Groundwater Strategy Summit

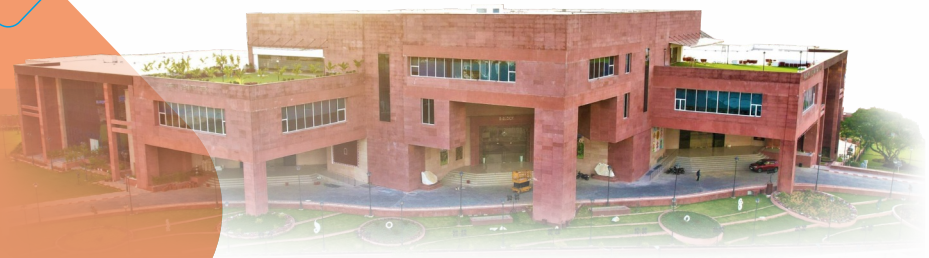
JAIPUR | 27.12.2025

Policy • Science • Sustainability

Organised By

Sponsored By

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 Management, 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.

Dr S K Jain, MD,
GWMICC (P) Limited,
explaining the concept of
Rainwater Harvesting at the
Rotary Club, Jaipur,
to Late His Excellency
Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat,
then Honourable
Vice President of India,
on 3 February 2003.

Late His Excellency
Dr A P J Abdul Kalam,
then Honourable
President of India, in
discussion with
Dr S K Jain, Chairman of
GWMICC (P) Limited,
on the improvement of
groundwater conditions
in India

Dr S K Jain discuissing
Water Management
issues with
Her Excellency
Smt Pratibha Patil

PROGRAMME AGENDA

12:00 PM ***REGISTRATION OPENS***

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM ***LUNCH & NETWORKING***

1:30 PM ***DELEGATES TAKE SEATS***

Shilpa Bendre
Commère

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM *INAUGURAL SESSION*

Theme: Groundwater Strategy for a Resilient and Water-Secure Future

Presided by

Dr S K Jain
Summit Chairman

2:00 PM ***LAMP LIGHTING***

By Chief Guest

Honorable Justice Narendra Kumar Jain
Former Judge, Rajasthan and Sikkim High Courts; Ex-Chairman, Human Rights Commission

2:02 PM – 2:05 PM ***GANESH VANDANA*** **Happy Point Group of Schools**

2:05 PM – 2:15 PM ***WELCOME ADDRESS & SUMMIT OVERVIEW***

Dr S K Jain (Summit Chairman)
Welcome of guests and overview of the Summit

2:15 PM – 2:30 PM ***KEYNOTE ADDRESS***

6 12 17

Topic: "Groundwater as the Cornerstone of India's Water Security Strategy"

Dr Sushil Gupta
Former Chairman, Central Ground Water Authority, Govt of India

NITI Aayog Priorities
Demand-side efficiency; Aquifer protection

Outcomes Supported
Vision-setting; Demand management

2:30 PM – 2:40 PM ***ADDRESS BY SPECIAL GUEST***

Ms Pragya Mehta
District Governor,
Rotary International Distt 3056

6 13 17

Topic: "Mobilising Community Leadership for Water Stewardship: Rotary's Role in Water Management"

NITI Aayog Priorities
Community engagement; Behaviour change; Partnerships for development

Outcomes Supported
Community mobilisation; Multi-stakeholder partnerships

2:40 PM – 3:00 PM ***ADDRESS BY GUEST OF HONOUR***

Dr Indira Khurana - Guest Of Honour

Chairperson, Indian Himalayan River Basins Council.
Director, Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell (CSPC).
Leading Multidisciplinary Water Researcher with a Focus on Gender, Water and Climate.

6 9 12 17 **Topic:** "Systemic Challenges in India's Water Sector and Mitigation Measures"

NITI Aayog Priorities
Integrated Water Resources Management; River basin planning; Water governance reform; Climate resilience

Outcomes Supported
Strategic framing; Policy coherence; Basin-to-aquifer integration

3:00 PM – 3:05 PM ***ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST*** **Justice N K Jain**

3:05 PM – 3:10 PM ***CULTURAL INTERLUDE***

Happy Point Group of Schools Song on water theme

3:10 PM – 4:05 PM ***TECHNICAL SESSION I***

Theme: Sustainable Governance and Source Protection of Groundwater Resources

Presided by **Dr S K Jain** (Summit Chairman)

3:10 PM – 3:25 PM

6 11 13 17

Topic: "Regulating Groundwater Abstraction in Rajasthan: A Framework for Sustainable Governance"

Mr Suraj Bhan Singh
Chief Engineer,
Ground Water Department,
Govt of Rajasthan

NITI Aayog Priorities
Regulatory reform; Governance; ABY implementation

Outcomes Supported
Governance; Policy alignment; State strategy

3:25 PM – 3:40 PM

Dr R C Jain
Advisor, Govt of Gujrat,
Gujarat Water Resources Development Corporation

6 13 15

Topic: "Challenges and Opportunities for Artificial Recharge in India"

NITI Aayog Priorities
Artificial recharge; Drought mitigation

Outcomes Supported
Recharge playbook; MAR scaling

3:40 PM – 3:50 PM

6 13 15

Topic: "Protecting Natural Spring Water Sources: Case Study From Bhutan"

Mr Ajay Gupta
Managing Director,
KAMTECH Associates Group

NITI Aayog Priorities
Spring rejuvenation; Natural source protection

Outcomes Supported
Hydrogeological insights; Source protection models

3:50 PM – 4:05 PM

Dr Vivek Bhave
Superintendent Hydrogeologist & State Nodal Officer, Ground Water Department, Govt of Rajasthan

6 11 13 17

Topic: "Implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana: Strengthening Water Security in Rajasthan"

NITI Aayog Priorities
ABY rollout; Data systems; Community participation

Outcomes Supported
Water security planning; Institutional strengthening

4:05 PM – 4:30 PM *HIGH TEA & NETWORKING*

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM *TECHNICAL SESSION II*

Theme: Groundwater Management - Technical, Social and Economic Dimensions

Presided by Dr S K Jain (Summit Chairman)

4:30 PM – 4:45 PM

6 13 15

Topic: "Groundwater and Climate Resilience for Agriculture Sector"

Prof A K Sinha
Former Vice-Chancellor,
CSM University, Navi Mumbai

NITI Aayog Priorities
Climate-resilient agriculture; Drought resilience

Outcomes Supported
Climate-resilient agriculture; Integrated pathways

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Prof Bhawna Umarikar
Head, Dept of Geology,
Savitribai Phule Pune University

6 11 13

Topic: "Climate Adaptation and Groundwater Management for Resilient Water Systems"

NITI Aayog Priorities
Climate adaptation;
Urban resilience

Outcomes Supported
Climate risk insights;
Adaptation frameworks

5:00 PM – 5:10 PM

6 11 15

Topic: "Modelling Groundwater - Surface Water Interaction for Flood Risk Assessment"

Dr G Megha Shyam
Associate Fellow,
The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi

NITI Aayog Priorities
Urban flood management;
Climate modelling

Outcomes Supported
Integrated flood planning;
Climate risk modelling

5:10 PM – 5:20 PM

Mr Akshay Hada
Founder Chairman & MD,
Symphonia & Graphicus, Jaipur

6 9 11 17

Topic: "Public-Private Partnership Models in Sustainable Water Resource Management: Policy, Practice and Implementation"

NITI Aayog Priorities
PPP frameworks; Private sector mobilisation;
Policy-led project delivery

Outcomes Supported
PPP models; Policy-aligned PPP pathways;
Implementation-ready partnership models

5:20 PM – 5:35 PM

6 17

Topic: "Financing Water Conservation Projects for Public Benefit"

Mr Prasant Pal
Founder & CEO,
PURE India Trust, Jaipur

NITI Aayog Priorities
Blended finance;
CSR integration

Outcomes Supported
Financing pathways;
Investment mobilisation

5:35 PM – 5:50 PM

Ms Komal Jain
Managing Director,
Bhartiya Jain Sangathan (BJS), Pune

6 11 12 17

Topic: "Community-led Groundwater Security: Insights and Impact from BJS"

NITI Aayog Priorities
Community stewardship;
Behaviour change;
Local water planning

Outcomes Supported
Community leadership;
Local aquifer management

Mr Raj K Bafna
Project Head - Rajasthan,
Bhartiya Jain Sangathan (BJS)

5:50 PM – 6:00 PM

Mr Devendra Sharma
CEO,
WES Initiative Pvt Ltd, Jaipur

6 9 12 17

Topic: "Industrial Water Security through Conjunctive Use of Surface & Groundwater: AIS Glass Case Study"

NITI Aayog Priorities
Industrial water reuse; Circular economy

Outcomes Supported
Industry solutions; PPP evidence

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM ***CONCLUDING SESSION***

Presided by

Prof Himanshu Jain
Summit Convenor

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM
IWC & GWMICC Experts
Summit Resolution and Way Forward: Consensus Outcomes

6:30 PM – 6:45 PM
Himanshu Jain, Summit Convenor
Expression of thanks and closing remarks

7:00 PM onwards ***NETWORKING DINNER***
Cocktail & Light Musical Evening

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

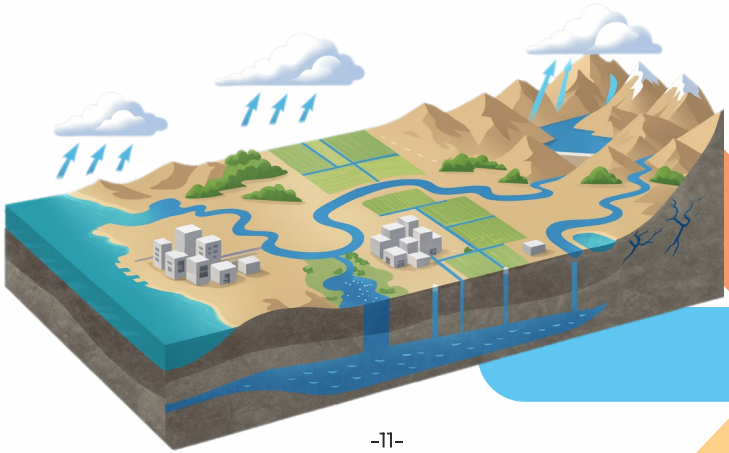
Outcome: productivity with lower abstraction.

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.



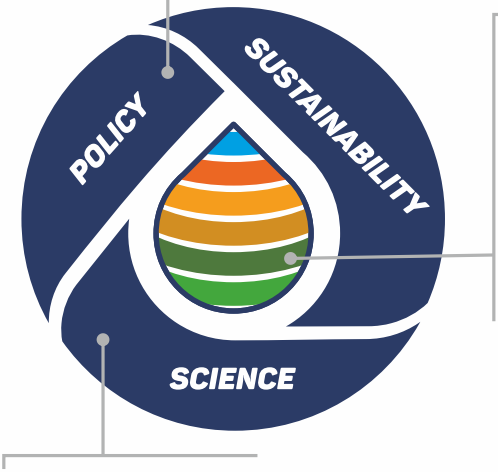
SUMMIT LOGO

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.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By the close of the Summit, delegates should have:

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

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.
- **Community Engagement:** Strengthening local water governance.

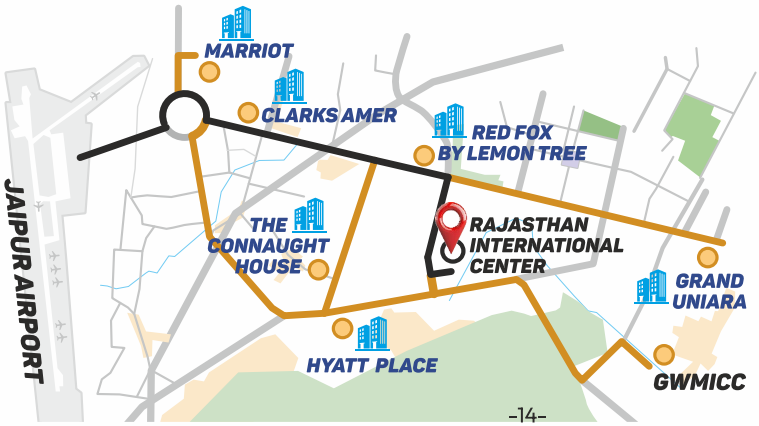
Suggestive Partnership Outcome

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.

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.

VENUE LOCATION & KEY DISTANCES



Nearby Hotels & Key Locations with Distance from Event Venue (Rajasthan International Center)

Red Fox	1.6 km
Hyatt Place	1.6 km
The Connaught House	2.3 km
Hotel Clarks Amer	4.6 km
Grand Uniara	4.9 km
Jaipur Marriott Hotel	6.1 km
Airport	6.6 km

INTRODUCTION TO THE INSTITUTE OF WATER CONSERVATION (IWC)

Summit Organiser

The Institute of Water Conservation (IWC) is a non-profit advancing sustainable water management through evidence, collaboration and practical action, uniting experts to turn groundwater and surface-water insights into results aligned with the **UN SDGs.**

What we do

- Convene & collaborate: forums, roundtables and technical workshops linking government, utilities, industry and academia.
- Training: community awareness and practitioner courses in groundwater modelling, assessment, compliance and monitoring.
- Research: applied studies and guidance that turn monitoring and modelling into decisions.
- Technical support: compliance, allocation, governance, recharge, stormwater, reuse & recycling.
- Community projects: rainwater harvesting and local recharge works.

Who we work with

Government bodies, utilities, industry, academia, civil society & development organisations.

Our role at the Summit

IWC organises the Groundwater Strategy Summit, curates the programme, aligns it with UN SDGs, and provides tools that help delegates move from planning to implementation.

INTRODUCTION TO GWMICC (P) LTD

Sponsoring Organisation

Ground Water & Mineral Investigation Consultancy Centre (P) Ltd, established in 1985, is a leading groundwater management consultancy with 4 decades of experience. We help public & private clients plan, assess & deliver technically sound, risk-reducing groundwater solutions.

What we do

- Hydrogeological investigations using surveys, bore logs, pumping tests and geophysic.
- Groundwater modelling & digital tools for allocation & planning.
- Artificial aquifer recharge, rainwater harvesting, & stormwater management.
- Regulatory approvals and compliance, including CGWA and State NOCs.
- Environmental and social impact support for urban and infrastructure projects.
- Water reuse & recycling for industrial estates & large facilities.
- Flood risk assessment & groundwater–surface water interaction.
- Decision & performance tools linking data & governance.

Who we serve

Utilities, city agencies, industries, infrastructure and mining projects, regulators and development partners.

Role at the Summit

GWMICC sponsors the Groundwater Strategy Summit, contributing case studies, tools and technical sessions to support planning, procurement and delivery.

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

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Jal Niketan, 5-Jha-2, Jawahar Nagar,
Jaipur, Rajasthan- 302004

+91-9829067474
+91-9001796004

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