Groundwater Strategy Summit

JAIPUR | 27.12.2025

Policy • Science • Sustainability

Organized By

Institute of Water Conservation

Sponsored By

GWMICC – Since 1985

SUMMIT BROCHURE

Conference Venue

THE RAJASTHAN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Sansthan Path, JLN Marg, Jaipur

Supported By

KAMTECH GROUP

thought AGILE

The Employers' Association of Rajasthan

www.iwc.org.in | www.groundwaterindia.com

Note: There is no registration fee*

INTRODUCTION

Groundwater sustains life, livelihoods, and ecosystems, but its declining levels remind us that sustainable management is no longer an option; it is a necessity. The **Groundwater Strategy Summit 2025** is an effort to bring together the best of science, policy, and practice to evolve strategies for **Rajasthan's water-secure future.**

For four decades, the Institute of Water Conservation has worked towards applied, field-based solutions, combining hydrogeological knowledge with practical engineering. Through this Summit, we aim to bridge the gap between research and real-world implementation, and between ambition and action.

Let us commit to making **every rainfall an opportunity for recharge and every policy a step towards resilience.**

Dr S. K. Jain
President, Institute of Water Conservation (IWC)
Managing Director, GWMICC Pvt. Ltd.
Former Expert (Hydrogeology), Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India

Prof Himanshu Jain
Vice President, Institute of Water Conservation (IWC)
Director & COO, GWMICC Pvt. Ltd.
CEO, Thought Agile Ltd. (UK)
Professor, Applied Sciences, University of Westminster, UK

Groundwater is the invisible foundation of our water security. Yet, it remains one of our most undervalued natural assets. The **Groundwater Strategy Summit 2025** brings together science, policy, and innovation to reimagine how we manage this shared resource, transforming data into decisions and strategy into sustainable action.

This Summit is not just about conservation, it is about **collaboration and convergence** across government, industry, and civil society. Together, we can build a Rajasthan where every drop counts, and where resilience is designed into the way we plan our cities, industries, and infrastructure.

Let this be the moment we move from awareness to accountability, and from commitment to measurable impact.

AGENDA

12:30	Registration
12:30 To 14:00	Lunch And Networking
14:00 To 14:45	Inaugural Session
14:45 To 15:45	First Session
15:45 To 16:15	High Tea And Networking
16:15 To 17:30	Second Session
17:30	Valedictory Session And Group Photo
18:00	Networking, Cocktails And Dinner

SPEAKERS

Dr Suresh Babu
CEO, RSB Project Consultants Pvt Ltd

Dr Sushil Gupta
Former Chairman, CGWA

Prof. Nicholas Lambrou
Professor Emeritus, Univ. of Westminster

Ajay K Gupta,
MD, Kamtech Associates Private Limited

Prof Dr A K Sinha
Former Vice-Chancellor, C.S.M. University, Navi Mumbai

Dr R C Jain
Advisor, GWRDC Ltd, Gov. of Gujarat

Carlos Cubillo-Barsi
CEO,
OCN London

Devendra Sharma
Former superintendent Er. Water Resource Dpt. Raj.
CEO, WES Initiative Pvt Ltd

THE GROUNDWATER CRISIS: INDIA AND RAJASTHAN AT THE CROSSROADS

Rajasthan's critical situation

Rajasthan is among India's highest-stress groundwater geographies. In the latest state assessment, **216 of 302 assessment units** are classified **over-exploited** (**71.5%**), with a further **23 critical** and **22 semi-critical**. This categorisation reflects extraction persistently outpacing recharge across much of the state, creating chronic stress for cities, industry, agriculture and ecosystems.

Since **2022**, the Government of India's Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has shifted to **annual** resource assessments, which means year-on-year movements in stress categories can now be tracked and acted upon through state and district planning.

National Context

India is the world's largest user of groundwater. It underpins a major share of basic services and the economy. **Groundwater contributes about 62% of irrigation, ~85% of rural water supply and ~50% of urban water supply**, according to the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The most recent national stocktake shows a **national stage of groundwater extraction of 59.26%** in 2023, with **736 assessment units over-exploited**, **199 critical** and **698 semi-critical**.

India's broader water balance remains tight. The country has roughly **18% of the world's population but only ~4% of global water resources**, which amplifies the importance of sustainable groundwater management and recharge at scale.

SUMMIT PURPOSE AND VISION

Purpose

To convene leaders across **policy, science and sustainability** to translate groundwater evidence into **funded projects**, **credible governance**, and **measurable results**. The Summit moves organisations **from data to decisions** by showcasing what works, where it scales, and how to finance and deliver it.

Vision

A **water-secure future** in which cities, industry, infrastructure and mining use groundwater responsibly, recharge at scale, and protect groundwater-dependent ecosystems. Success means resilient supply, reduced risk, transparent performance, and partnerships that endure.

What this Summit sets out to do

- **Focus on delivery:** turn monitoring and modelling into investment-ready programmes that reach city and basin scale.
- **Strengthen institutions:** align rules, allocation and compliance with performance that can be audited.
- **Advance practical innovation:** apply sensors, digital twins, managed aquifer recharge, reuse and circular water models where they add value.
- **Build partnerships:** connect utilities, regulators, industry, finance and academia to co-own outcomes.
- **Align with the UN SDGs:** organise tracks so impact is visible across people, economy and nature.

Who this is for

Senior decision makers and practitioners in **utilities**, **industry**, **government and regulators**, **finance**, and **academia** who are responsible for planning, funding, delivering or assuring groundwater outcomes.

How we will know we have succeeded

- Delegates leave with **clear priorities**, **actionable playbooks** and **shortlists of projects**.
- Institutions adopt **templates and tools** that tie decisions to results.
- Partners agree **next steps** for pilots, studies or financing pathways.
- A concise **Summit Note** captures commitments, resources and contacts for follow-through.

FOCUS AREAS

Water Security and Governance

Outcome: aquifers protected while growth proceeds.

How: robust compliance frameworks, ASR and stormwater capture, cross-boundary protocols, community governance, performance-based allocation, city platforms for metering and leakage, decentralised reuse, and industrial ZLD where appropriate.

Technology and Innovation

Outcome: decisions that investors and regulators trust.

How: IoT monitoring networks, AI models and digital twins, industrial-scale MAR, and solar-powered extraction to reduce operating costs.

Climate Resilience

Outcome: systems that withstand heat, drought and flood.

How: drought analytics and alerting, adaptive management rules, and engineered flood-to-aquifer pathways complemented by nature-based solutions.

Agricultural Transformation

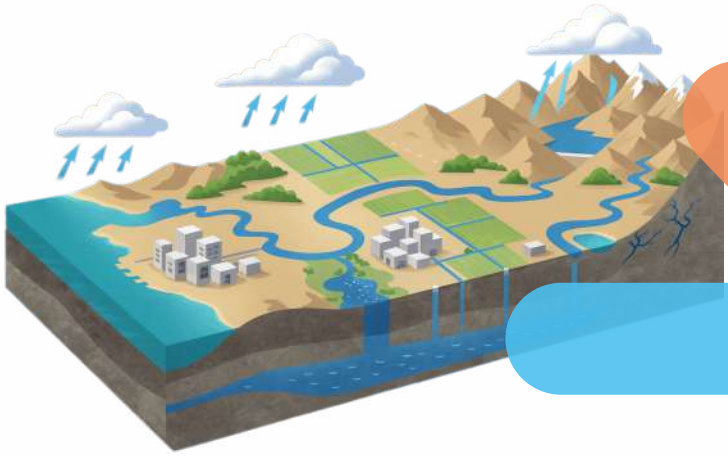
Outcome: productivity with lower abstraction.

How: crop shifts and precision irrigation, solar-groundwater integration with safeguards against over-pumping, FPOs for allocation and trading, and value-chain incentives for efficient crops.

Industrial Applications

Outcome: compliant, cost-effective and transparent operations.

How: audit-to-action programmes, circular water loops, PPP delivery models, and stewardship frameworks linked to disclosure and assurance.



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By the close of the Summit, delegates should have:

- **Clear priorities** for groundwater security across cities, industry, infrastructure, and mining.
- **Practical playbooks** to move from data to funded delivery.
- **Shortlisted projects** for recharge, reuse, stormwater, and monitoring.
- **Tools** for governance, compliance, and measurable performance.
- **Partner connections** across utilities, industry, finance, government & academia.

Immediate Deliverables

To be shared with invitees after the event:

- **Summit Note:** Key insights, actions, and references aligned with UN SDGs.
- **Session Materials:** Speaker decks, briefs, and readings.
- **Templates Pack:** Tools for compliance, monitoring, recharge, & project screening.
- **Contacts Sheet:** Partner list by theme and region.
- **Media Summary:** Neutral brief for internal and stakeholder use.

Institutional Strengthening

How the Summit supports lasting capacity:

- **Governance & Compliance:** Model clauses for allocation, reuse, and assurance.
- **Capability Building:** Training paths for regulators, utilities, and industries.
- **Data & Systems:** Guidance on monitoring networks, dashboards, and digital twins.
- **Procurement & Finance:** Frameworks for market engagement and performance contracts.
- **Community Engagement:** Strengthening local water governance.

Suggestive Partnership Outcome

Illustrative collaborations the Summit aims to catalyse:

- **Policy–Science Partnership:** Joint working group to update compliance and monitoring frameworks within six months.
- **MAR & Stormwater Coalition:** Consortium to deliver two MAR studies and one stormwater-to-aquifer pilot.
- **Reuse & Recycling Cluster:** Industry group to set common reuse standards and prepare two recycling investment cases.
- **Data & Digital Twin Initiative:** Utility-led project integrating sensors and satellite data into a shared aquifer dashboard.
- **Finance Roundtable:** Follow-ups with public and private investors to refine pipelines and explore blended finance options.

Note:
Partnerships are suggested outcomes and will proceed subject to the interest and agreement of participating organisations. Templates, contacts and next-step guidance will be provided to support follow-through.

SUMMIT LOGO

The round ring shows **partnerships** that make progress possible. Its three arcs are **Policy, Science and Sustainability**, the pillars that connect evidence to delivery. The central **water droplet** carries six colour bands referencing the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** most relevant to groundwater, including clean water, innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities, responsible production, climate action and nature. The partnerships goal sits on the ring itself to show that collaboration enables everything we do.

WHAT THE MARK REPRESENTS

Outer ring: Partnerships

Colour: UN SDG 17 blue. Meaning: collaboration across utilities, industry, government, finance and academia. The ring carries three labelled arcs to show how partnerships connect the pillars.

Central droplet: SDG-aligned stripes

The droplet's six colour bands reference the SDGs most material to groundwater strategy, including clean water, innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities, responsible consumption and production, climate action and life on land. We align sessions and tracks to these goals so impact stays visible across cities, industry, climate and nature. Note that partnerships sit on the outer ring to signal that collaboration enables all other goals.

Three arcs: Policy • Science • Sustainability

Policy sets rights, rules, incentives and governance.
Science provides the evidence base through monitoring, modelling, digital twins and hydrogeology.
Sustainability balances environmental integrity, social equity and economic viability. In practice this is where financing and long-term operations live.

WHY FOCUS ON THIS SET OF SDGs

It keeps the story clear and grounded in the areas where groundwater strategy delivers the most direct outcomes. Other SDGs may be referenced in session tags and case studies without overloading the core mark.

WHY THESE 7 OUT OF 17

- **Materiality:** these seven are where groundwater strategy most directly drives outcomes for cities, industry, climate resilience, and nature.
- **Clarity:** a focused set keeps the brand clean and the story simple.
- **Flexibility:** other SDGs can still appear in session tags and case studies. For example, SDG 3 Health or SDG 2 Zero Hunger can be referenced when relevant, without crowding the core mark.

Note: SDG 17 Partnerships sits on the outer ring, not inside the droplet, to signal that partnership is the enabling frame for everything else.

INTRODUCTION TO THE INSTITUTE OF WATER CONSERVATION (IWC)

Summit Organizer

The Institute of Water Conservation (IWC) is an independent, non-profit organisation that advances sustainable water management through evidence, collaboration and practical delivery. We convene leaders across **policy, science and sustainability** to turn groundwater and surface-water insight into action for cities, industry and nature. Our work aligns with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**, with a focus on outcomes that can be measured and sustained.

What we do

- **Convene and collaborate:** host forums, roundtables and technical workshops that connect government, utilities, industry, finance and academia.
- **Training and capacity building:** awareness programmes for communities and targeted courses for practitioners, including groundwater modelling, impact assessment, compliance and monitoring.
- **Research and knowledge exchange:** applied studies, case libraries and guidance that translate monitoring and modelling into decisions.
- **Technical assistance:** support on regulatory compliance, allocation and governance, managed aquifer recharge, stormwater management, reuse and recycling.
- **Community and infrastructure initiatives:** campaigns and projects such as rainwater harvesting structures and local recharge interventions.

Who we work with

Public authorities and regulators, utilities and city agencies, industrial estates and large facilities, academic partners, civil society and development organisations.

Our role at the Summit

IWC is the **organiser** of the Groundwater Strategy Summit. We curate the programme, ensure alignment with the UN SDGs, and provide tools and templates that help delegates move from plans to procurement, funding and delivery.

INTRODUCTION TO GWMICC (P) LTD

Sponsoring Organization

Ground Water & Mineral Investigation Consultancy Centre (P) Ltd (GWMICC), founded in 1985, is a leading water resource management consultancy with more than forty years of practice. We help public and private clients plan, finance and deliver groundwater outcomes that stand up to technical scrutiny and regulatory assurance. Our work spans policy, science and sustainability, with a focus on turning monitoring and modelling into decisions that reduce risk and create value.

What we do

- **Hydrogeological investigations and resource detection** using field surveys, bore logs and geophysics
- **Groundwater modelling and digital twins** for allocation, licensing and investment planning
- **Managed aquifer recharge** and stormwater harvesting, from pre-feasibility to design support
- **Regulatory compliance and assurance** including monitoring plans and audit-ready documentation
- **Environmental and social impact support** for projects in cities, industry, infrastructure and mining
- **Reuse and recycling pathways** for industrial estates and large facilities
- **Flood risk assessment study -** Groundwater surface water interaction and HFL studies
- **Decision dashboards and performance tools** that connect data to governance and delivery

Who we serve

Utilities and city authorities, industrial clients, infrastructure owners, mining projects, regulators and development partners.

Our role at the Summit

GWMICC is the sponsor of the Groundwater Strategy Summit and contributes case studies, tools and technical sessions that help delegates move from plans to procurement, funding and delivery.

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gss2025@iwc.org.in
hj@groundwaterindia.com

www.iwc.org.in
www.groundwaterindia.com

Jai Niketan, 5-Jha-2, Jawahar Nagar,
Jaipur. Rajasthan- 302004

+91-9829067474
+91-9001796004

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