



World Meteorological Congress 2021

Why in News

Recently, the **World Meteorological Congress 2021** has endorsed a **Water Declaration**, including the **Water and Climate Coalition**.

- It has also **approved a new vision and strategy for hydrology** and an associated plan of action.

World Meteorological Congress

- The World Meteorological Congress is the **supreme body of the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#)**. WMO is a **specialised agency of the United Nations** for meteorology, operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences. **India is a member**. It **produces annually the [State of the Global Climate Report](#)**.

Key Points

- **Concerns:**
 - Only **40% of countries** globally have **operational early [flood](#) and [drought](#) warning systems**.
 - Some **60%** of WMO member countries **lack hydrological monitoring capabilities**. Globally, **more than three billion people have no quality management system** for their water-related data in place.
 - It means **close to half of the world's population is at risk due to a lack of information on the state of their water resources** including rivers, lakes, groundwater, according to the most recent **[United Nation \(UN\)](#)** estimates.
 - Some **107 countries are not on track** to have **sustainably managed water resources**.
- **Water Declaration:**
 - By 2030 **early warnings for early action related to floods and droughts** will be **available for people everywhere** on the planet to access.
 - **Policies for water and climate action** developed within the sustainable development agenda **will be integrated to yield maximum benefit for people**.
 - Members will **pursue these goals through partnerships** for capacity development, knowledge exchange and information sharing, etc.
- **Water and Climate Coalition:**
 - The coalition is **made for promoting sharing and access** to integrated hydrological, **[cryosphere](#)**, meteorological and climate information.
 - It aims to **boost resilient water adaptation** to **[climate change](#)** as well as demographic and socio-economic development for the future.
 - It is also aimed at accelerating the progress of water-related United Nations **[Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)**, especially SDG6 (water and sanitation for all).
- **Hydrology Action Plan:**

- **Impact Based Early Warning System:**
 - There should be impact-based end-to-end [Early Warning Systems \(EWS\) for flood](#) forecasting in the context of a broader integrated flood management strategy implemented by Members, including through the **Associated Programme on Flood Management**.
 - Congress approved a new **Sustainability Strategy for the future development and implementation of the [Flash Flood Guidance System](#)** with Global Coverage.
- **Water Resource & Quality Assessment:**
 - The concept of [Integrated Water Resources Management \(IWRM\)](#) including water use and allocations for supporting food production should be widely accepted and followed.
- **Reducing Impact of Droughts:**
 - Members should **reduce adverse impacts of drought** at all levels by implementing **integrated drought management systems**, including drought monitoring, early warnings, vulnerability and impact assessments, and drought mitigation, preparedness and response measures.
- **Food Security:**
 - Food security should be **enhanced by informed end-users' decisions** at all levels from regional to local.
- **High Quality Data:**
 - There should be increased discoverability, availability, and use of high-quality hydrological and hydrometeorological data for scientific analysis, as promoted by the **Global Hydrometry Support Facility (HydroHub)**.
- **Research and Application of Operational Hydrology:**
 - There should be a **reduced gap between research and operational hydrology applications**; operational hydrology uses improved understanding of Earth system science.

Related Indian Initiatives

- [MGNREGA](#) for water conservation.
- [Jal Kranti Abhiyan](#).
- [Jal Shakti Abhiyan](#).
- [National Rural Drinking Water Programme](#).
- [NITI Aayog Composite Water Management Index](#).
- [Atal Bhujal Yojana](#).
- [Jal Shakti Ministry and Jal Jeevan Mission](#).
- [Command Area Development](#).

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