question is whether what reaches the consumer is safe and trustworthy. India has made remarkable progress in answering the question of quantity. It is now addressing the equally urgent question of quality, safety and trust: whether what reaches the plate, or the pillbox, is truly what it claims to be.

DECEPTION AT SCALE

That trust gap widens visibly every festival season. As festivals approach, food safety departments across states are once again racing against adulterators. In Uttar Pradesh, officials destroyed contaminated rasgullas in Ghaziabad and Noida last week and seized suspect paneer and mawa near Modinagar. Ahmedabad’s municipal corporation has begun on-the-spot rapid testing of sweets and khoya for starch and vegetable fat, sealing two units already. Madhya Pradesh’s

food and drug authority intercepted consignments of synthetic mawa resorted from Maharashtra after that state’s own crackdown began to bite, while the FSSAI has issued notices this year to food giants including Nestlé, Pepsi and Dabur. Elsewhere this season, over 4,000 kilograms of khoya were seized on a single national highway and 910 cartons of adulterated sweets intercepted at one toll post. The imitation has spread so widely that at least four states have banned “analogue paneer,” a vegetable-fat-and-starch substitute, outright, and the FSSAI is now weighing a nationwide prohibition.

The deception does not end with sweets. Delhi Police, working with the FSSAI, recently dismantled an Okla factory that stripped and reprinted expiry dates on well-known snack and beverage brands, extending shelf life by up to six months before the goods reached e-commerce warehouses. Food-delivery platforms have not escaped scrutiny either: the FSSAI issued nine notices to Swiggy Instamart this year over expired whey protein and contaminated infant formula.

Medicines carry the same rot. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation flagged 368 formulations as substandard or spurious in a single month this year, taking the quarter’s tally past 570. Just days ago, Mumbai’s

FDA found a popular allergy tablet containing barely three-quarters of its stated ingredient and none of a second; interstate racketeers producing fake blood-pressure and anti-anxiety drugs continue to surface from Haryana to Puducherry.

TOWARDS SAFER SYSTEMS

Government is not standing still and has zero tolerance to adulteration. Just this week, the FSSAI, acting on Supreme Court directions, proposed red front-of-pack labels reading “HIGH FAT,” “HIGH SUGAR” and “HIGH SALT” on packaged food, alongside a September 30 deadline for e-commerce platforms to display manufacturing and expiry dates, and a citizen-facing Food Safety Connect app for reporting adulteration. India’s second National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, coordinating more than twenty ministries through 2029, is now anchored in a “One Health” approach, backed by a new National Institute for One Health in Nagpur, treating human, animal and environmental health as one chain, the same chain along which adulteration travels from farms to fork.

WAY FORWARD

That is the way forward: not louder raids alone, but one continuous system running from the farm gate to the delivery rider’s door-

step. Smart adulterators, who relabel expiry dates with handfield printers and mimic paneer with starch and palm oil, call for smarter countermeasures: QR-coded batch traceability, DNA and isotope testing for dairy, shared databases linking FSSAI, state drug controllers, police and e-commerce platforms, and penalties that combine licence cancellation, blacklisting and criminal prosecution rather than a fine alone.

Awareness must close the gap that enforcement cannot: most consumers still cannot read a nutrition panel, let alone spot starch in khoya or a false hologram on a strip of tablets. The Eat Right India movement already aspires to be a genuine people’s movement; it now needs to become one in practice, enlisted as the last line of verification that no inspector can staff alone. A nation that feeds 88 crore citizens every month has the capacity to guarantee what fills their plates is pure too, as civil society is a partner in enforcement and not merely its beneficiary. None of this diminishes what has already been built. It only asks India to finish the jobs having decided that no one should go hungry; it must now decide, with the same resolve, that no one should be deceived by what fills their hunger.

The author is President of Founder, India Water Foundation. His views are personal.





63rd SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS



We are pleased to share the intervention of Dr. Arvind Kumar, **President, India Water Foundation**, at the **63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council**, During an Interactive Dialogue on climate finance, the rights of peasants, and the human rights of women and children in conflict situations, Dr. Kumar highlighted the critical link between climate change, climate finance, and the protection of human rights.

Dr. Kumar highlights that India has mobilised USD 1.16 billion through UNFCCC mechanisms, including USD 803.9 million from the Green Climate Fund, and highlighted India's NDC 3.0 target of reducing emissions intensity by 47% by 2035. Emphasizing the far-reaching human consequences of climate change, Dr. Kumar stated that "climate change is ultimately a human rights crisis." He further underscored the need for climate finance mechanisms that place vulnerable communities at the centre and enable developing countries to advance economic and social rights without exacerbating existing debt burdens.

The Foundation stressed that climate finance should advance equity, climate justice and CBDR-RC, while strengthening resilience, human dignity and rights-based development.

INDIA WATER FOUNDATION LAUNCHES "INDIA WATER FUTURE"



The **India Water Foundation** is pleased to announce the launch of **India Water Future**, a dedicated platform designed to bring together the evolving story of India's water sector through a comprehensive and integrated dashboard.

The platform will track key developments across industry and business, Central and State Government initiatives, international organisations, institutions, policy bodies and other stakeholders shaping India's water landscape. By bringing together data, developments, stories, insights and emerging trends, India Water Future aims to provide stakeholders with a connected view of the sector highlighting not only what is happening, but also how developments are linked across sectors, institutions and levels of governance.

The platform seeks to serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, institutions and water-sector stakeholders, enabling a deeper understanding of emerging opportunities, challenges and trends.

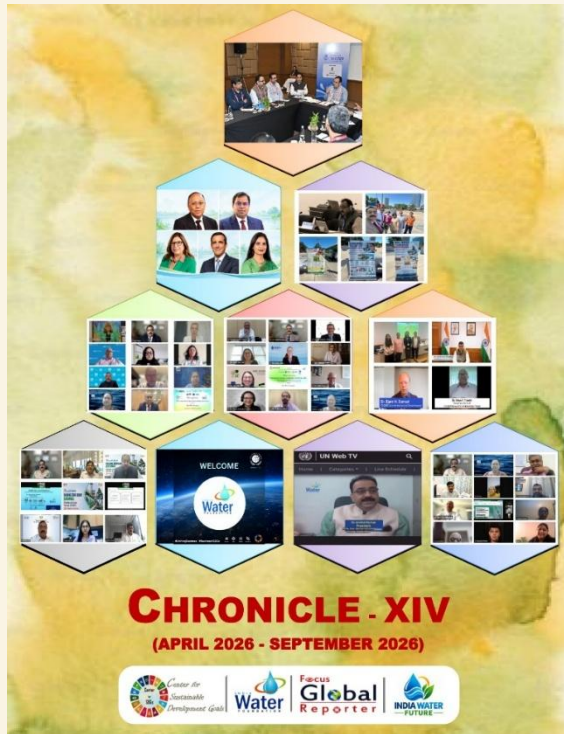
One platform. One evolving water story. A clearer view of India's water future.

INDIA WATER FOUNDATION - CHRONICLE XIV

We are pleased to share 14th edition of CHRONICLE, the biannual magazine of India Water Foundation. Covering the period April 2026 to September 2026. The latest edition of six-month Chronicle of the India Water Foundation captures key developments, initiatives, events, and emerging conversations in the fields of water, environment, sustainability, energy, and climate action.

It brings together significant national and international developments that have shaped the sustainability landscape over the past six months. From global conferences and policy discussions to innovative approaches and collaborative initiatives, the Chronicle provides a concise overview of important developments and opportunities.

Through this compilation, we aim to keep our readers informed and engaged with evolving priorities around water security, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and the Sustainable Development Goals, while highlighting the importance of collective action for a sustainable future.



[READ HERE](#)

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS



POWER & UTILITIES INDIA
EXHIBITION & SUMMIT

19-21 MAY 2027
JIO WORLD CONVENTION CENTRE,
MUMBAI, INDIA

**I AM A COMMITTEE MEMBER OF
THE TECHNICAL CONFERENCE**

Call for papers is now open.
Showcase your technical expertise on a global stage

1,000+ Conference Delegates
200+ Expert Speakers
50+ Conference Sessions

**SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACTS ONLINE
BEFORE 28 NOVEMBER 2026**
www.powerandutilitiesindia.com/submit-your-abstract

Dr. Arvind Kumar

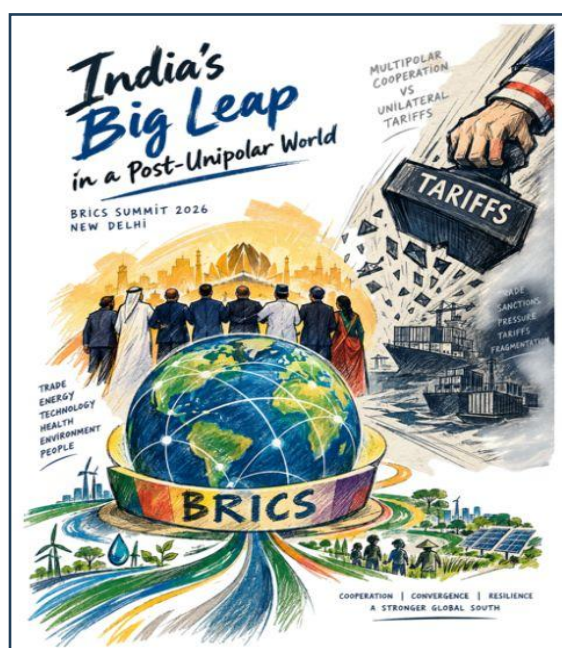
We are pleased to share that **Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation**, has joined the **Power & Utilities India 2027 Technical Conference** as a **Committee Member**. His participation will bring a valuable water, sustainability and resilience perspective, highlighting the interconnectedness of water and energy and supporting discussions on resource efficiency, water stewardship and clean energy.

The Conference will bring together industry experts, engineers, researchers and technical professionals to exchange knowledge and explore solutions for a sustainable and future-ready utilities sector in India.

Event: Power & Utilities India 2027 Technical Conference

Date: 19-21 May 2027

Venue: Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai



Dr. Arvind Kumar, Editor, *Focus Global Reporter*, presents a new analytical report on the **18th BRICS Summit 2026 in New Delhi**, Titled “India’s Big Leap in a Post-Unipolar World.”

The report provides an in-depth analysis of the 18th BRICS Summit 2026, held in New Delhi, placing the Summit in the context of the rapidly changing global geopolitical and economic landscape. It examines the expanding role of BRICS, India’s growing engagement with the Global South, emerging shifts in global trade and financial systems, and the implications of increasing tariff and sanctions pressures.

It also explores whether BRICS can translate multipolar cooperation into practical outcomes through resilient supply chains, financial connectivity, technological collaboration and strategic diversification.

9th India International Water Week 2026



The 9th India International Water Week (IIWW) 2026 was held from 22–26 September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, under the theme “Climate Resilient Water Management.” The event was inaugurated by Hon’ble Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan.

Major themes included: water conservation and security, climate-resilient water management, sustainable water resources management, technology and community participation, inclusive water governance, water-use efficiency, recycling and reuse, innovative financing, and water for people and the planet. The event also showcased technology-driven solutions, including the Sustainable Urban River Management (SURM) Framework and AI/ML-based Integrated Reservoir Sediment Management.

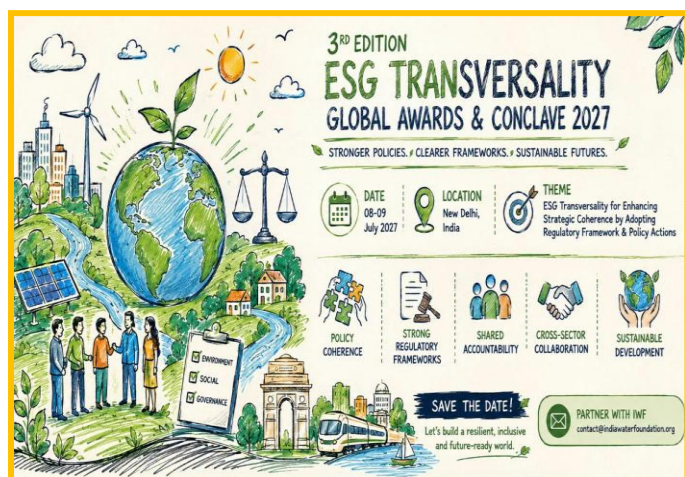
14th Roundtable on Financing Water: Improving the targeting and efficiency of water investments



The 14th Roundtable on Financing Water, convened by the OECD, in partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), will be held on 29–30 September 2026 at IFAD Headquarters in Rome, Italy, in hybrid format.

The thematic workshop will focus on improving the targeting and efficiency of water investments and mobilising public and private finance to advance water security. Key discussions will cover public expenditure efficiency, national water-financing platforms, trade and virtual water dependencies, distributional inequalities, and climate- and financial-sector water

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.

LEARNCAST

OECD > Events > How much are people willing to pay to avoid chemicals-related health effects?

How much are people willing to pay to avoid chemicals-related health effects?

Green Talks LIVE

Virtual Webinar

Date
16 October 2026

Time
15:00 - 16:00 CEST

Register



SUCCESS STORIES



**READ
MORE**

How 2000 Chennai Residents Turned a Sewage-Choked 50-Acre Lake Into a Lively Public Space

Chitlapakkam residents led a seven-year campaign to restore their 50-acre lake. With 2,000+ volunteers, the #SavingChitlapakkamLake movement helped secure ₹25 crore for scientific restoration, improving groundwater recharge, water security, and public space.



**READ
MORE**

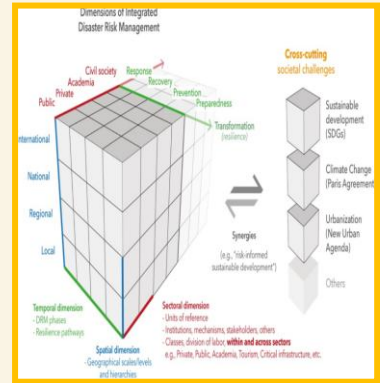
A Bengaluru Aerospace Scientist Built the Made-in-India System That Reads Fog for Pilots

Dr Shubha Venkatesha Iyengar of Bengaluru's National Aerospace Laboratories led the development of Drishti, India's indigenous runway visibility system, now deployed at more than 100 aviation locations to help pilots and air traffic controllers navigate low-visibility conditions.



Are We Turning Natural Hazards into Human-Made Disasters?

India's Moment to Reforge BRICS



Redefining India's Build Back Better Imperative

Redecoding the Weight of \$38 Trillion!



ESG Transversality Global Awards and Conclave 2027



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

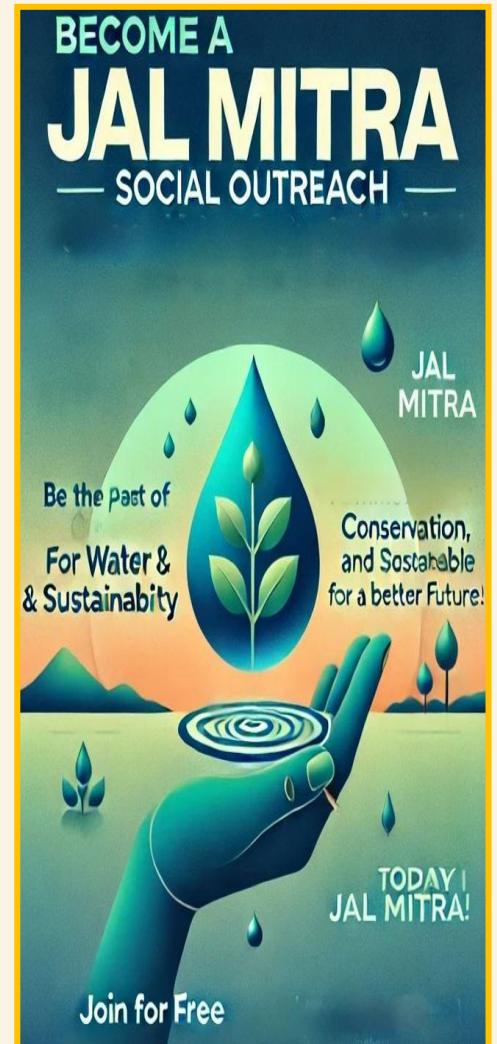
The JalMitra outreach program encourages sustainable living practices by promoting sustainable conservation and restoration projects. The campaign fosters awareness and behavioural change at the grassroots level, enabling communities to adopt environmentally responsible lifestyles that reduce ecological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

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

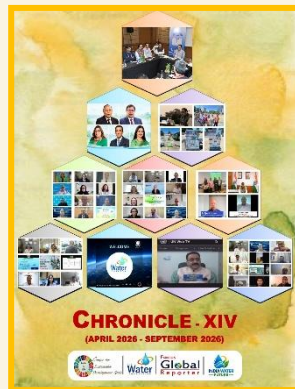
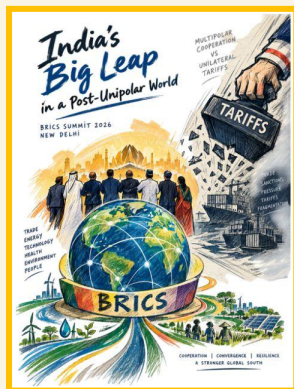
How to Join?

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!

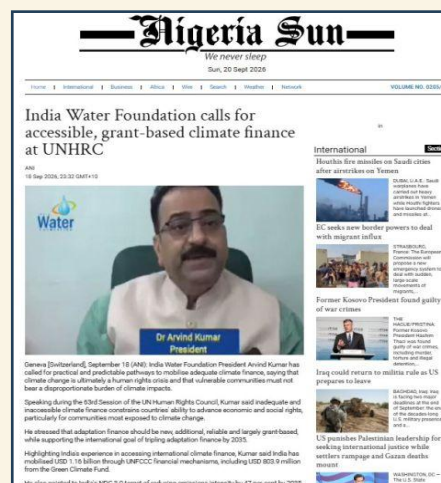
<https://indiawaterfoundation.org/jal-mitra/>



KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



MEDIA COVERAGE



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **04–09 Oct:** [Seventeenth International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant \(ICMGP-17\)](#). Held at the Hyberabad, India, the session will bring together Experts, researchers, and stakeholders around the world for global discourse on mercury pollution and its environmental impacts. The high-level General Debate begins on **05 October**.
- **09 Oct:** [Semi-annual ETGDP Donor Meeting](#). To be held in Bangkok City, Thailand Italy, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC-BKK). The Conference will focus on strengthening capacities in policy **development**, **energy** system planning, finance, data, and participation in sustainable **energy** technology.
- **12-13 Oct:** [6th Meeting of the UN Forum of Mayors](#). Hosted in Geneva, Switzerland, the meeting will held under the theme, 'Cities Delivering for a Sustainable Future'. The Forum will bring together mayors and local leaders to exchange experiences and share best practices on sustainable urban development
- **19-30 Oct:** [17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties \(COP 17\) to the Convention on Biological Diversity 2026](#). To be held in Yerevan, Armenia, mark the first global review of collective progress towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).
- **26-30 Oct:** [Asia-Pacific Ocean Week 2026](#). Taking place in United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC - BKK), Bangkok City, the core agenda of Asia-Pacific Ocean Week is to translate global ocean commitments into regional policies, accelerating SDG 14, and integrating blue carbon ecosystems into climate strategies.
- **28 Oct:** [7th SEA of Solutions Forum 2026](#). Held in UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand the summit will bring together stakeholders, including representatives from governments, United Nations entities, regional organizations, civil society, academia, youth, the private sector, financial institutions and development partners, to advance action on plastic pollution and marine litter across Asia and the Pacific.
- **28 to 29 Oct:** [Fifth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. 2026](#). The conference will bring together ministers, senior government officials, space agencies, UN representatives, and experts from Asia-Pacific countries. It will focus on using space technology and regional cooperation to achieve Sustainable development goals (SDGs).

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, Mr. Ashish Sharma and Shalini

INDIA WATER FOUNDATION

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

