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TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(26 March 2025)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- **UN WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT, 2025**
- **INDIA'S REMITTANCES TRENDS**
- **MCQs**

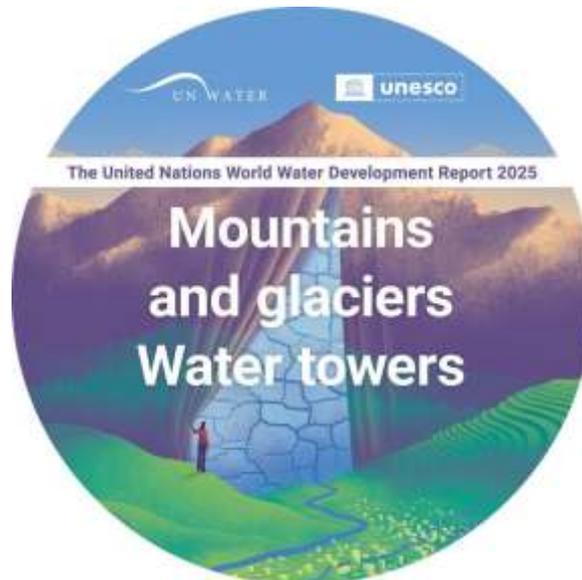


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UN WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT, 2025



- The World Water Development Report (WWDR) is a flagship publication of **UN-Water** (the United Nations coordination mechanism for water and sanitation) that provides an authoritative assessment of global water and sanitation issues.
- It evaluates the state, use, and management of freshwater resources around the world.
- **Theme for 2025: Mountains and Glaciers: Water Towers.**
- The report is launched annually on **World Water Day (March 22)** with a specific theme each year.
- The report offers policy recommendations, best practices, and in-depth analyses for decision-makers to address water challenges globally.

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- It is published by **UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) on behalf of UN-Water and coordinated by the **UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme**.

History of World Water Day (March 22)

- **1992**: First proposed at the **UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)** in **Rio de Janeiro** (a global conference focusing on sustainable development).
- **1993**: Officially established by the United Nations General Assembly.

ABOUT UN WATER

- **UN-Water** coordinates the UN's work on water and sanitation, with over 30 UN organizations working on these issues across various sectors.
- Its goal is to ensure UN members and partners “deliver as one” in addressing water and sanitation challenges globally.

Core Activities:

- Informing policy processes and addressing emerging water issues.
- Supporting monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation.

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- Building knowledge and inspiring action for water sustainability.

KEY MILESTONES

- **SDG 6** (Sustainable Development Goal 6, which focuses on water and sanitation):
Shaped SDG 6—ensuring the sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Contributed to agreements like:
 - The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (an international framework aiming to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all),
 - **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** (a global framework for reducing disaster risks), and
 - The **Paris Climate Agreement** (an international treaty to combat climate change).

GLOBAL WATER TRENDS

- **Water Withdrawals:** (The total amount of water that is taken from a water source for use in various sectors like agriculture, industry, and domestic use):
 - **Agriculture:** 72% (water used for irrigation, livestock, and other agricultural purposes).

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- **Industry:** 15% (water used in manufacturing processes).
- **Domestic use:** 13% (water used for household activities such as drinking, cooking, and cleaning).
- Freshwater withdrawals grew by 14% from 2000 to 2021 (average annual increase of 0.7%).
- **Water Stress:**
 - **Water stress:** A situation where demand for water exceeds the available amount in a region or season.
 - 25 countries (home to 1/4 of the world's population) face extremely high water stress annually.
 - 4 billion people experience severe water scarcity at least part of the year.

MOUNTAIN AREAS & WATER

- **Area:** 33 million km² (24% of global land excluding Antarctica).
- **Population:** Approx. 1.1 billion people (15% of the world's population).
 - 34% live in urban areas, 31% in towns, 35% in rural areas.
- **Water Contribution:**

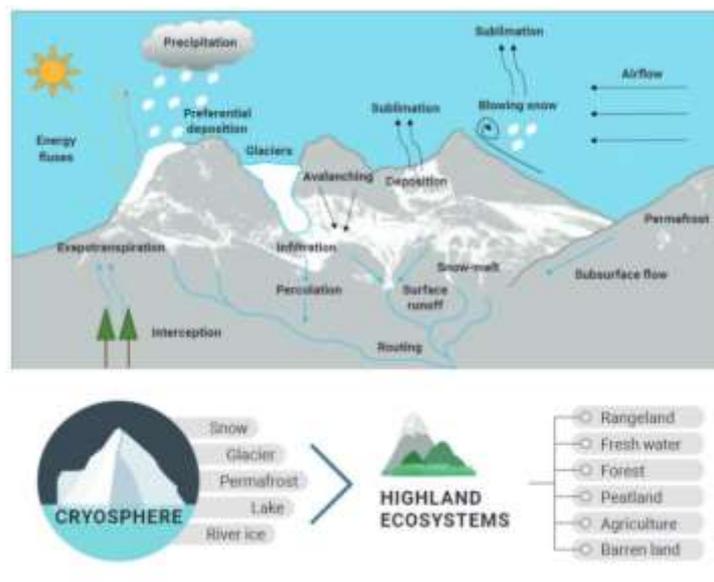
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- Mountains provide 55-60% of global annual freshwater flows.
- Rivers like the **Amu Darya, Colorado, Nile, Indus, and São Francisco** depend heavily on mountain waters (up to 90% of their annual flow).

CRYOSPHERE & WATER IMPACT



- **Cryosphere:** The frozen water part of the Earth's surface, including glaciers, ice sheets, snow, and permafrost.
- **Glacier retreat:** The process of glaciers shrinking and losing ice due to warming temperatures.
- 26-41% of glacier mass is projected to be lost by 2100 due to warming.

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- **Glacial lakes** (lakes formed from melting glaciers) are increasing, raising the risk of **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)** (Sudden and catastrophic releases of water from glacial lakes due to the failure of a natural dam).

MOUNTAIN AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS

- 648 million people in rural mountain areas depend on agriculture and pastoralism (the raising of livestock) for their livelihoods.
- 35-40% of the mountain population experiences **food insecurity** (lack of consistent access to sufficient food).
- **Forests:** Cover 40% of mountain areas, protect against landslides, regulate water flow, and reduce soil erosion.

Climate-related hazards such as droughts, floods, and extreme temperatures affect 25% of agriculture in developing countries, causing 80% of livestock and crop damage in mountain areas.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS & DISASTER RISKS

- 3,151 **GLOF** (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) events were recorded from 850 to 2022, with over **US\$56 billion** in economic losses and 39,000 deaths in mountain regions between 1985 and 2014.

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- **Adaptation finance:** Funds allocated for adjusting to the impacts of climate change. US\$187 billion annually is needed for climate adaptation in mountain regions, yet only **US\$13.8 billion** was available in 2022, creating a significant gap.

INDUSTRY & ENERGY IN MOUNTAINS

- **Water-intensive industries** like lithium extraction (mining process for lithium, which is key in battery production) and **cryptomining** (the process of mining digital currencies like Bitcoin, which requires large amounts of water) increase water demand in mountain areas.
- **Hydropower:** 95% of global pumped storage hydropower (PSH) (a type of hydroelectric power generation that stores energy by pumping water to a higher elevation) is located in mountain areas, crucial for electricity storage.
- 85% of hydroelectric power in Latin America comes from mountain regions.

MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEM & ENVIRONMENT

- Mountains host **25 of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots** (regions with a high level of endemic species that are under threat from human activities).

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- **Ecological pressure:** The strain on ecosystems caused by human activities such as development, resource extraction, and pollution.
 - 57% of global mountain areas face intense pressure from human activities.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Sub-Saharan Africa:**
 - Africa's mountains cover **20%** of its land area, with **252 million** people living in mountain regions.
 - **132 million rural mountain people** are vulnerable to **food insecurity**.
 - **Glacier loss** is projected to affect Mount **Kenya** and the **Rwenzori Mountains** by **2030** and **Mount Kilimanjaro** by **2040**.
- **Europe and Central Asia:**
 - In the Alps, **river discharge** (The flow of water in rivers) is expected to decrease by **45%** due to reduced glacier runoff by **2100**.
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:**
 - The **Andes** provide **50%** of Amazon River flow and have lost **30-50%** of glaciers since the 1980s.

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- **85% of hydroelectric power** in Latin America comes from mountain regions.
- **Asia and the Pacific:**
 - The **Tibetan Plateau** and **Himalayas** store more ice and snow than any region outside Antarctica and the Arctic.
 - **Glacier melt** in the **Himalayas** is **65% faster** than in the previous decade.
 - By **2100**, glaciers in the region may shrink by **30-50%** under **1.5°C-2°C** warming scenarios.
 - **Arab Region:**
 - Snow contributes 50-60% of Lebanon's river and spring water volume, feeding into groundwater aquifers.

ABOUT UNESCO

- **Full Name:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- **Founded:** 1945, headquartered in Paris, France.
- **Mission:** Promote peace, sustainable development, and human rights through education, science, and culture.

India's Membership: India has been a member since UNESCO's founding in 1946. **Primary Goal:** Advance peace, human rights, and sustainable development through global collaboration.

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INDIA'S REMITTANCES TRENDS

Table 1: Source Country-wise Share in India's Inward Remittances (Banks)

Source Country	2016-17	2020-21	2023-24
United States	22.9	23.4	27.7
United Arab Emirates	26.9	18.0	19.2
United Kingdom	3.0	6.8	10.8
Saudi Arabia	11.6	5.1	6.7
Singapore	5.5	2.4	6.6
Kuwait	6.5	1.5	3.9
Qatar	-	5.7	4.1
Canada	3.0	1.6	3.8
Oman	1.0	0.6	2.5
Australia	-	-	2.3
Bahrain	0.7	0.7	1.5
Hong Kong	-	-	1.3
Germany	0.6	0.6	1.0
Belgium	0.9	1.1	0.4
Malaysia	-	-	0.6
New Zealand	2.3	0.7	0.5
Ireland	-	-	0.4
Netherlands	-	-	0.5
Japan	-	-	0.3
Switzerland	-	-	0.4
France	0.1	0.1	0.2
Italy	-	-	0.1
Indonesia	-	-	0.2
Thailand	-	-	0.2
South Africa	-	-	0.1
Spain	-	-	0.1
Others	14.8	31.6	4.4

Note: For 2023-24, shares are derived based on two major components of inward remittances – (a) transfers for family maintenance and savings; (b) local withdrawals from non-resident deposit accounts.

Source: Data for 2016-17 and 2020-21 are sourced from the RBI's remittance surveys - RBI (2018) and RBI (2022a), respectively.

- **Growth in Remittances:** India's total remittances have more than doubled from USD 55.6 billion in 2010-11 to **USD 118.7 billion in 2023-24.**
- **Shift in Source Countries:** Advanced Economies (AEs), especially the US and UK, now lead as top contributors, overtaking Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

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- **State-wise Distribution:** Maharashtra and Kerala are the top recipients of remittances, with Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Karnataka following closely.
- **Digital Remittances:** Digital platforms are on the rise, with 73.5% of total remittances transferred digitally in 2023-24.

KEY FINDINGS FROM 6TH ROUND OF SURVEY (2023-24)

- **Remittance Sources:**
 - **United States (US):** Leading source, contributing 27.7% of total remittances in 2023-24.
 - **United Arab Emirates (UAE):** Second at 19.2%.
 - **Other Advanced Economies:** Including the UK, Canada, Australia, and Singapore, contribute over 50% of total remittances.
 - The **UK's** share rose from 3.4% in 2016-17 to 10.8% in 2023-24, driven by increased migration.
- **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Decline:**
 - The overall share of GCC countries (UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, etc.) decreased from 47% in 2016-17 to 38% in 2023-24.

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- **State-wise Distribution:**

- **Maharashtra** (20.5%) remains the top recipient, followed by **Kerala** (19.7%).
- Rising trends in states like **Punjab** and **Haryana** are observed.

- **Mode of Remittances:**

- **Rupee Drawing Arrangement (RDA)** remains the dominant channel.
- **Digital remittances** account for 73.5% of all transactions.

REASONS FOR SHIFT IN REMITTANCES

- **Stronger Job Markets in AEs:**

- The US, UK, Canada, and Australia offer high-paying opportunities, especially for skilled Indian workers.
- Post-Covid, the US job market revived, leading to an increase in remittances.
- **UK-India Migration Partnership** made it easier for Indians to get work visas, significantly boosting migration from 76,000 in 2020 to 250,000 in 2023.

- **Declining Job Opportunities in GCC:**

- Many migrants moved from the Gulf to AEs for better financial opportunities post-Covid.

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- Economic diversification and nationalization policies (Nitaqat in Saudi Arabia and Emiratization in UAE) reduced the demand for low-skilled labor in the Gulf.

- **Changing Migration Patterns:**

- Southern states like **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana** increasingly prefer AEs over the Gulf.
- States like **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan** continue to send migrants to the Gulf, though their lower educational attainment limits eligibility for skilled jobs in AEs.

- **Rise in Education-Driven Migration:**

- Increasing numbers of Indian students abroad, especially in **Canada (32%), US (25.3%), and UK (13.9%)**, are sending remittances after completing their studies and securing jobs.

REMITTANCES AS PART OF BoP

Balance of Payments: Remittances are considered unilateral transfers under the current account, contributing to foreign income inflows without creating liabilities.

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MCQs

1. The World Water Day is observed on which date?

- (A) 20 March
- (B) 22 March
- (C) 24 March
- (D) 26 March

Ans. (B)

2. Consider the following statements wrt UN Water and mark the correct one:

1. Its goal is to ensure UN members and partners deliver as one in addressing water and sanitation challenges globally.
2. It is a specialised agency under UN.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 & 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (A)

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3. Consider the following statements wrt UNESCO and mark the correct one:

1. It is a specialised agency under UN.

2. Its aim is to promote peace, sustainable development, and human rights through education, science, and culture.

3. India is one among the founding members of UNESCO.

(A) Only 1 & 2

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 2 & 3

(D) All of the above



Ans. (D)

4. Which among the following states is the top receiver of remittances in 2023-24?

(A) UP

(B) Punjab

(C) Telangana

(D) Maharashtra

Ans. (D)

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5. Consider the following statements and mark the correct ones:

1. Remittances from the GCC countries have declined (as a proportion) in India.
2. Remittances are part of the Capital Account transactions.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 & 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (A)



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