INDIA WATER PARTNERSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

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INDIA WATER PARTNERSHIP (IWP)

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LEGAL STATUS

Societies Registration Act of Government of Haryana: 2391 dated 20th November, 2001 under Haryana Societies Registration Act 1860 and Re-registered vide HR 018201300867 dated 14th August, 2013 under Haryana Societies Registration Act, 2012
Coverage under Income Tax Act of Government of India
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ABBREVIATIONS

ACIWRM	Advanced Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management
APDC	Asia Disaster Preparedness Center
BIS	Bureau of Indian Standards
BPMO	Basin Planning & Management Organization
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program
CITIS	Climate Investments and Technology Impact Summit
CSE	Centre for Science and Environment
CTR	Catch The Rain
DPS	Delhi Public School
FFS	Farmers Field School
FTK	Field Test Kit
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWP-SAS	Global Water Partnership- South Asia
GWP-SEA	Global Water Partnership-South East Asia
ha-m	hectare-meter
ICID	International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage
IELO	Indian Environment Law Organization
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
INM	Integrated Nutrient Management
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWF	India Water Foundation
IWIS	India Water Impact Summit
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IWP	India Water Partnership
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JSA	Jal Shakti Abhiyan
KVK	Krishi Vigyan Kendra
NCT	National Capital Territory
NDA	National Designated Authority
NERIWALM	North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NITI	National Institution for Transforming India
NITS	National Institute of Training for Standardization
O & M	Operation & Maintenance
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNESC	United Nations Economic and Social Commission
VWMC	Village Water Management Committee
VWSSC	Village Water Supply and Sanitation Committee
WDC	Watershed Development Committee
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTC	Water Technology Centre

Bobhati River, District- Kaij, Beed, Maharashtra

About Us

India Water Partnership (IWP) is a non-profit organization with the aim of propagating, promoting and supporting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in India. It was registered in 2001 under Haryana Societies Registration Act 1860 and re-registered as per new Haryana Registration and Regulation of Societies Act 2012.

IWP serves as a distinct and independent voice on water management, providing critical and unbiased analysis of water-related issues to inform policy, engage stakeholders, raise public awareness, and facilitate dialogue among individuals, agencies, and government departments. Through collaborative efforts with a diverse range of partners - including institutions, research organizations, NGOs, corporate bodies, and others - IWP tackles complex water challenges across India. The organization hosts regular meetings and conferences to discuss key water sector issues, ensures India's active participation in global events facilitated by international institutions, and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration to advance Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Network Partners

IWP carries out its activities through its network partners spread across 23 States of the country. Additionally, six Zonal Water Partnerships (ZWPs) have been established to support IWP's objectives at the regional level, ensuring a more focused and effective approach to water management within each zone.

Governing Body

IWP is governed by a Board of Governors consisting of President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer and senior officials from the Government of India & State Governments. Moreover, the Board is supported by Honorary Members who are individuals of exceptional talent recognized for their outstanding societal contributions. The Governing Body approves the Annual Work Plan and Budget, appoints auditors and oversees the governance and technical functioning of IWP in alignment with the country’s water priorities.

Mission ,Vision & Goal

VISION

“A water secure India [with participation of all stakeholders].”

MISSION

Sustainable and Inclusive Water Management at National, Regional, River basin/ Sub-basin and Local Levels in India.

GOAL

To facilitate inclusive, sustainable and effective water management in the country.

Thrust Areas

Promote use of low cost water saving technologies ;

Encourage traditional methods of water conservation;

Support gender & youth mainstreaming in water management;

Promote water use efficiencies in rural & urban areas;

Create awareness on interconnectedness between water and climate change;

Strengthen Zonal & Area Water Partnerships for resolving local water related issues;

Foster cooperation among Water User Associations/ Water User Groups/ Water Regulatory Authorities;

Contribute in policy advocacy on efficientwater governance and management;

Promote role of women & youth for sustainable water resources management; and,

Support use of safedrinking water and effective sanitation.

Major Highlights

Outputs/Outcomes

- **Building Resilience through Community-Led Groundwater Management: Addressing Water Scarcity in Drought-Prone Areas (5 villages namely; Adgaon Khurd; Murshidabadwadi; Vitthalwadi; Ranjangaon and Sultanwadi of Fulambari Block, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar District (erstwhile Aurgandabad), Maharashtra**

  - 5 Village level Climate Adaptation Plans have been prepared (one each for 5 villages);
  - 5 Crop Water Management Plans for summer season and 5 for winter season have been prepared (one each for 5 villages);
  - 21 farmers have installed induced recharge measures on their private irrigation wells increasing groundwater recharge potential by 1.47 ha-m;
  - 18 farmers constructed farm ponds with State Government support increasing surface water storage of 12.96 ha-m;
  - 62 farmers have installed drip irrigation units for their seasonal crops (1 ha each) leading to water saving of 16.7 ha-m of irrigation water;
  - 108 women farmers have been trained on climate smart agricultural practices; and,
  - 10 youth and 50 farmers have been trained on groundwater management - playing a great role on preparation of Village level Climate Adaptation Plans and Crop Water Management Plans.

- **Fostering Youth Engagement for Wetlands Conservation and Management in National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi**

  - 440 students and 14 teachers of Delhi Public School (DPS) R K Puram, New Delhi participated in the Workshop on "Conserving Wetlands for Managing Water Risks";
  - 21 students of DPS R K Puram, New Delhi participated in 3D Model-Making Competition on wetland catchment;
  - 200 students and 20 teachers of DPS Faridabad participated in a presentation session on "Wetlands as a Biological Supermarket"; and,
  - 200 students of DPS Faridabad participated in painting completion on values and benefits of wetlands.

- **Grassroot Gender Empowerment in Water Quality Testing using Field Test Kits for improved Public Health in Warangal District, Telangana State**

  - 22 semi-skilled and semi-literate women and youth were trained on water-based skills such as plumbing, water purification, O & M of piped water supply infrastructures, valve operation, water quality testing and entrepreneurship development;
  - Water quality of 50 rural/semi-urban villages was tested in pre & post monsoon seasons and deviations were reported to the village authorities for remedial measures;
  - Enhanced awareness of more than 1,50,000 people across 50 villages of 3 districts of Telangana state on the benefits of consuming safe drinking water; and,
  - Increased employability of women and youth in managing water enterprise through entrepreneurship opportunities,
  - Semi-literate and semi-skilled youth & women got opportunity to earn livelihood ranging from INR 6-8k/month.

Strengthening Water Resources by Improving Governance of Panchayat Level Statutory Bodies Through Active Participation of Youth (10 villages namely; Arangaon, Belgaon, Bhopala, Doka, Hanumant Pimpri, Jadhav Jawala, Kalegaon Ghat, Kaprewadi and Kelgaon of Kaij Block, Beed District, Maharashtra

- 300 youth (30 in each village) have been trained and transformed as Water Stewards to address village water related issues;
- 30 youth leaders (3 in each village) trained as Jaldoots are available to provide technical support to repair village water infrastructures (ponds, open wells, bore wells, check dams CNBs, K T Weirs);
- 10 Water Users Groups (1 in each village) have become operational to manage the rejuvenated/newly created water resources infrastructures for drinking and irrigation purposes;
- Defunct Watershed Development Committees (WSDs) and Village Water Supply and Sanitation Committees (VSSSCs) have been activated;
- Coordination between Villages, Block and District level concerned Government Departments viz Agriculture and Minor Irrigation has enhanced; and,
- 10 youth groups (1 in each village) with 10 persons promoted have become voice of the communities and started raising water concerns and mobilizing resources from the Block/District Government.

National Consultation on Integrated Drought Management in India

- To effectively mitigate and manage drought in India, the National Consultation made several suggestions/recommendations based on 3 pillars of the WMO's Integrated Drought Management Program viz;
  - ⩾ Observation, Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning;
  - ⩾ Scientific Research, Risk and Impact Assessment; and,
  - ⩾ Governance, Risk mitigation, preparedness and response/capacity development/partnerships.

Knowledge Products/Learning Materials Developed

- Project Impact Story on "Building Resilience through Community-Led Groundwater Management";
- Project Impact Story on "Fostering a New Generation of Wetland Stewards through Wetland Learning Centre in Delhi NCT"
- Project Impact Story on "From water scarcity to sustainability Water conservation efforts in Maharashtra"
- Project Impact Story on "From water scarcity to sustainability Water conservation efforts in Maharashtra"
- 5 Village level Climate Adaptation Plans (1 for each village) of Fulambari Block, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar District (erstwhile Aurgandabad), Maharashtra
- 2 Case Studies of Women SHG Members on Water Quality Testing in Warangal District, Telangana

Building Resilience through Community-Led Groundwater Management: Addressing Water Scarcity in Drought-Prone Areas

Chattrapati Sambhajinagar (erstwhile Aurangabad) in Central Maharashtra State is a drought prone district. As part of the semi-arid landscape, the district faces significant vulnerability to climatic shifts that negatively affect rural communities and their already fragile sources of livelihood. Water scarcity is a pressing issue in the district affecting drinking water to humans, livestock and agriculture.

Village level Climate Adaptation Planning

IWP launched this activity in 2022-23 in five villages (Adgaon Khurd; Murshidabadwadi; Vitthalwadi; Ranjangaon and Sultanwadi) of Fulambri Block, Chattrapati Sambhajinagar District, Maharashtra to enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers through participatory groundwater management. The first year focused on strengthening village water governance like; promoting youth and to train them as barefoot technologist for assessment and monitoring of key hydro-geological parameters; re-activation of defunct Village Water Management Committees (VWMCs) and training them for water use planning and water budgeting.

In 2023-24; Farmers Field Schools (FFS) were established to train farmers on water saving techniques, Hydro-geological studies were carried-out to identify water-bearing potential, aquifer expanse, and potential recharge zones; Climate-Smart Agricultural demonstrations were given to farmers on advanced practices like vermi-composting, INM, and IPM; Trainings were given to VWMC members and youth on water conservation, hydro-geological survey, water budgeting, and seasonal water use planning.

Key Interventions in 2024-25:

Village level Climate Adaptation Planning: VWMCs undertook the comprehensive exercise for preparing Village level Climate Adaptation Plans based on the findings of the hydrogeology study. The VWMC members also discussed the potential and options of increasing water availability in each village using appropriate soil water conservation measures. 109 VWMC members (men & women) participated.

Orientation training for Women Groups for Organic Vegetable farming: Orientation and basic training was given to women farmers' groups by experts from a voluntary organisation and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Gandheli, Sambhajinagar District for organic vegetable farming. 186 women farmers attended training.

Training on Water saving practices: 98 farmers (men & women) were trained on water saving practices and emergency response to water shortages.

Training on soil analysis and demonstration of sample collection: 104 farmers (men & women) were trained on soil sample collection and analysis to assess soil health to determine nutrient requirement for their Kharif crop.

Crop planning meeting for Kharif and Rabi seasons : A special meeting of the farmers' groups with the help of VWMC members and Jaldoots was organized to review water availability situation and make preparations for crop planning exercises for forthcoming Kharif and Rabi seasons. 139 farmers (men & women) participated.

On-site Training of VWMC members on Aquifer characteristics: VWMC members were provided on-site training on the aquifer characteristics within their village (25 well studied).

Field based Training Programmes: Field based training programmes were organized for 89 farmers (men & women) on sustainable agriculture and integrated farming systems.

Training on seed treatment: 92 farmers (men & women) were trained on seed treatment for improving germination and plant growth for Kharif crops.

Water budgeting: 102 farmers (men & women) participated in water budgeting exercise to prepare Village level Climate Adaptation Plan for each village.

Major Outcomes: :

Due to various interventions in groundwater management, water storage capacity in the target villages has increased by 27.53%, and groundwater recharge has increased by 33.85%. Farmers have learned and adopted climate smart agriculture and water saving techniques like drip irrigation. Women farmers have started cultivating organic vegetables.

An Impact Story has been prepared based on this project with the title **"Building Resilience through Community-Led Groundwater Management"**. The Impact Story is available on IWP website and the link is:https://cwp-india.org/pdf-data/Building%20Resilience%20through%20Community-Led%20Groundwater%20Management.pdf

Fostering Youth Engagement for Wetlands Conservation and Management in National Capital Territory (NCR) of Delhi

Wetlands are critical as they contribute significantly to the liveability of cities, reduce flooding, regulate microclimate, replenish drinking water, filter waste, provide urban green spaces and provide habitat for urban biodiversity. The NCT of Delhi known for its extensive network of wetlands has been expanding its urban footprint thereby threatening these wetlands in the form of encroachment and pollution. This activity was aimed to foster youth engagement for wetlands conservation and management in National Capital Territory of Delhi. IWP initiated this activity in 2023-24 and continued in 2024-25.

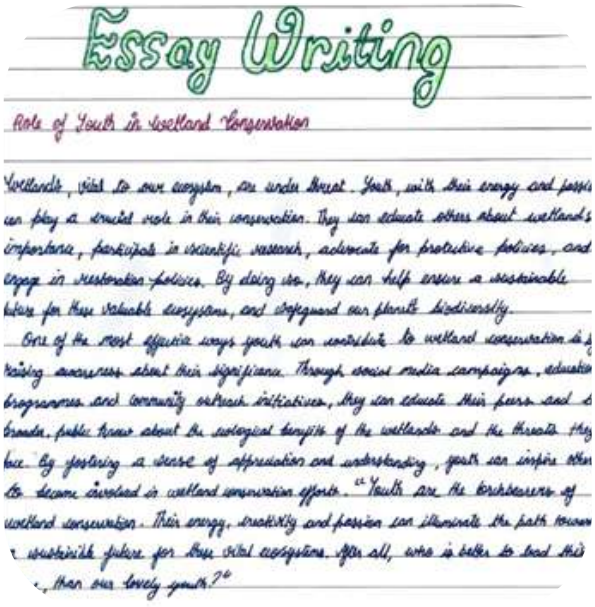
Key Interventions in 2024-25:

A workshop titled “Conserving Wetlands for Managing Water Risks” organized for Class VIII students of Delhi Public School (DPS) RK Puram, New Delhi aimed to raise awareness about the critical role of wetlands in the water cycle, the influence of water and landscapes on wetland formation and functions, and the impacts of wetland degradation on water security and conservation.

The workshop witnessed active participation of 440 students and 14 teachers, demonstrating a strong commitment to fostering environmental stewardship among young learners.

A 3D Model-Making Competition on wetland catchment was organized in DPS R K Puram, New Delhi on the themes “The Role of Wetlands in the Water Cycle" and "The Role of Wetlands in Addressing Water Challenges". The competition highlighted critical functions of wetlands, such as mitigating drought, buffering floods, recharging groundwater, and regulating coastal areas. 21 enthusiastic students participated in the competition.

An Essay Writing Competition was organized in DPS R K Puram, New Delhi for 8th class students on the theme “Wetlands for Urban Resilience; “Role of Youth in Wetland Conservation” and “There was a Wetland Here” to foster awareness about wetlands and their conservation.The winners received Certificate of Appreciation.


Essay Writing

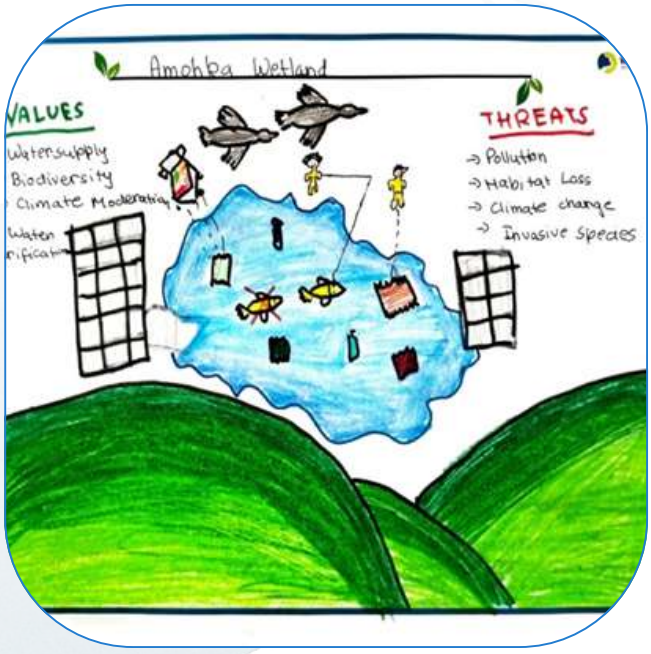
Role of Youth in Wetland Conservation

Wetlands, vital to our ecosystem, are under threat. Youth, with their energy and passi
can play a crucial role in their conservation. They can educate others about wetland's
importance, participate in scientific research, advocate for protective policies, and
engage in restoration projects. By doing so, they can help ensure a sustainable
future for these valuable ecosystems, and safeguard our planet's biodiversity.

One of the most effective ways youth can contribute to wetland conservation is
raising awareness about their significance. Through social media campaigns, educatio
programmes and community outreach initiatives, they can educate their peers and
broader public hence about the ecological benefits of the wetlands and the threats they
face. By fostering a sense of appreciation and understanding, youth can inspire others
to become involved in wetland conservation efforts. "Youth are the torchbearers of
wetland conservation. Their energy, creativity and passion can illuminate the path towards
a sustainable future for these vital ecosystems. After all, who is better to lead this
charge than our lovely youth?"

A presentation session titled 'Wetlands as a Biological Supermarket,' was organized at DPS, Faridabad with the aim to raise awareness about the significance of wetlands, the threats they face, and the vital role of youth in their conservation. The session introduced participants to the concept of wetlands, their various types, and the valuable ecosystem services they provide. It also highlighted Ramsar sites—wetlands of international importance—and discussed the current number of Ramsar sites in India. 200 students of class 6th & 7th and 20 teachers participated showcasing their enthusiasm and keen interest in the topic.

A painting competition was also organized in DPS Faridabad based on understanding of the students on the values and benefits of wetlands. 200 students of 6th class & 7th class participated in the painting completion. This interactive approach not only deepened their knowledge of wetlands but also encouraged them to become active advocates for conservation.



Major Outcomes:

This initiative enhanced students' understanding of the multifaceted importance of wetlands and their role in maintaining ecological balance. Youth-focused themes explored how collective actions and sustainable practices can drive community-level efforts for wetlands conservation and management and inspiring young individuals to lead the change.

Link for DPS RK Puram, New Delhi shortlisted Essays:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aGUzUax9ltw-wF26bP5KJg6K5ru-OHpI?usp=sharing

Link for DPS Faridabad Presentation:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HOb3SA6811M-6krwNtlCApGaiHna2F3/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114584174935437878266&rtpof=true&sd=true

Link for DPS Faridabad, NCT shortlisted drawings:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18Y0MJ0ZcuoqTQZlIwgPgkOpnHsQLYr3u?usp=sharing

An Impact Story has been prepared based on this project with the title **"Fostering a New Generation of Wetland Stewards through Wetland Learning Centre in Delhi NCR"** is available in IWP website with the link: https://shorturl.at/bLjdQ

Grassroot Gender Empowerment in Water Quality Testing using Field Test Kits for improved Public Health in Warangal District, Telangana State

India has made significant improvements both on water quality and quantity through various Government of India and State Governments programs. However, there is lack of a cadre of grassroots barefoot technicians to operate, maintain, and repair the water infrastructures created under these programs. IWP started this initiative in 2023-24 with the aim to prepare semi-skilled and semi-literate women and youth in water-based skills such as plumbing, O & M of piped water supply infrastructures, fitting, valve operation, water purification, water quality testing and entrepreneurship develpoment.

Key Interventions in 2024-25:

A training program for 22 semi-skilled and semi-literate trainees (20 women & 10 youth) was organized in two phases in June and November, 2024 respectively. The Training Moudles were: (i) Introduction to Water; (ii) Water Quality and Water Quality Management Systems; (iii) Water Treatment Technologies; (iv) iSWEET (Digital Safe Water Enterprise Entrepreneur Toolkit); and, Entrepreneurship development.

Link for Training Videos and pictures:
First Round of Training: https://photos.app.goo.gl/KthKbnh4teq2GhiTA
Second Round of Training:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19foIAE6gxdqQgBlUQyLxIQUTi6EK8fwk

Five women trained as technicians in 2023 tested quality of water supply sources using Field Test Kits (FTKs) in 50 villages across Warangal, Hanumakonda, and Jangoan districts of Telangana (pre & post monsoon) to identify contamination or deviations from the National BIS 10500 drinking water quality standards.

24 villages out of 50 villages water supply sources tested, showed water quality deviations from the desired standards. The deviations were primarily observed in the TDS levels, alkalinity, and chloride levels in the samples tested. The gaps in quality were reported to the concerned village authorities for remedial action.

The source-wise water quality testing results from each Village is collated data and high- resolution pictures. Link is given below:
Pre-monsoon - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yM4JtJXSkWMHz9lrrn3iHLVYoCLWXXDf?usp=sharing
Post-monsoon - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SlUx9YaUU2G4-T4HlnfCYNfpQvWojJt9?usp=sharing

Major Outcomes:

Enhanced awareness of more than 1,50,000 people across 50 villages of 3 districts of Telangana state on the benefits of consuming safe drinking water; increased employability of women and youth in managing water enterprise through entrepreneurship opportunities; and opportunity to semi-literate and semi-skilled youth & women to earn livelihood ranging from INR 6-8k/month.

An Impact Story has been prepared based on this project with the name "Vocational Training Program in Safe Water Enterprises - Empowering Women and Youth" is available on IWP website with the link: https://shorturl.at/9Exks

Strengthening Water Resources by Improving Governance of Panchayat Level Statutory Bodies Through Active Participation of Youth

Kaij Block of Beed District under drought prone Marathwada region in Maharashtra encounters severe shortage of water both for drinking as well as agriculture. This project launched by IWP in 2022-23 seeks to improve irrigation for increased crop production and reliable drinking water both the humans and livestock in 10 villages (Arangaon, Belgaon, Bhopala, Doka, Dongaon, Hanumant Pimpri, Jadhav Jawala, Kalegaon Ghat, Kaprewadi & Kelgaon) located alongside Bobhati River in Kaij Block, Beed District, Maharashtra by promoting and training village youth as Jaldoots (Water Ambassadors) and re-activating defunct Village Water Supply & Sanitation Committees (VWSSCs) and Watershed Development Committees (WDCs) to play a pro-active role in reviving village water infrastructures and rejuvenating Bobhati River. 2023-24 activities focused on capacity building and knowledge enhancement of farmers, youth, VWSSC and WDC members on water conservation and management through 3 youth leadership training programs; 2 convergence workshops; 2 block level stakeholders meeting and one exposure visit of youth group leaders to Patoda Model Village in Chattrapati Sambhaji Nagar District, Maharashtra.

Key Interventions in 2024-25:

Three Capacity Building Training Programs were organized for youth members of WDC and VWSSCs on planning and managemet of drinking and irrigation water and role of youth in water mangaement; existing Government schemes to rejuvenate the Bobhati River; role of WDCs and VWSSCs in Water Conservation; revival of defunct water infrastructures, etc. (160 youth and members of VWSSC and WDC participated). This was followed by three technical training for Jaldoots on repair and maintenance of drinking and irrigation water infrastructures; techniques for desilting and cleaning water bodies; rainwater harvesting methods and groundwater recharge techniques; role of Jaldoots in mobilizing community participation; establishing linkages between villages and government departments; regular monitoring and repairs of village water infrastructures(90 Jaldoots attended the technical training).

Further two convergence workshops for villagers (Farmers, Youth, member of VWSSC and WDC) and representatives of District Government line departments (Minor Irrigation & Agriculture) were organized on importance of VWSSCs and WDCs in water conservation; current water challenges in project villages and sustainable solutions; and, Government programs/schemes for water conservation and management and rejuvenation of Bobhati River (100 people participated).

Two Block level Stakeholders meetings were organized for youth, members of VWSSCs, WDCs, Water User Groups and farmers on: duties and responsibilities of VWSSCs and WDCs in ensuring regular water supply and sanitation in the villages; benefits of rooftop water harvesting; role of Water User Groups for irrigation and providing safe drinking water; strategies for restoring water systems along the Bobhati River, including reviving defunct water bodies (village ponds, open wells, bore wells, check dams CNBs, K T Weirs; desilting of Bobhati River; construction of new K T Weirs in Bobhati River). 91 people from all 10 villages participated.

Additionally, a study tour was organized for 22 youth from 10 project villages along the banks of Bobhati River to Darfal and Dautpur villages of the Dharashiv district, Maharashtra. In Darfal village, youth examined several initiatives, like deepening of streams, gabion dams, biogas plants, cement stream bunds, embankment construction, labour-driven pond deepening under Jal Jeevan Mission. The youth explored on-going works under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Dautpur village and discussed how similar initiatives could be implemented for Bobhati River revitalization.

Major Outcomes :

Local youth trained as Jaldoots are motivating villages to adopt best water conservation and management practices in their villages; Convergence workshops brought together government officials, youth leaders, and community members at one platform to take informed decisions; Block-level stakeholder meetings fostered collaboration between VWSSCs/WDCs, Government agriculture & minor irrigation department officials and media personnel. Villagers are now enthusiastic to repair their defunct water infrastructures, de-silting of water bodies and utilizing government schemes and taking keen interest for rejuvenating Bobhati River; and, Study tour of local youth to successful schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission helped them to acquire additional knowledge to apply for rejuvenation of Bobhati River.

An Impact Story has been prepared based on this project with the name "From water scarcity to sustainability: Water conservation efforts in Maharashtra" is available on IWP website with the link: https://rb.gy/y1bof9

National Consultation on Integrated Drought Management in India & Launch of the Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia

Drought is identified as a disaster in India. As per 2009 National Disaster Management Policy, 68 per cent of the cultivable area in the country is vulnerable to drought. It is further estimated that climate change will intensify all the natural disasters including droughts in the coming years which requires synergies in our approach and strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. This shall be encouraged and promoted not only at the country level but also at a regional level in South Asia as the countries share agro-climatic zones, rivers, hydrology and agricultural practices. Thus a Regional approach to drought management in South Asia is considered more effective way of dealing with externalities that are beyond the national policies and strategies.

Aim of the National consultation was to identify comprehensive strategies and priorities that effectively manage and mitigate the risks associated with the droughts in India and the broad objective was to prepare a Regional Proposal on Integrated Drought Management for South Asia by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) based on the recently developed Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia prepared in December, 2024 by Asia Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) with support of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The strategy was launched in the UNCCD COP16 on December 10, 2024, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

IWP in collaboration with WAPCOS organized a National Consultation on Integrated Drought Management in India in hybrid mode on 30th December, 2024 in New Delhi. In the National Consultation, the Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia prepared was also mini-launched.

Ms. Rajasree Ray, IES, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India & National Designated Authority (NDA) Adaptation Fund, India was the Chief Guest and delivered a Special Address. 43 experts/participants from Government of India, State Governments, representatives from ADPC, GWP-South Asia, WMO, UNCCD, NGOs and Research Organizations participated in-person/online and took part in the deliberations.

IWP prepared Concise Report and Summary of Proceedings and shared with NDA, Adaptation Fund, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, WMO and experts/participants. The Concise Report and Summary of Proceedings is available on IWP website with the link: https://rb.gy/kdt0dn

Major Outcomes :

To effectively mitigate and manage drought in India, experts made several suggestions/recommendations based on 3 pillars of the WMO's Integrated Drought Management Program viz; (i) Observation, Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning; (ii) Scientific Research, Risk and Impact Assessment; and, (iii) Governance, Risk mitigation, preparedness and response/capacity development/partnerships.

Workshops/Webinars/Meetings coordinated, organized and participated:

Webinar on Regional Perspectives on Drought Management in Asia organized by UNCCD in partnership with GWP, IWMI, ICBA, CAREC and ADPC on 13th May, 2024

UNCCD organized a webinar on "Regional Perspectives on Drought Management in Asia" in partnership with GWP, IWMI, ICBA, CAREC and ADPC on 13th May, 2024. The webinar showcased three cross-country initiatives aimed at managing drought in different sub-regions of Asia:

(i) Insights from Central Asia on the formulation and execution of the "Regional Strategy for Drought Risk Management and Mitigation in Central Asia for 2021-2030",

(ii) Advancements in climate change modelling and adaptation in the Middle East; and,

(iii) Experiences regarding collaborative efforts in crafting a "Regional Drought Risk Management Strategy for South Asia".

Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP and Smt. Preeti Madan, Regional Council Member, GWP-South Asia attended and contributed in the webinar.

Webinar on Innovative Solutions for Water Secure World and Sustainable Development organized by GWP-South East Asia (GWP-SEA) on 6th June, 2024

GWP-SEA organized a webinar on "Innovative Solutions for Water Secure and Sustainable Development" on 6th June, 2024 under Global Rainwater Management Program (GRMP).

Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP and Smt. Preeti Madan, Regional Council Member, GWP-South Asia attended the webinar. Shri Dhaval Pandya, Chief Operating Officer, Devram International, Surat, Gujarat (a GWP network partner) made a presentation on groundwater recharge through rainwater harvesting using different methods.

Workshop-cum-orientation programme for Central Nodal Officers and Technical Officers under Jal Shakti Abhiyan:Catch the Rain-2024 (JSA:CTR-2024) campaign organized on 27th June, 2024

A Workshop-cum-orientation programme for Central Nodal Officers and Technical Officers under Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain-2024 (JSA:CTR-2024) campaign was organized by National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi on 27th June, 2024.

The workshop was inaugurated by Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and the Keynote Speech was delivered by Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

President IWP & Chairman-cum-Managing Director, WAPCOS and Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP attended the workshop and interacted with the officials involved in the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain-2024 (JSA:CTR-2024) campaign.

Webinar on Role of NGOs for implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan:Catch the Rain-2024 (JSA:CTR-2024) organized on 9th July, 2024

A webinar on the Role of NGOs for implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan:Catch the Rain-2024 (JSA:CTR-2024) was organized on 9th July, 2024 in hybrid mode at National Water Mission under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary and Mission Director, National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. Aim of the webinar was to invite ideas and suggestions from the NGOs across to country for effective implementation of JSA: CTR-2024. IWP in 2023 shared State-wise database and details of its network partners along with their NITI Aayog Darpan portal ID to National Water Mission to invite it's partner NGOs to take part in JSA.

Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP and some network partners across different States participated in the webinar.

JAL SHAKTI ABHIYAN
Sanchay Jal, Behtar Kal

Launch of the consultation phase for GWP's New Strategy 2026-2030 by GWP during World Water Week-2024 on 26th August, 2024

A Consultation Process for developing GWP New Strategy for 2026-2030 was launched by GWP on 26th August, 2024 in the World Water Week-2024 in hybrid mode. The GWP officials spoke on the GWP achievements in the past, current trends and the way forward.

GWP Strategy
2026-2030

Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP attended the launch ceremony virtually and provided her feed-back on IWP initiatives.

IWP coordinated and facilitated two sessions during 8th India Water Week on 19th September, 2024

Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India invited IWP to coordinate and facilitate following two sessions on 19th September, 2024 during 8th India Water Week organized from 17-19th September 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Brief details of two sessions are given below:

(a) Session on "Water Governance and Financing" under Water Convention

This session was organized jointly by IWP and Advance Water Digest on September 19, 2024, from 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM. It focused on three key topics (i) Beneficiaries' Participation in Water Planning and Management; (ii) Role of Women in Water Resource Management; and (iii) Social Equity and Inclusion in the Water Sector.

The session was chaired by Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP and co-chaired by Ms. Anupama Madhok Sud, Director & Editor, Advance Water Digest The Keynote Speech was delivered by Ms. Laura Sustersic, Programme Director, SGR, GIZ.

Welcome Address and Opening Remarks by
Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP

Four insightful presentations were made by the representatives of Vyakti Vikas Kendra, Art of Living; Implementation Support Agency for Jal Jeevan Mission, Assam; Indian Institute of Human Settlement; and NERIWALM. The presentations highlighted importance of decentralized decision-making, fostering partnerships across various levels, and integrating traditional knowledge to enhance the efficiency of modern water governance structures with focus on empowering women and the marginalized communities to lead water management initiatives, thereby ensuring equitable access to resources, strengthening disaster resilience, and promoting long-term sustainability.

Shri Milind Panpatil, Director, National Water Academy was the Nodal Officer nominated by 8th India Water Week Secretariat for this session.

(b) Session on "Partnership and Co-operation for Integrated Water Resources Management" under Water Leaders Forum

This session organized on 19th September, 2024 from 13.30 pm to 15.00 pm was coordinated and facilitated by IWP in association with IWF. The session was well planned with the constant guidance of Shri Rakesh Kumar Verma, I.A.S, Additional Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

Objectives of the session were to discuss opportunities for accelerating adoption of IWRM in the country at all levels towards transforming water sector and achieving SDGs.

The Keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Alan AtKisson, GWP Executive Secretary and CEO. The Panellists were; (i) Shri A.B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID; Regional Council Member, GWP-South Asia & Former Chairman, Central Water Commission; (ii) Dr. P. Shakil Ahammed, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya; (iii) Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP; (iv) Dr. B R K Pillai, Prof. of Practice, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee; (v) Dr. P S Rao, Director (Technical), Advanced Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ACIWRM); and (vi) Dr. Ritesh Kumar, Director, Wetlands International South Asia.

Welcome Address and Opening Remarks by
Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP

The session was moderated by Shri A K Kharya, Chief Engineer, BPMO, Central Water Commission, Government of India & Country Focal Point SDG 6.5.1 IWRM and co-moderated by Shri Shawahiq Siddiqui, Governance Expert, Indian Environment Law Organization (IELO), a network partner of IWP.

The Panelists shared their insights on forging partnerships and cooperation at various levels of policy-making, planning and IWRM implementation in an integrated manner across sectoral, geographical and institutional boundaries and associated challenges.

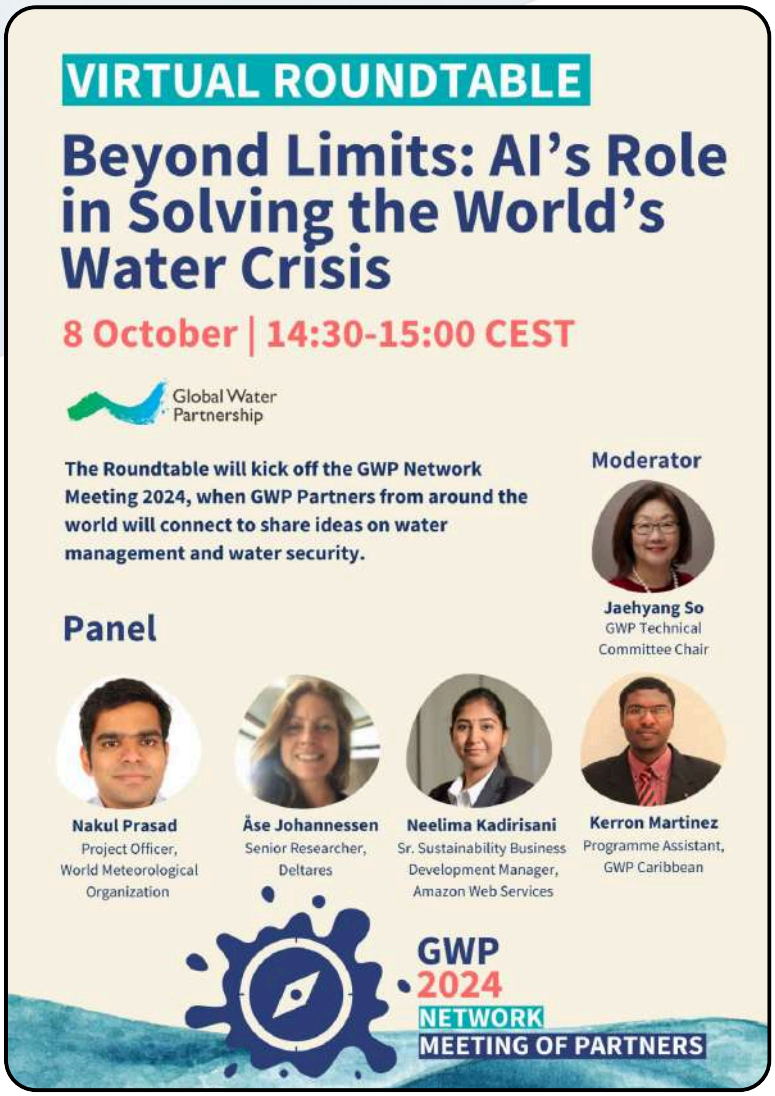
Dr. Kapil Kesharwani, Scientist D, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee was the Nodal Officer nominated by 8th India Water Week Secretariat for this session.

Both the Nodal Officers compiled recommendations of their respective sessions in consultation with IWP and shared with the 8th India Water Week Secretariat.

Online GWP Annual Network Partners Meeting 2024 and Discussion on GWP's new strategy 2026-2030 held on 8th October, 2024

GWP Annual Network Partners Meeting , 2024 was held on 8th October, 2024. This was an important meeting towards shaping GWP's 2026-2030 Strategy by receiving suggestions from the GWP network partners. In the meeting a public roundtable on "Beyond Limits: AI's Role in Solving the World's Water Crisis" was also organized. GWP network partners around the World shared their ideas on water management and water security.

Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP and some network partners of IWP from their States attended this meeting.



GWP Strategy 2026-2030

Online meeting on Exploring Collaboration Opportunities with NGOs for Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Initiative organized by National Water Mission on 23rd October, 2024

An online meeting on "Exploring Collaboration Opportunities with NGOs for Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Initiative" was organized by National Water Mission on 23rd October, 2024 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 86 NGOs in the country including IWP and its network partners from Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator representing IWP suggested for strengthening grassroots workers in water conservation by involving youth and farmers, their capacity building, convergence of Government schemes and advocating for a scientific approach.

The Chair outlined objectives of Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Initiative, focusing on its 4 key goals. She elaborated on Campaign Vision, which aims to establish at least one million artificial recharge structures, bore well recharge systems, and recharge shafts across the country. The Chair also highlighted the pivotal role of NGOs in implementing the various interventions under Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Initiative 2024, underscoring their responsibility in driving community-based efforts.

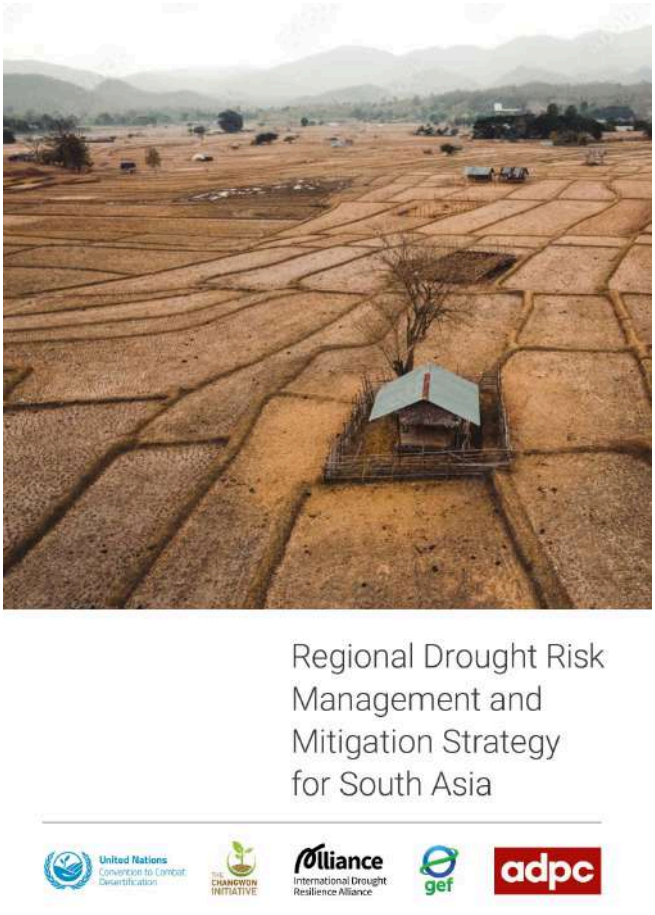
Online Release of Report on State of Extreme Weather in India 2024 by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on 8th November, 2024

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) (GWP network partner) released a "Report on State of Extreme Weather in India 2024" on 8th November, 2024 virtually. The Report contains data and information of all the extreme weather events took place in the country from January to September, 2024.

The Report mentions that India faced extreme weather events on 93 per cent of days in the first nine months of this year, marked by heat and cold waves, cyclones, lightning, heavy rain, floods, and landslides. Without combating climate change at a meaningful scale, today's challenges will only worsen tomorrow. Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP attended the book release ceremony.

Online meeting with Country Coordinators of GWP-South Asia for preparing Proposal on Regional Drought Management and Mitigation in South Asia held on 29th November, 2024

An online meeting of Country Coordinators of GWP-South Asia was organized by Regional Office on 29th November, 2024. In the meeting it was informed that the UNCCD and ADPC has recently developed Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia which was launched in UNCCD COP16 on 10th December, 2024 in Riyad, Saudi Arabia. Post launch, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), in partnership with the GWP, ADPC and UNCCD are planning to develop a Regional Proposal on Drought Management and Mitigation for South Asia for submission under Adaptation Fund of UNCCD.



For this purpose, the Regional Office, GWP-South Asia has advised all the Country Water Partnerships to launch the Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia in their countries and organize a stakeholder consultation for identifying and prioritizing country-specific needs, aligning them with existing Country Programs. Based on the outcomes/suggestions emerged from the consultation, a Concept Note will be developed outlining the proposed actions/activities for feeding into the detailed Regional Proposal.

Consultation on India's Priorities and Opportunities for Conserving Freshwater Biodiversity & Ecosystem on 6th December, 2024

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) organized a consultation on "India's Priorities and Opportunities for Conserving Freshwater Biodiversity & Ecosystems" under the India Water Foundation (IWF) Water Transversality Global Awards and Conclave on 6th December, 2024 in New Delhi.

Objective of the consultation was to bring leading practitioners and decision-makers to identify innovative action pathways to harness the potential of freshwater conservation and restoration for achieving broader sustainable development ambitions of India. The consultation also intended to leverage the global momentum created by the recently launched Freshwater Challenge (FWC) which is going to become the largest freshwater conservation and restoration effort in history, with 47 country signatories, including Germany, France, USA, UK and European Union.

Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP and Shri Shawahiq Siddique, representative India Environment Law Organization (IWP network partner) attended the consultation and participated in the discussions.

Ninth (9th) India Water Impact Summit [IWIS] and 2nd Climate Investments and Technology Impact Summit [CITIS] organized from 4th-6th December, 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga led by IIT Kanpur), National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, and NITI Aayog, Government of India jointly organized 9th India Water Impact Summit [IWIS] and the 2nd Climate Investments and Technology Impact Summit [CITIS] from 4th-6th December, 2024 at Bharat Mandapam Convention Centre, New Delhi.

Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP participated in the Inaugural Session of 9th IWIS Special Plenary Session on Indian Rivers – Similarities & the Peculiarities and Inaugural Session of 2nd CITIS on 4th December, 2024.

Workshop-cum-Brainstorming Sessions for Technical Committee Members of BIS on 9th December, 2024

National Institute of Training for Standardization (NITS), BIS organized a Workshop-cum-Brainstorming Sessions for Technical Committee Members of BIS on 9th December, 2024 in NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh.

The sessions included new features like; SMART Standards, Online Standards Development, New International Relations Portal and Advanced Dashboard.The topics discussed were; Ice-breaking Session on the theme 'Making India a Standards based Economy; Analysis of data regarding the Performance of the TCs, based on the indicators in the Advance Dashboard; Transition to Smart Standards; Optimizing ISO/IEC Level Participation; Revisiting the work done and new paradigm; Gap areas and Process Reforms and Digital Solutions.

Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP as a Technical Committee member of BIS participated the Workshop-cum-Brainstorming Sessions.

Thirtieth (Mini) Regional Council Meeting of GWP-SAS held on 20th February, 2025

The 30th (Mini) Regional Council Meeting of GWP-SAS was held online on 20th February, 2025 under the Chairmanship of Shri A B Pandya, Regional Chair, GWP-SAS. Main agenda of the meeting was (i) Welcome of new Regional Chair; (ii) GWP's Leadership, Governance and Financial Transformation; (iii) Overview of the Work Plan and Budget, 2025 (iv) Discussion and finalizing both regional and country allocations of the budget, 2025; and, (v) Renewal of GWP-SAS HI Agreements with IWMI, Colombo, Sri Lanka and suggestion to change the HI.

Dr. Ravinder Kaur, Regional Council Member, GWP-SAS from India participated in the meeting and Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP attended as an observer. President, IWP and Shri Kushvinder Vohra, Regional Council Member, GWP-SAS from India could not participate in the meeting due to their pre-occupation.

Aravalli Green Wall Partnership Summit – 2025 organized from 6th to 8th February, 2025

Haryana State Biodiversity Board, Government of Haryana and The Nature Conservancy India Solutions organized **"Aravalli Green Wall Partnership-2025** from 6th to 8th February, 2025 in Gurugram, Haryana. Purpose of this Summit was to bring together and network with key organizations, agencies and institutions dedicated to the conservation of the Aravalli landscape in India and create a platform. The summit followed with a field visit aiming to deepen understanding of the various interventions and explore future opportunities.

Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India was the Chief Guest and Shri Rao Narbir Singh, Hon'be Minister for Environment, Forest, Wildlife, Foreign Cooperation, Commerce & Industries, Government of Haryana was the Guest of Honour in the Inaugural Session on 6th February, 2025.

Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP participated in the Inaugural Session and took part in the discussions.

Webinar on International Women's Day on the theme Water, Women, Nexus-Stronger Together, More Inclusive Forever on 8th March, 2025

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) organized a webinar on the occasion of International Women's Day on the theme "Water, Women, Nexus-Stronger Together, More Inclusive Forever" on 8th March, 2025.

Dr. R K Gupta, Secretary General, ICID & Vice-President, IWP made the opening remarks. Dr Ravinder Kaur, Principal Scientist, WTC, IARI & Regional Council Member, GWP-SAS from India made a presentation. The Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP also made a presentation on **"Women as change agent in Safe Water Management Enterprise"**.

International Women's Day 2025

Water Sustainability Conference 2025 on 12th March, 2025

Water Sustainability Conference 2025 was organized by Bureau of Water Use Efficiency, National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India on 12th March, 2025 in association with WAPCOS and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi. Objective of this Conference was to address challenges in the industrial sector and explore actionable strategies for improving water use efficiency. The Conference was centred at three key topics: (i) Accelerating Water Efficiency: Government's Strategies and Initiatives; (ii) Industrial Water Use Efficiency: Benchmarking Water Efficient Pathways and (iii) Water Neutrality & Positivity: A Deep Dive towards Net Zero Future.

Shri C R Paatil, Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Government of India delivered the Inaugural Address and Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, I.A.S, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India given the Keynote Address.

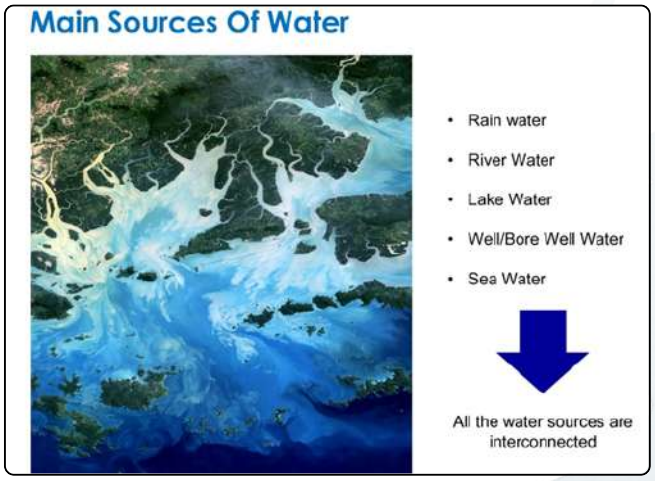
Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP participated in the Conference.

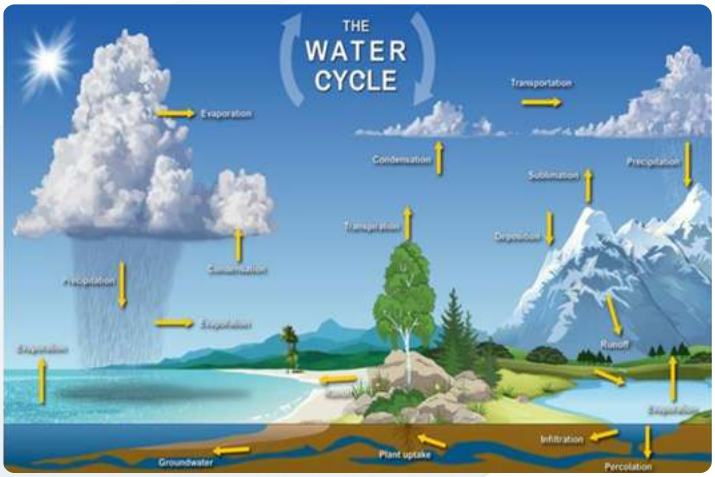
Multi-stakeholder dialogue by UNESC for Asia and Pacific's South and South West Asia on water-climate nexus in the context of India Water Vision 2047 on 21st March, 2025

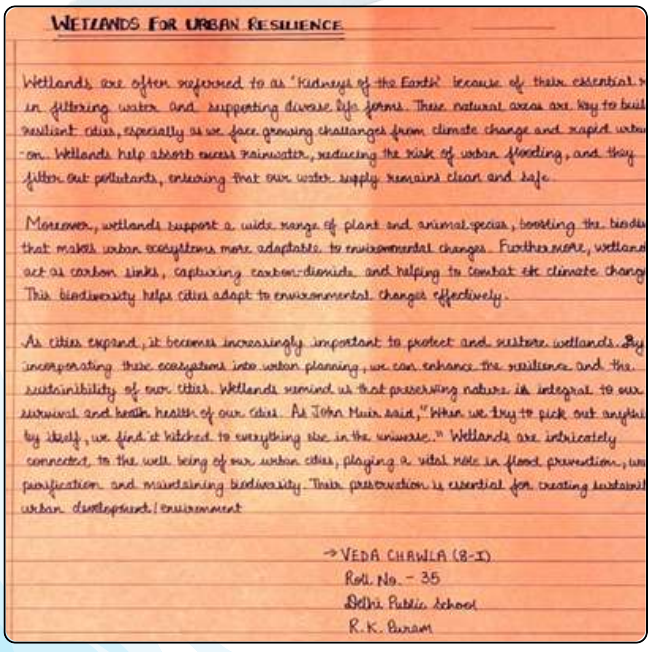
A Multi-stakeholder dialogue on "Water-climate nexus in the context of India Water Vision 2047" was organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific's South and South-West Asia on 21st March, 2025 in New Delhi.

Purpose of the dialogue was to deliberate upon ideas and strategies to contribute to India's Water Vision 2047. The dialogue aimed to bring together diverse perspectives-policy experts, civil society, academia, and development partners- to co-develop solutions for an inclusive and sustainable water future.

Executive Secretary-cum-Coordinator, IWP and Dr. Alok Sikka, India representative, IWMI & Honorary Board of Governor, IWP attended and contributed in the dialogue.







WETLANDS FOR URBAN RESILIENCE

Wetlands are often referred to as 'Kidneys of the Earth' because of their essential r in filtering water and supporting diverse life forms. These natural areas are key to buil resilient cities, especially as we face growing challenges from climate change and rapid urba -on. Wetlands help absorb excess rainwater, reducing the risk of urban flooding, and they filter out pollutants, ensuring that our water supply remains clean and safe.

Moreover, wetlands support a wide range of plant and animal species, boosting the biodiv that makes urban ecosystems more adaptable to environmental changes. Furthermore, wetland act as carbon sinks, capturing carbon dioxide and helping to combat the climate chang This biodiversity helps cities adapt to environmental changes effectively.

As cities expand, it becomes increasingly important to protect and restore wetlands. By incorporating these ecosystems into urban planning, we can enhance the resilience and the sustainability of our cities. Wetlands remind us that preserving nature is integral to our survival and health. Health of our cities. As John Muir said, "When we try to pick out anythi by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." Wetlands are intricately connected to the well being of our urban cities, playing a vital role in flood prevention, wa purification and maintaining biodiversity. Their preservation is essential for creating sustainabl urban development/environment

→ VEDA CHAWLA (8-I)
Roll No. - 35
Delhi Public School
R.K. Puram

Social media and media coverage

Publications

Fostering a New Generation of Wetland Stewards through Wetland Learning Centre in Delhi NCR

Impact Story

Standing before her classmates and teachers, Jasnoor carefully adjusted her 3D model of a wetland catchment. With vibrant hues of blue and green representing the wetlands and surrounding vegetation, Jasnoor was ready to showcase the critical functions of wetlands. "Good morning, everyone," she began, her voice filled with excitement". Today, I want to talk about the incredible functions of wetlands, their role in the water cycle, and the cultural services they provide."

Delhi's wetlands, once silent custodians of the city's ecological balance, are now facing severe threats from urban expansion. Recognizing the urgency, India Water Partnership (IWP) and Wetlands International South Asia (WISA) led an initiative to engage the youth in wetland conservation and establishing a Wetland Learning Center at DPS RK Puram, New Delhi.

> **"Creating a 3-D model of a wetland ecosystem was an eye-opener. I learned how wetlands act like natural sponges, absorbing excess rainwater and recharging groundwater. They are vital for flood control, drought mitigation, and even for water purification. This initiative made me realize the incredible value of wetlands and the urgent need to protect them".**
>
> *Said Jasnoor, VIII class student, Delhi Public School (DPSI RK Puram, New Delhi*

Entries on 3D Model Making Competition on Wetland Catchment submitted by the students of DPS RK Puram, New Delhi

The Wetland Learning Centre developed under this initiative will become a pivotal hub for educational activities, hosting workshops, model-making competitions, and immersive field visits to local wetlands such as Hauz Khas Lake, New Delhi. These activities not only deepen the students' understanding of wetland ecosystems but also empower them to advocate for conservation efforts within their communities.

Wetlands as a Biological Supermarket

This initiative is a part of IWP core strategy implemented by WISA to foster engagement of the youth in environment conservation. Started in 2022 under GWP-South Asia three-year program (2023-2025), the initiative underwent a series of interactive programs to foster wetland education. The major highlights were the "Wetlands as a Biological Supermarket" presentation on January 18, 2024 and a presentation on "Conserving Wetlands for Managing Water Risks" on 25th April, 2024, followed by a creative 3-D Model-Making Competition on 17th May, 2024 at DPS R K Puram, New Delhi.

These engaging sessions introduced students of class IIth and teachers from DPS RK Puram, New Delhi to the vital role of wetlands play in mitigating water-related risks, including floods and droughts, and how their conservation contributes to sustainable water management. Interactive discussions, visual aids and the case study were aimed to raise awareness among students about the crucial role wetlands play in preserving vital ecosystems and ensuring water security for the future. By inspiring curiosity and concern, the event empowered young minds to become wetland stewards.

With over 773 students and 31 teachers actively participating, the initiative has succeeded in instilling a sense of responsibility towards wetland conservation among the younger generation. Educational materials like flashcards, brochures and case studies on the wetlands of Delhi NCR and their biodiversity further enhance the learning experience, ensuring sustained engagement and knowledge dissemination.

As Delhi's urban sprawl threatens these vital ecosystems, initiative like the one at DPS RK Puram, New Delhi serve as a beacon of hope, nurturing a new wave of wetland stewards dedicated to preserving and protecting these natural habitats for

Building Resilience through Community-Led Groundwater Management: Addressing Water Scarcity in Drought Prone Areas

Impact Story

Savita is not the only woman farmer who credits her farmers' group for some simple measures that helped her courageously face the drought of 2023, which devastated the crops and lives of most farmers in Marathwada region. She represents one of the 300 farming families from five villages of Fulambri block, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar district, Maharashtra State who learnt climate smart agriculture and water conservation techniques and used it successfully to counter the adverse impact of the drought by taking the right crop management decisions at every stage of the crop growth. Unlike their counterparts in the neighbouring villages, they saved their kharif crop and got some produce during one of the severest drought that affected entire Marathwada region in 2023.

> **"We would have lost everything during this drought, but could salvage some grains and fodder by using the techniques we learnt during the last two years. We realised its importance in the face of severe drought 2023 in Marathwada region".**
>
> *Said Savita, a ranifed woman farmer from village Adgaon, Block Fulambri, District Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, (erstwhile Aurangabad), Maharashtra State*

Most of the rainfed farmers in drought prone areas of Central Maharashtra are at the mercy of rain God. Two years ago, GRASP (Grass Roots Action for Social Participation), a voluntary organisation, came forward to work on climate resilient agriculture in a cluster of five villages (Adgaon, Murshidabadwadi, Ranjangaon, Sultanwadi and Vitthalwadi) of Fulambri Block, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, District, Maharashtra where Savita lived. Under a project "Addressing climate variability through participatory groundwater management" supported by Global Water Partnership-South Asia (GWP-South Asia) and India Water Partnership (IWP), the farmers of these villages organized themselves into Farmers Field School (FFS) groups under the guidance of GRASP in 2022. These groups received training from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) at Jalna and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar districts, Maharashtra and experts from Maharashtra State Agriculture and Groundwater Departments helped them on use of user-friendly techniques of soil water conservation,groundwater recharge and improving soil health. The groups took up these practices enthusiastically, partly on their own, and partly with little support under the existing government programmes.

Besides identifying new cost effective methods of water conservation, the farmers developed a regular habit of visiting their fields in groups and monitoring of crop growth, pests and diseases. During these visits, they shared their observations and related their experiences with each other, discussing how they overcame the problems in their own fields. This exchange was akin to a university of popular scientists constantly improvising on their locally developed solutions. These Farmers Field School groups are now respected by other farmers in the region as the torch-bearers of local knowledge on climate proofing.

Climate Adaptation Plan preparation exercise by VWMC members

Going beyond saving their crops during the drought, Savita and the farmer groups interacted with groundwater experts from GRASP to understand the underlying rock structure in their villages and its water related behaviour. With this newly acquired knowledge, they could identify within their villages, the zones which have high water bearing potential and those where groundwater could be recharged. They recently prepared village-wise water budget and water use plans for long-term drought proofing, which they taken to the Gram Panchayat for implementation in near future.

From water scarcity to sustainability: Water conservation efforts in Maharashtra

In the heart of Marathwada region, Maharashtra, where the sun beats down mercilessly and rain is a fickle friend, lie ten villages nestled along the banks of the Bobhati River. These villages, part of the Kaij block in Beed district, are home to communities who have struggled for generations against the harsh realities of drought.

A newly constructed KT Weir on Bobhati River near Hadgav Project Village

This is a story of how Yuva Gram Vikas Mandal (Yuva Gram), a local youth organisation, and India Water Partnership (IWP) worked with villagers to raise funds to the tune of Rs. 2.53 crores from the government and other donors in the past two years. Together with the villagers, these funds have been used to desilt and deepen ponds, construct new dug wells, lay down water supply pipelines, repair existing KT weirs and construct new weirs. Damaged earthen bunds and dug wells have been reconstructed and rejuvenated. All this has brought life back in these 10 villages where every drop counts.

Yuva Gram has been working to address water scarcity in Kaij and Dharur blocks of Maharashtra, India, since 1984. The lack of water for irrigation and drinking has meant poor harvests, land erosion, and out-migration, especially among young people.

Yuva Gram and IWP adopted a two-pronged approach to revitalize water resources and to empower local youth and village committees to help stop this exodus. Additionally, Yuva Gram and IWP began advocating for stronger government policies on irrigation and water access to achieve water security for the people and villages.

Story of change begins in 2022

Yuva Gram knew something had to change. Thus began a year-long project in 2022 supported by IWP. The project's focus on community empowerment and reviving water resources aligned perfectly with the challenges faced by the region. Yuva Gram's plan to activate local committees and promote sustainable water management practices resonated with IWP's goals for long-term solutions. Additionally, the project had a potential for replication and indirectly support the state's river rejuvenation program.

Local Statutory Committees empowered and youth capacitated as Stewards of Water Future

The project first targeted empowerment of the youth and local governing bodies, the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and its local water-related statutory committees such as Watershed Development Committees (WDCs) and the Water Supply & Sanitation Committees (WSSCs).

WDC and WSSC Capacity Building Meeting in Kevad Project Village

Yuva Gram and IWP believed that by uniting youth & local governing bodies, the villages could find lasting solutions to their water woes. They formed youth groups in each of the 10 project villages, with 20 young men and women each. These groups became the voice of the communities and started raising water concerns and mobilising resources from the government.

200 young minds were ignited with leadership training, empowered to become stewards of their water future. These young leaders, armed with knowledge, then reached out to the village elders and the Gram Panchayats. They participated in all decision-making processes, their unique perspectives enriching the solutions. A massive survey charted the state of every well, stream, and irrigation canal - a map of their water woes.

Vocational Training Program in Safe Water Enterprises: Empowering Women and Youth for Sustainable Development

"I recently participated in two training sessions on water quality testing, learning about various water sources, contaminants, and the 13 parameters for testing water, and their corresponding methods and health impacts.

We can improve our whole community's health by understanding what's in our water!".

I am eager to share this knowledge with my fellow villagers, particularly housewives responsible for cooking and drinking water. Educating them about water quality can significantly improve our community's health and well-being," said Gnaneshwari, a 34-year-old Self Help Group (SHG) member from Nakkalagutta Village in Warangal District, Telangana.

Safe Water Network India (SWNI) with support from the India Water Partnership (IWP) under GWP-South Asia three-year program (2023-2025) conducted two phases of training in 2023 on water systems and quality testing in Warangal district, Telangana State. Four master trainers having in-depth knowledge of the water systems trained 26 women and youth on water quality testing, plumbing, fixing leaks, fitting, water conservation, and entrepreneurship in Safe Water Enterprises. Additionally, 5 women from this group were further trained to become technicians for testing water quality in 50 villages of 5 districts of Telangana State in 2024. SWNI will continue two phases of training each in the years 2024 and 2025. The program is designed to empower women and youth by building their skills enabling them to pursue livelihood opportunities in operating and maintaining water supply systems. The education provided extended beyond testing to include essential water safety and water conservation techniques.

India is making strides to improve water access and quality! Initiatives like the Jal Jeevan Mission-Rural and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation AMRUT 2.0 are a great start. Involving women and youth is the major key step. They play a crucial role in managing household water and can be powerful agents for change. Equipping them with sustainable water management practices, testing skills, and infrastructure operations knowledge can significantly improve water quality and reduce waterborne diseases.

Despite improvements in drinking water access, most water sources are contaminated with bio and chemical pollutants, and over 21% of the country's diseases are water-related. India ranks 120th out of 122 countries on the Global Water Quality Index. In 2021, the cases of **Acute Diarrheal Disease in the state of Telangana** were recorded at 73,306, which is considerably high.

The training program in Warangal district, Telangana State conducted by SWNI & IWP involving women and youth in water management ensures a future generation equipped to address water challenges. Link for a video on training is: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BiQfo-uCcgE7qm5XdH4rdkY3aDHOBXj4/view?usp=drive_link

The program helped to achieve the following:

- 26 women and youth trained to acquire basic skills like water quality testing, plumbing, water conservation, fitting, and entrepreneurship in Safe Water Enterprises.
- 4 master trainers/industry experts engaged in imparting knowledge.
- 5 women further trained as "Trained Technicians" and awarded Technical Trainer certificates.

INDIA WATER PARTNERSHIP
(Regn No.-HR0182013-00867)
76-C, Sector-18, Gurgaon- 122015
Statement of affairs as on 31st March, 2025

Particulars		Current year (Rs.)	Previous year (Rs.)
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
CORPUS FUND			
Life Membership fees			
Opening Balance	9,64,567.00		
Add: Received during the year	20,000.00	9,84,567.00	9,64,567.00
GENERAL RESERVE			
Opening Balance	63,52,941.99		57,65,263.43
Add: Surplus/(Deficit) transferred from Income & Expenditure Account	5,29,559.80		5,87,678.56
		68,82,501.79	63,52,941.99
CURRENT LIABILITY			
Audit Fees Payable		15,000.00	15,000.00
Salary Payable		-	68,000.00
Duties & Taxes Payable		51.00	107.00
Other Payables		-	72,801.00
Expenses payable		1,07,086.26	1,06,618.90
TOTAL		**79,89,206.05**	**75,80,035.89**
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash in Hand		1,859.00	1,859.00
Cash at Bank in current accounts		7,63,387.15	12,61,566.99
Cash at Bank in Fixed Deposits		70,82,716.90	61,89,702.90
Interest Accrued on above		96,607.00	63,202.00
Tax deposit recoverable		44,636.00	63,705.00
TOTAL		**79,89,206.05**	**75,80,035.89**
		-	-

As per our report of even Date attached

For Parasuraman & Associates
Chartered Accountants
FRN No.025407N

N PARASURAMAN F.C.A
Memb. No. 083102

VEENA KHANDURI
(Executive Secretary)

R.K. AGRAWAL
(President)

Place: New Delhi
Date : 13/07/2025
UDIN No.: 25083102BMUKHP6986

PARASURAMAN & ASSOCIATES CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS NEW DELHI

INDIA WATER PARTNERSHIP
(Regn No.-HR0182013-00867)
76-C, Sector-18, Gurgaon- 122015

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on 31st March,2025

Particulars	Current year (Rs.)	Previous year (Rs.)
INCOME		
Grant from IWMI-GWP Core	19,50,336.97	29,50,877.14
Grant from IWMI- Drought Consultation	3,03,380.13	
Grant from IWMI- EPIC		5,72,030.46
Grant from IWMI- SDG 6.5.1	-	3,05,740.34
Grant from IWMI- Water Replenishment	-	66,816.20
Other Receipts- Report Writing, Wrapup & Facilitation fee	30,000.00	2,01,815.00
Management Cost Received	42,276.00	1,28,082.00
Annual Membership Fee	2,500.00	
Administrative Cost Received	3,45,000.00	
Interest on Income Tax Refund	4,505.00	-
Interest from banks (S/A & FD)	4,71,055.00	4,33,680.00
TOTAL	**31,49,053.10**	**46,59,041.14**
EXPENDITURE		
GWP-Core Project Expense	22,52,254.70	28,66,632.18
Expenses - Drought Consultation	3,03,370.16	
Expenses - EPIC Workshop	-	5,72,030.00
Expenses - SDG 6.5.1	-	3,05,680.50
Expenses - Water Replenishment	-	66,816.00
M & E Expenses on Core	42,276.00	70,854.00
Audit fees	15,000.00	15,000.00
Office & Administrative Expenses	42.44	5,294.90
Annual Return Fee/ Late fee	6,550.00	1,48,210.00
Travel Expenses	-	20,845.00
Surplus/(Deficit) for year transferred to General Fund	5,29,559.80	5,87,678.56
TOTAL	**31,49,053.10**	**46,59,041.14**

As per our report of even Date attached

For Parasuraman & Associates
Chartered Accountants
FRN No.025407N

N PARASURAMAN F.C.A
Memb. No. 083102

VEENA KHANDURI
(Executive Secretary)

R.K. AGRAWAL
(President)

Place: New Delhi
Date : 13/07/2025
UDIN No.: 25083102BMUKHP6986

PARASURAMAN & ASSOCIATES CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS NEW DELHI

0124-2348022
iwpneer@gmail.com
76-C, Institutional Area, Sector-18,
Gurugram, Haryana-122015