

OCTOBER 2024
EDITION



SECTOR SPECIFIC REPORT

WATER RESOURCES

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- Jal Sanchay Jal Bhagidari Initiative: A Path Towards Water Sustainability
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THE 8TH EDITION OF 'INDIA WATER WEEK' HAS BEEN INITIATED TO PRIORITIZE ITS IMPORTANCE FOR HUMANITY

The 8th India Water Week was held in New Delhi from September 17th-20th, 2024, emphasizing the vital importance of sustainable water management for protecting humanity's future as well as the health of the environment. **It was organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and inaugurated by the President of India, with the primary theme being "Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management."**



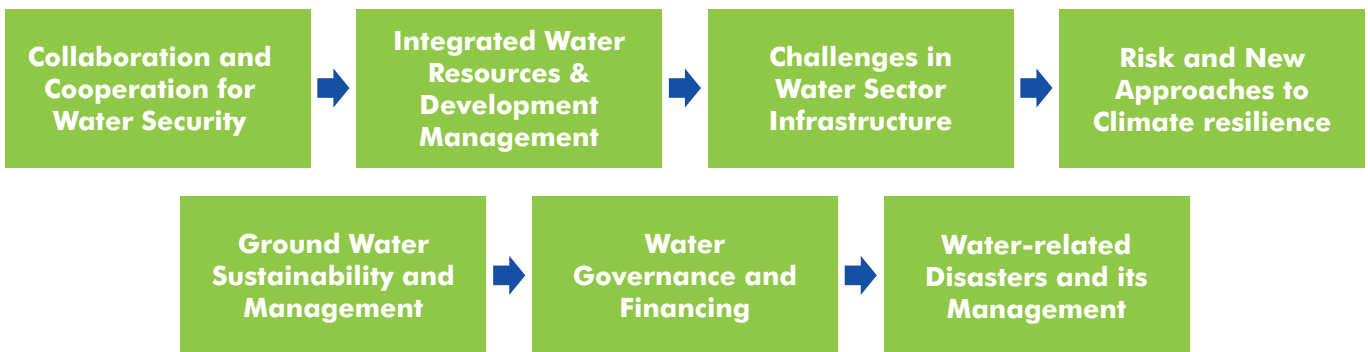
As global water scarcity becomes an increasing threat, this event emphasized that effective water conservation is not only essential for environmental sustainability but also for the social and economic well-being of communities.

The cross-sectoral theme, in India Water Week 2024 has given importance to water challenges faced by people across the globe including India. The platform has given due importance to knowledge sharing and diplomacy in global water management through seminars and dialogues among policy-makers, experts, and industry leaders alike. Cooperative strategies have been also explored to tap opportunities present in the domain to develop sustainable water solutions.



Source: <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2024/sep/doc2024921399001.pdf>

SUB-THEMES OF 8TH INDIA WATER WEEK



India's "Catch the Rain" campaign, launched in 2021, has received mention for its efforts to promote rainwater harvesting and forest cover as part of the broader strategy to conserve water. The event called for water conservation to become a mass movement, encouraging every citizen to play an active role in conserving and managing water resources, thereby ensuring a sustainable future for water security.



One of the main highlights of the event was the **International WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Conference**. It aimed to address sanitation challenges while promoting hygiene standards in the context of **SDG 6** and was organized by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.



During the event, awards were also presented to individuals and organizations for their contributions to water conservation and sustainable practices. **These recognitions acknowledged efforts in rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and community-led conservation initiatives, motivating others to engage in similar projects.**

01 CATEGORY-WISE AWARDS PRESENTED TO EXHIBITORS

Best Central Ministry/Organization

- CWPRS, Pune

Best State Government

- Kerala

Best Industry

- Ion-exchange India Ltd.

Best Startup

- BlueVerse India Pvt Ltd., Mumbai

India Water Week 2024 emphasized the necessity for inclusive dialogue, partnership, and collective innovation to tackle the escalating challenges of water scarcity. Through this, it emphasized fostering collaboration among governments, communities, and organizations. The event aimed to inspire comprehensive strategies for sustainable management and equitable distribution of water access. These collective efforts are crucial for achieving long-term water security and promoting resilience against climate change.



JAL SANCHAY JAN BHAGIDARI INITIATIVE: A PATH TOWARDS WATER SUSTAINABILITY

The Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative was launched by the Prime Minister of India in Surat, Gujarat. It will address India's growing water crisis through a collective effort involving both society and government. **At the heart of the program is the construction of 24,800 rainwater harvesting structures throughout Gujarat**

‘Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari’

To enhance rainwater harvesting and ensure long-term water sustainability, **24,800 rainwater harvesting structures** are being constructed

Source: <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2024/sep/doc2024913393601.pdf>

This initiative emphasizes the importance of community participation and partnership in ensuring long-term water conservation and sustainability across the state. **It is also in line with major initiatives of the Ministry of Jal Shakti such as the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign.**



Source: https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-launches-jal-sanchay-jan-bhagidari-initiative-via-vc/

These structures are being built through community involvement, utilizing local knowledge and traditions to ensure effective water management. **The initiative also supports the rejuvenation of traditional water sources, such as Tamil Nadu's Kudimaramathu and Andhra Pradesh's Neeru-Chuttu, demonstrating how revitalizing these practices can significantly impact water availability.**

JAL SANCHAY PROGRESS

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE STRUCTURE	GROUNDWATER RECHARGE STRUCTURE	GROUNDWATER RECHARGE STRUCTURE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
NO. OF WORK IDENTIFIED: 86,609	NO. OF WORK COMPLETED: 69,607	NO. OF WORK ONGOING: 17,002	(IN RS.): 25,13,40,39,602

Source: <https://jsacr.mowr.gov.in/JSJB.aspx>

The initiative has shown commitment to a “whole-of-society” and “whole-of-government” approach as the key aspect. This means that everyone from individuals to industries to local governments, is expected to play a part in water conservation efforts run in the country. The Prime Minister encouraged citizens to embrace the principle of “Reduce, Reuse, Recharge, and Recycle” which will help to safeguard the nation's water resources for the future. This philosophy advocates for minimizing water waste, reusing available water, recharging groundwater, and recycling whenever possible to make water conservation a national priority.



Source: <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2024/sep/doc2024913393601.pdf>

Before this, through other notable programs such as Atal Bhujal Yojana and Jal Jeevan Mission, the government has already demonstrated the power of community-led water management. Such efforts also include the involvement of women in local Paani Samitis, further fostering inclusive strategies for water conservation.

01 OTHER NOTABLE PROGRAMS RELATED TO WATER MANAGEMENT

- **Atal Bhujal Yojana**
- **Jal Jeevan Mission**
- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana**
- **Mission Amrit Sarovar**
- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign**
- **Namami Gange**
- **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**

The initiatives extend support beyond mere policy formulation and serve as a social commitment deeply rooted in India's cultural respect for water as a sacred element. Together, these efforts form a comprehensive pathway toward a water-secure India, driven by collective responsibility and action for future generations.

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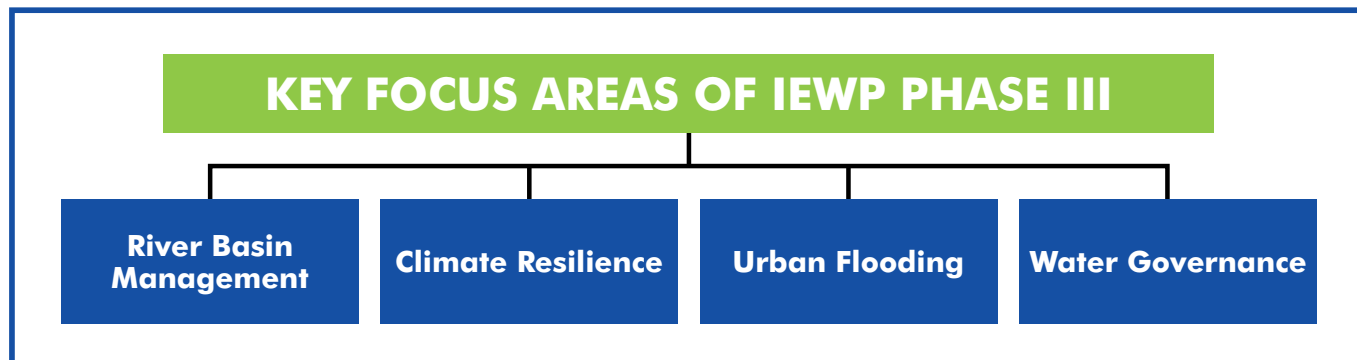
'INDIA-EU WATER PARTNERSHIP' AGREED TO DEEPEN COOPERATION IN SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

India and the European Union (EU) reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable water management and agreed to enhance cooperation during the 6th EU-India Water Forum, held alongside the 8th India Water Week in New Delhi.



Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/eu-and-india-strengthen-partnership-in-sustainable-water-management/3614695/>

This partnership, established in 2016 under the India-EU Water Partnership (IEWP), is now in its third phase, focussing on innovative solutions in river basin management, climate resilience, urban flooding, and governance.



At the forum, both parties pledged to encourage innovation to support sustainable investments and strengthen collaboration in river management. **Here, East Africa, India, and the EU also explored a trilateral collaboration to tackle water challenges in Africa's water bodies such as Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika,** utilizing the combined expertise of India and the EU in the domain.



Source: https://thehillstimes.in/international/india-eu-agree-to-deepen-cooperation-in-sustainable-water-management#google_vignette

The IEWP has achieved notable progress while working together on river management for the Tapi and Ramganga basins and further planning to expand their efforts to the Brahmaputra basin. **The partnership has financed seven research projects worth €37.4 million, involving over 743 participants from India and the EU.** These projects aim to enhance drinking water purification, wastewater treatment, and real-time monitoring to deliver advanced water solutions in India that are aligned with global and national agendas related to sustainable water management.

ALIGNED GOALS



At the forum, officials, experts, policymakers, and businesses from India and the EU gathered to tackle challenges in the water sector and develop innovative solutions. India has commended the partnership's progress in supporting water management efforts through this partnership. The European Union (EU) also emphasized the collaboration's success and expressed eagerness to expand it to Africa to enhance water security.

Thus, the 6th EU-India Water Forum highlighted their commitment to sustainable water management, under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The India-EU Water Partnership could serve as a model for other nations, promoting collaboration on environmental issues and enhancing water security, demonstrating global leadership in sustainability.



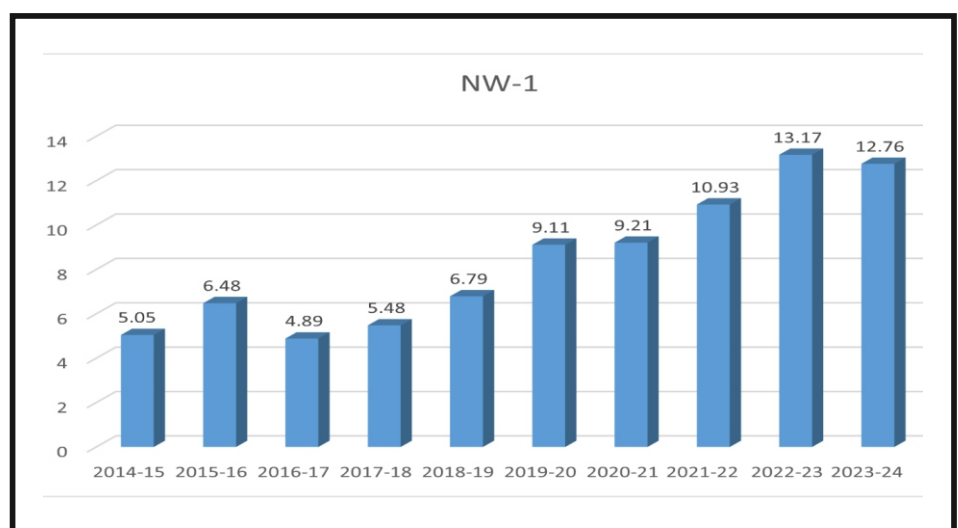
Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-eu-agree-to-enhancecooperationinsustainablewatermanagement/articleshow/113463895.cms?from=mdr>



THE CARGO-TRAFFIC SOARS ON NATIONAL WATERWAYS WITH THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL WATERWAYS

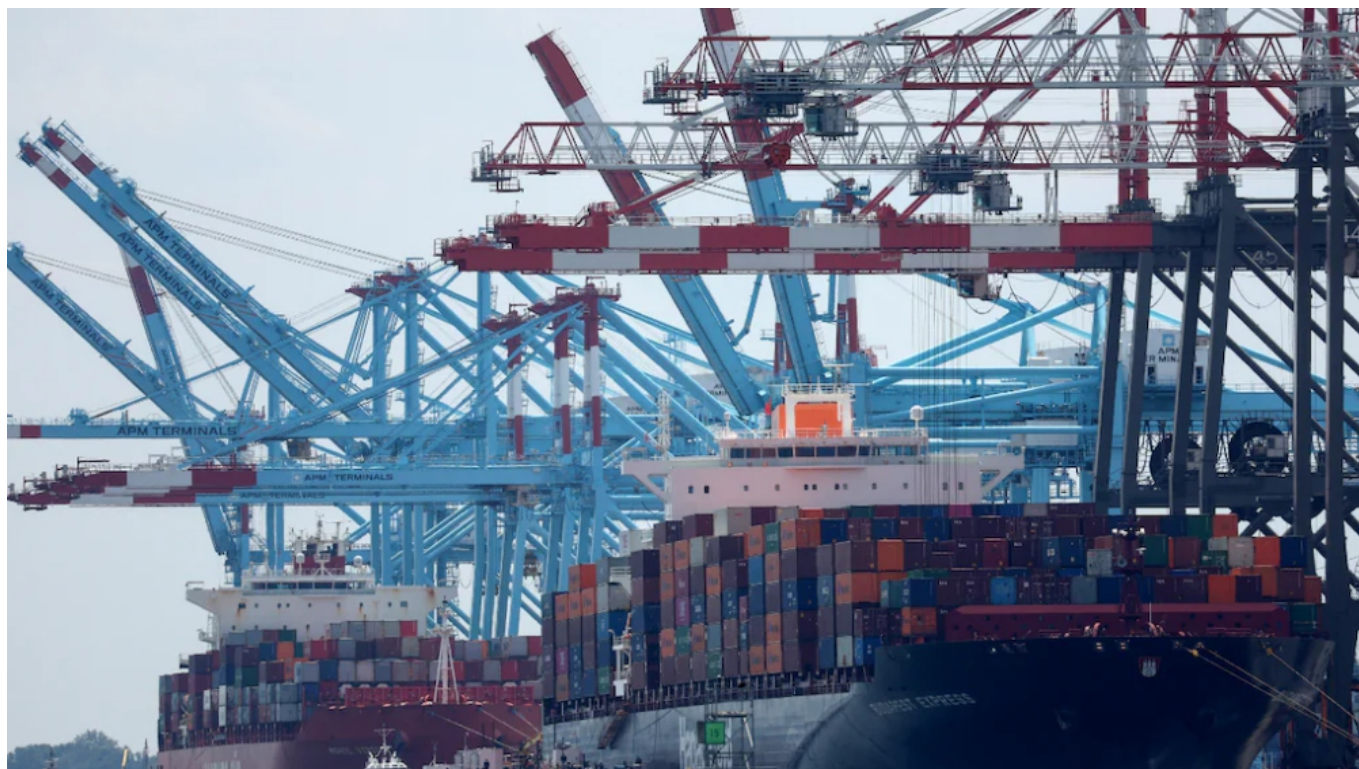
The significant increase in cargo movement through National Waterways (NW) has been primarily linked to the ambitious objectives established in the **Maritime India Vision 2030** and the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**. Under this, the government aims to target the cargo movement of **200 MMT by 2030** and **500 MMT by 2047**.

DECADAL GROWTH CHART OF CARGO MOVEMENT AT Nw1



Source: <http://iwai.gov.in/waterways/national-waterways/national-waterways-1?id=2523&page=1>

According to recent parliamentary reports, the volume of cargo transported via these waterways surged from 29.16 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) in FY 2014-15 to an impressive 133.03 MMT in FY 2023-24, marking a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 18.07%.



Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/business/infrastructure-governments-waterways-push-cargo-movement-sees-six-fold-growth-since-2013-14-3573131/>

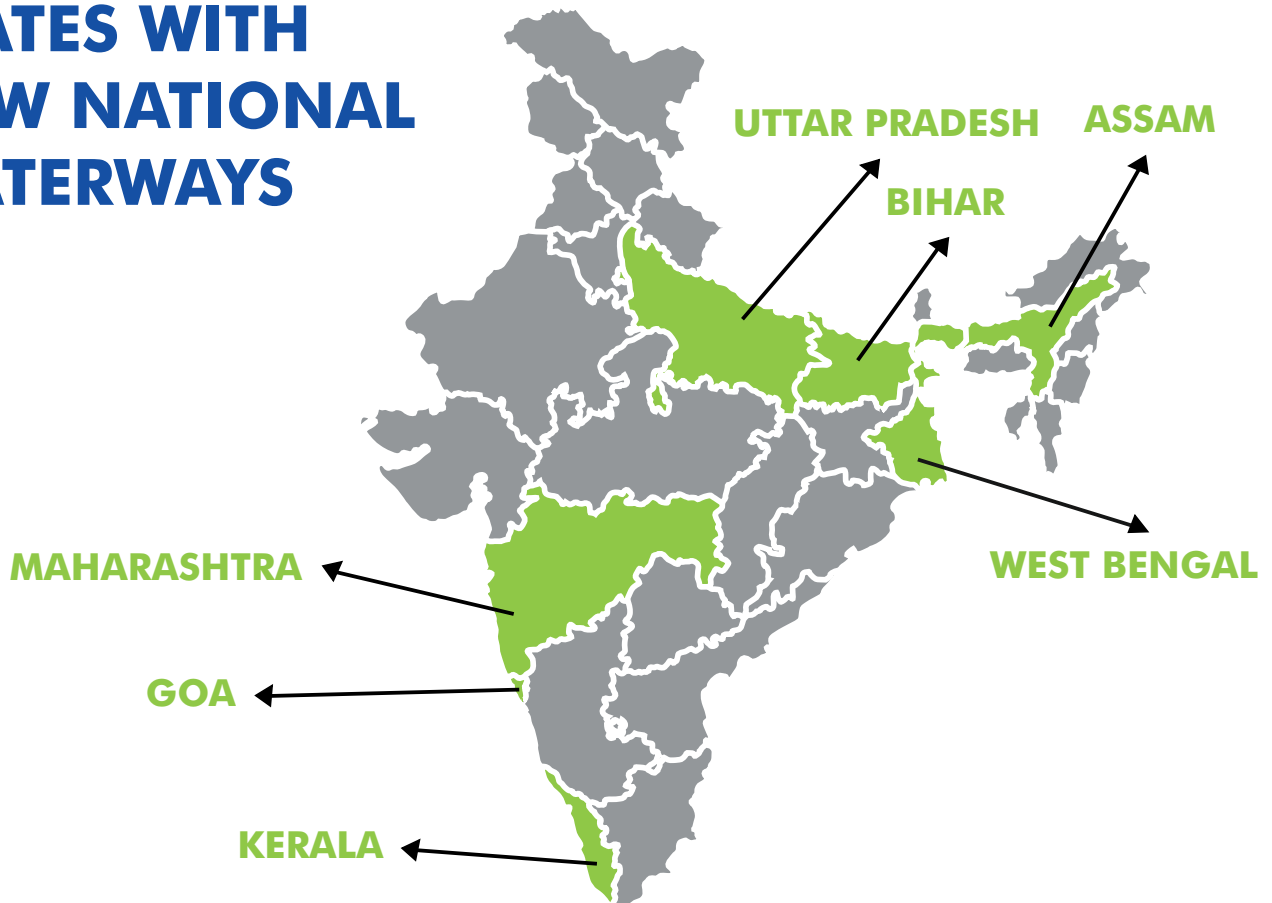
Since 2016, the declaration of 106 new National Waterways has increased the number of operational waterways from a mere three in 2013-14 to 26 by 2024. The current status of India's National Waterways (NWs) reflects a significant surge in cargo movement governed by the Inland Vessels Act 2021. Apart from the introduction of the Inland Vessels Act 2021, which modernized regulatory frameworks to improve transportation and trade efficiency the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) launched in 2018 has also played a vital role.

KEY MEASURES

- Inland Vessels Act, 2021
- Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route
- Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)
- Digital Initiatives (IWAI Vessel Tracker, PANI Portal)

It is designed to improve the capacity of National Waterway 1 (NW1), which stretches 1,390 km from Haldia to Varanasi, with an investment of Rs 5,369.18 Crore. The opening of the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route has also boosted cargo transport by connecting NW1 with NW2, thereby increasing trade prospects in the northeastern areas. Moreover, digital initiatives like the IWAI Vessel Tracker and the PANI Portal enhance real-time tracking and streamline data management for both cargo and passengers.

STATES WITH NEW NATIONAL WATERWAYS



The government has planned for further development including 14 new National Waterways, spanning states like Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam, with an estimated investment of Rs 400 Crore. The ongoing focus on enhancing waterways is set to significantly contribute to India's goal of becoming self-reliant by 2047 while realizing its full potential in seamless transportation, trade, and ease of doing business.

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AIM ANNOUNCED AIM-ICDK WATER CHALLENGE 4.0 FOR YOUNG INNOVATORS AND ENTREPRENEURS

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), in partnership with the Innovation Centre Denmark (ICDK), launched the AIM-ICDK Water Challenge 4.0 on June 10, 2024, to inspire young innovators and entrepreneurs to develop sustainable water solutions. As part of the Indo-Danish Green Strategic Partnership, the challenge is divided into two tracks: one for students and another for young entrepreneurs, all under 35 years old. Early-stage startups, researchers, and young innovators are encouraged to apply, focussing on sustainability and digital solutions.



Source: <https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/aim-launches-icdk-water-challenge-4-0-and-handbook-on-innovations-for-sdg-entrepreneurs/110889062>

This initiative seeks to address global water-related issues through an international collaboration between India and Denmark. Successful applicants will engage in a global innovation journey, including hybrid sessions, boot camps, and mentoring. **The selected teams will participate in the Next Generation Digital Action Program, partnering with leading universities and innovation hubs from countries like India, Denmark, South Africa, Ghana, Mexico, and more.**



Participants will showcase their innovations at the Digital Tech Summit in Copenhagen in October 2024, with funding support from the Danish government. Applications for the Water Challenge opened on June 10, 2024, with a submission deadline of June 20, 2024. The challenge exemplifies AIM's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship, empowering youth to tackle pressing environmental concerns.

5 S'S FROM PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND DENMARK

SKILLS

Developing expertise and knowledge among innovators

SCALE

Expanding solutions to address large-scale challenges

SCOPE

Broadening the impact across sectors and regions

SUSTAINABILITY

Focussing on environmental friendly solutions

SPEED

Accelerating the implementation of innovations

The Mission Director of AIM emphasized the importance of such initiatives in propelling India toward a sustainable future. The Royal Danish Embassy also praised the partnership, underscoring its role in the success of joint efforts to address global challenges.



Further, **AIM released the 5th edition of the "Innovations for You" handbook, highlighting 60 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) entrepreneurs** across different parts of India, each contributing to societal betterment through sustainable practices. This edition is available on AIM's official website, reflecting AIM's broader efforts to foster innovation and encourage entrepreneurs to adopt sustainable practices.



EMINENT INSIGHT



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India's water demand relies heavily on groundwater and rainfall. Our goal is to make India a global manufacturing hub which will result in increase in economic activities in the country, subsequently raising our water demand which shall be tackled by effective integrated water management.

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Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
Former Union Minister of Jal Shakti
Government of India

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