



World Water Day 2025



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Background:

World Water Day is celebrated every year on 22nd March. The United Nations established this day to raise awareness about freshwater and celebrate the need to address the global water crisis. The day also supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030 for healthy and peaceful lives, focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

But why is it that every year on this day we draw the community's attention to the importance of water?

The answer is simple: the fate of our planet, from its ecosystems and natural resources to its biodiversity and people, depends on the state of water. Since 1993, is an annual United Nations Observance focusing on the importance of freshwater.

World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. Core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. Every year, UN-Water the UN's coordination mechanism on water and sanitation sets the theme for World Water Day. The theme for World Water Day 2025 is "Glacier Preservation". This theme highlights the critical role glaciers play as natural freshwater reservoirs and the urgent need for action to protect them from the impacts of climate change. Preserving glaciers is essential for ensuring global water security, supporting agriculture and ecosystems, and mitigating events like floods and droughts. Under the leadership of Agriculture and Adivasi Swaraj Sangathan, Vagdhara joins the celebration of this special day every year in its 1168 villages. The focus is on creating awareness among communities about the importance of fresh water. This is expressed through several activities like awareness rallies, dialogue meetings and water source worship services organized by the organization.



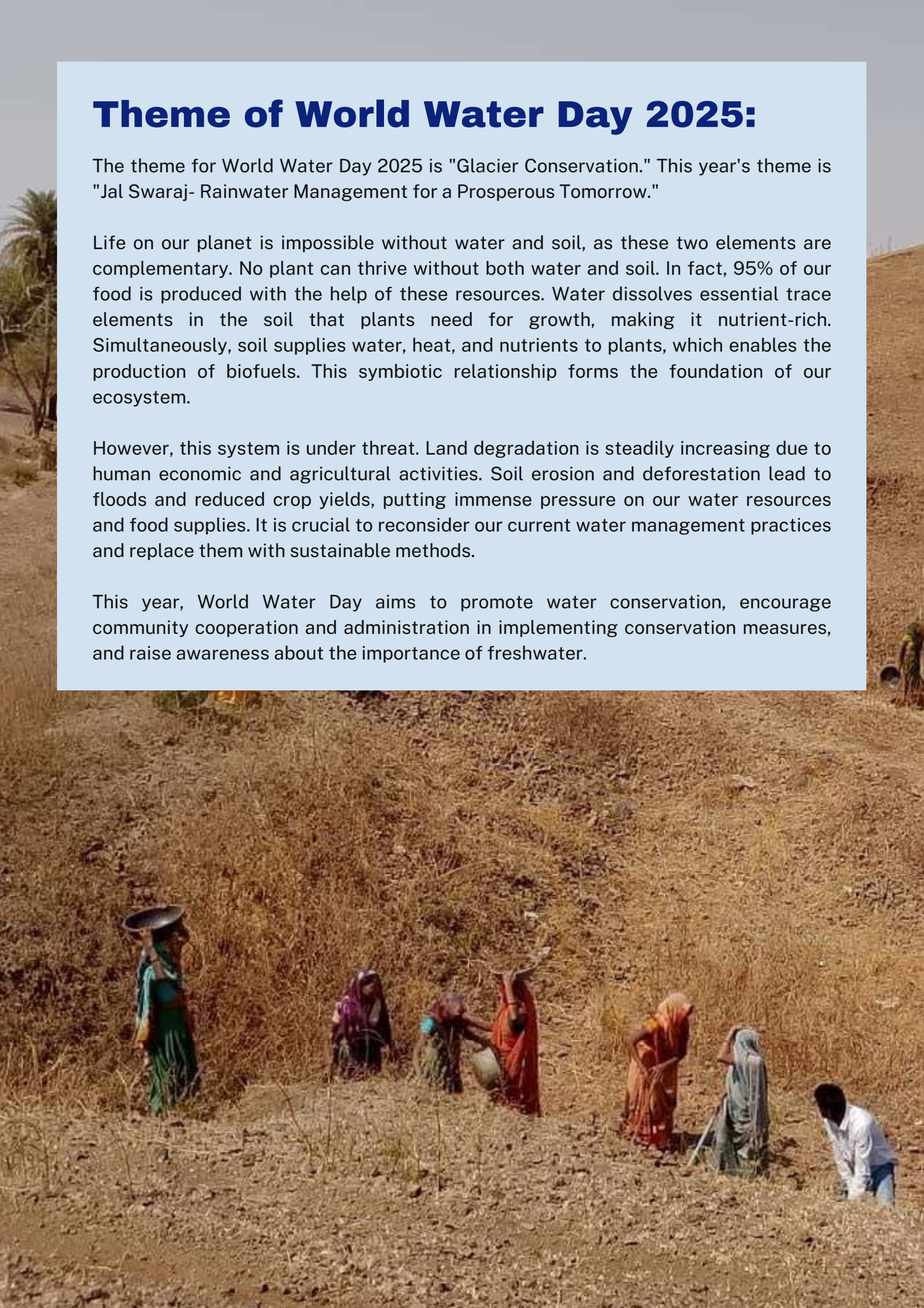
Theme of World Water Day 2025:

The theme for World Water Day 2025 is "Glacier Conservation." This year's theme is "Jal Swaraj- Rainwater Management for a Prosperous Tomorrow."

Life on our planet is impossible without water and soil, as these two elements are complementary. No plant can thrive without both water and soil. In fact, 95% of our food is produced with the help of these resources. Water dissolves essential trace elements in the soil that plants need for growth, making it nutrient-rich. Simultaneously, soil supplies water, heat, and nutrients to plants, which enables the production of biofuels. This symbiotic relationship forms the foundation of our ecosystem.

However, this system is under threat. Land degradation is steadily increasing due to human economic and agricultural activities. Soil erosion and deforestation lead to floods and reduced crop yields, putting immense pressure on our water resources and food supplies. It is crucial to reconsider our current water management practices and replace them with sustainable methods.

This year, World Water Day aims to promote water conservation, encourage community cooperation and administration in implementing conservation measures, and raise awareness about the importance of freshwater.

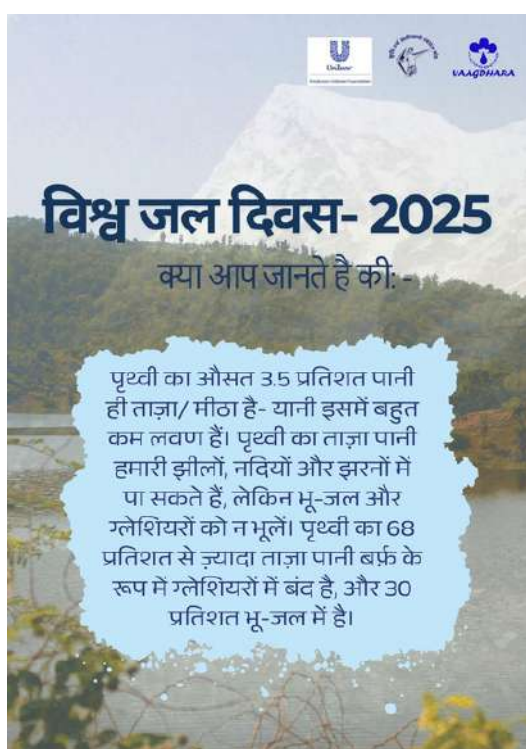


Material Preparation

Vaagdhara prepared a guide in advance to organize a World Water Day festival in the villages of the community. On the expertise of the facilitators and the members of the organization, a guideline was prepared which included the history and the outline of the event, possible activities, collection of various facts and information related to water, etc. With the support of the TSU, IECs were created.

Event Preparations

To celebrate World Water Day on a large scale, prior preparations for the campaign were made. These included:



Preparations in the Implementation Units

The work area of Vaagdhara is divided into three implementation units: Mangarh, Hiran, Mahi and Mahi (MP). The Technical Support Unit of the organisation participates in the monthly review meetings in all of the three units.

For the organization of World Water Day, an additional meeting was organized in combination with a capacity building of the members. Additionally, forms related to documentation of organizing World Water Day such as a request form and a participant list form were provided as well as detailed information on the social, economic, environmental and biodiversity impacts of Water. The team was also thoroughly educated on the sustainable management of water.

Capacity Building in the Villages

Before World Water Day, these trainers visited 1,168 villages under their jurisdiction and prepared the communities for the event. They informed them about the event and requested people to bring soil that day. They also carried posters designed by Vaagdhara on soil conservation and management, which were to be displayed there. Additionally, a program was developed in collaboration with village residents, in which all residents from different parts of the village participated. Members of Swaraj groups were given the responsibility of ensuring participation.

Organization of World Water Day

On the 22nd of March 2025, World Water Day was organized under the leadership of the organisation in 1168 villages of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

The celebrations began in the morning when the members of the Saksham Samuh, the Gram Swaraj Samuh and the Bal Swaraj Samuh of the villages joined hands with the villagers and took part in the morning procession. During the morning procession and awareness rally, slogans related to water conservation were raised and folk songs that carried the messages of awareness were sung. The rally passed through the main parts of the village and reached the centre of the village. There, the children, youth and elders united with enthusiasm.

The table shows the participation figures: WWD 2025

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Seed and soil rangoli

At the venue, all the participants made beautiful rangoli with the seeds, flowers, grains and vegetables they had brought with them. The villagers participating in the program filled an earthen pot (Kalash) with water and placed it in the middle of a heap of soil. In tribal culture, Kalash and water are symbols of prosperity that are traditionally worshipped.



Discussion on Soil and Water

After the creation of the seed and soil rangoli, discussions that were organized by Vaagdhara members took place. These were intended to inform the villagers about the significance of water and Soil in the tribal culture. For this, traditional practices and folksongs related to water were used. Women who are associated with the Saksham Samuh spoke about the issues related to water and Soil conservation due to unsustainable agricultural practices.

These are as follows:

Irrigation



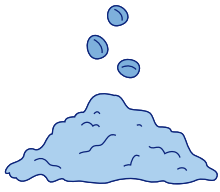
- Adopt advanced irrigation methods like drip or sprinkler irrigation.
- Dams and Khantis help to control the water flow.
- Planting various types of trees and plants at the ridge helps not only to preserve the moisture in the soil but also helps to prevent soil erosion in the event of flooding.

Land Preparation



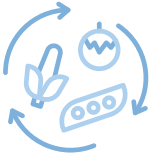
- While preparing the field, the soil should be loosened. It is important not to plow too deeply and only as needed so as not to disturb the soil structure too much as this affects the water-holding capacity of the soil.
- Bullocks help in minimum ploughing, due to which the water-holding capacity and standard fertility of the soil are maintained.
- Heavy machinery should also not be used as it compacts the soil, thereby reducing or reducing the water-holding capacity of the soil.

Crop and Seed Selection



- To save water in the field, select local crops according to (light soil or heavy soil) and use only local seeds.
- Choose crops that are suitable for water resources, the local environment and available resources.
- Crops like cotton or sugarcane require a lot of water.
- Adopt crop rotation, do not plant the same type of crop continuously in the same field.
- Adopt mixed farming in which one crop complements the other, and their water requirements are equal.

Soil Coverage



- Introduce cover crops like grass or mash on the fields.
- Plant perennial crops.
- Plant permanent bushes on the ridge like custard apple or henna as they will help to prevent soil erosion and generate additional income.

Members of Gram Swaraj Samuhs made the community aware of the multiple dimensions of Water. The following points emerged from different villages which were discussed in detail by the community:

- Water is the foundation of nutrition.
- Freshwater is essential for a healthy life. Life is not possible without it.
- Through sustainable water management, soil can absorb and store more water.

The youth participating in the program added further interesting facts related to Water and shared them with the community:

- Soil loses its capability to store water if it's not properly managed.
- Soil consists of 20% water.
- Soil is a natural water purifier and keeps the groundwater clean.
- One-third of the soil worldwide is degraded due to improper soil management, which affects water conservation.



Letter of request:

In the next phase of the program, the participants reflected on the status of Water and Soil in their village and prepared a letter of request to the community and the government to help them acquire soil and water independence.

No	Discussion points	Appeal to the community	Appeal to the government
1	Importance of Water and Water Conservation Measures	• Requests to divert roof water into tanks or soak pits. • Requests to divert kitchen water to Poshan Wadi. • Requests to recharge individual tube wells and conserve tap water.	• Request for the construction of hand pumps or soak pits where water is flowing away. • Request for contour trenching, deep digging, and well deepening under MNREGA or other schemes. • Request for forest conservation and proper management of barren land.
2	Water's relationship to soil, seeds, and crops	• Request to avoid the use of chemical pesticides • Request to use indigenous fertilizers. • Request to plant shrubs on embankments that prevent soil erosion, such as custard apple, henna, etc. • Request to plant low-water crops. • Request to water the crops by making beds to prevent soil erosion.	• Request to promote bunding as much as possible. • Request to increase subsidies for drip irrigation, sprinklers, etc., and to make them available to all eligible farmers in a timely manner. • Request to launch a village-level tree planting campaign for soil and climate conservation. • Request for permission to allow pond silt and soil to be deposited in fields.

3	Traditional methods of water conservation	• Calling for community-level cleaning of rivers, ponds, pools, and stepwells. • Calling for channeling rainwater into wells, and building wells instead of tube wells. • Calling for planting crops that require less water.	
4	Agricultural system improvement	Adopt useful farming systems instead of carrying on useless ones.	Provide financial assistance to encourage farmers to promote soil conservation farming systems.
5	Field irrigation	Adopt advanced irrigation equipment and indigenous water-saving mechanisms.	Include marginal farmers in the irrigation scheme by expanding drip or sprinkler irrigation facilities and increasing government grants.
6	Ban on poisonous chemicals	Stop using toxic chemicals and pesticides in various food crops.	Ban the use of poisonous chemicals by the state and local governments.

Water Worship:

The tribal community has always been a devotee of nature, such as plants, animals, forests, and rivers, as they are considered invaluable gifts of nature to the community. On the occasion of World Water Day, the dialogue meeting concluded with a water aarti, and everyone took a small amount of water as prasad. To mark the occasion, symbolic tree planting and renovation of soak pits and water harvesting structures were carried out in some villages.

Pledge for Water Conservation

All the participants took a pledge to enhance and conserve water by repeating various conservation practices and behaviors.



World Water Day was celebrated with enthusiasm in all of the 1168 villages in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. The information about the celebrations was shared with various media groups. All of the main newspapers of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have prominently published the events of World Water Day. These newspapers also include the country's largest Hindi-speaking newspaper group Dainik Bhaskar, Rajasthan Patrika, Sandesh, Navjyot, Gujarat Sandesh, Dahod Live, Jan Jagran Sandesh, Dainik Bhaskar of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan Patrika.

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