



World Water Day 2026

Theme: Water and Gender

March 22, 2026

World Water Day is a United Nations observance held every year on 22 March to spotlight the importance of freshwater and galvanize global action around water-related issues. The theme for World Water Day 2026 is “**Water and Gender**”, often expressed with the campaign slogan: “*Where Water Flows, Equality Grows*”. This theme centres on the interconnectedness between water access, sanitation, and gender equality, and calls attention to the disproportionate impacts that water scarcity has on women and girls.

The theme emphasizes to align with efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation) and SDG 5 (gender equality).

The theme highlights the following:

- Women and girls disproportionately shoulder the responsibility for collecting water for their households, often travelling long distances daily. This reduces their time for education, work, rest, and participation in community life.
- Access to safe sanitation and hygiene services is also a gendered issue — the lack of private, secure facilities increases the risks of harassment and negatively affects women’s dignity, health, and ability to manage menstruation and pregnancy with privacy and safety.
- Despite performing much of the world’s water-related labour, women are frequently underrepresented in leadership roles and decision-making about water policies, governance, and infrastructure.

The Institution of Engineers (India) earnestly urges all the IEI State & Local Centres, as well as its affiliated entities, to observe the World Water Day-2026 activity participating in the associated activities.