

Announcement of the milestone networking event 2nd International Conference on Non-Sewered Sanitation Systems (ICNSS 2026)



2nd IWA Conference on Non-Sewered Sanitation Systems (ICNSS 2026)

09-12 July 2026

Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad, Kerala

"Reimagining Sanitation Systems for Inclusive and
Sustainable Future"

<https://nssconference2026.org/>

2nd International Conference on Non-Sewered Sanitation Systems (ICNSS 2026)

The Global Sanitation Center of Excellence (GSCOE) at IIT Palakkad has made the announcement about hosting the 2nd International Conference on Non-Sewered Sanitation Systems (ICNSS 2026) in collaboration with the International Water Association (IWA). The conference will be hosted at the IIT Palakkad campus from 09th to 12th July 2026. This landmark event is expected to convene global experts, researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers to deliberate on cutting-edge innovations and best practices in sustainable sanitation.

The conference website has started accepting abstract submissions from 15th September 2025 onwards in five thematic areas of the conference that aim to strengthen international collaboration, foster technological advancements, and accelerate the implementation of non-sewered and decentralized sanitation solutions tailored to diverse socio-environmental contexts.



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SUBMISSION



Workshop on circular reuse of byproducts from FSTPs/STPs, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

GSCOE participated in the one-day workshop on "Dissemination of Findings & Framework for Circular Reuse of Byproducts from FSTPs/STPs for Sustainable Urban Sanitation" on 08th August, 2025 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Ms. Ramya Viswash, (Lab Executive GSCOE) attended the workshop organized by the Odisha Urban Academy (OUA) in collaboration with Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi. The workshop involved presentations and deep-dive discussions aiming to strategize the collaborations and way forward to set a national framework and policy thrust for circular reuse of biosolids and FSTP byproducts to ensure sustainable sanitation.

International Networking - Visit of Prof. Devendra Saroj, University of Surrey

GSCOE hosted the visit of Prof. Devendra Saroj (Head, Centre for Environmental Health and Engineering, CEHE), University of Surrey, UK, between 21–22 August 2025. Prof. Saroj engaged in discussions with Prof. A. Seshadri Sekhar (Director, IIT Palakkad), Dr. Athira P (Dean Academics, IIT Palakkad), and the team at GSCOE led by Dr. Praveena Gangadharan (Project Director, GSCOE) and Dr. Devasena. M (CTO, GSCOE).

Prof. Saroj focused on building strong academic and research collaborations, including joint educational programs and co-developing innovation-driven research projects to address global challenges in sustainability, water and sanitation.

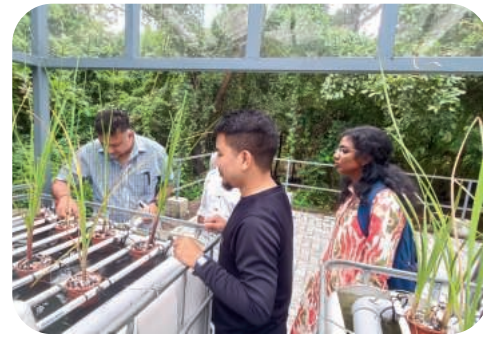


Exposure visit to the 250 KLD Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) at Cherthala Municipality, Alappuzha, Kerala



The technical team from GSCOE, IIT Palakkad, visited the Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) at Cherthala Municipality, Alappuzha, on 11th September 2025. This plant was established under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative and has a capacity of 250 KLD for the systematic management of fecal sludge and to support improved sanitation and public health outcomes. The GSCOE team, comprising Dr.Monali, Ms.Sarani and Ms.Ramya discussed with the FSTP project implementation team and gained valuable insights about large-scale sludge management infrastructure in Kerala.

Hosted the visit of Mr. Jay Bhagwan from Water Research Commission, South Africa and Chair of IWA Non-Sewered Sanitation Specialist Group



The visit of Mr.Jay Bhagwan from 28th September to 01st October 2025 to the GSCOE and IIT Palakkad was to strategize and streamline the preparation of the upcoming 2nd International Conference on Non-Sewered Sanitation Systems (ICNSS 2026)

Two-day collaborative training workshop on “Rethinking Wastewater Management – Circular by Design”



Researchers from GSCOE including Dr.Jayanta, Dr.Monali and Ms.Vrinda participated in the training workshop held at VA TECH Wabag House in Chennai during 11th and 12th of October 2025. This networking and training workshop was jointly organized by the International Water Association (IWA), VA TECH Wabag, Ecosan Services Foundation (ESF), ICCW–IIT Madras, and Greentivity Enviro Solutions.

GSCOE showcased its potential in IFAT India 2025 trade fare and exhibition



Four-member delegation from GSCOE of IIT Palakkad participated in IFAT India 2025, India's leading trade fair for water, sewage, solid waste, and recycling, held at the Bombay Exhibition Center from 14th to 16th October 2025 in Mumbai. Participation in this most sought-after expo has highlighted GSCOE's pioneering research and technology-driven initiatives in advancing sustainable water and sanitation systems.



The delegation, led by Dr. Praveena Gangadharan (Project Director, GSCOE), engaged with industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, and technology partners, presenting the center's innovative projects in decentralized wastewater management, circular sanitation, and resource recovery. Dr. Devasena M (Chief Technical Officer, GSCOE) contributed to the panel discussion on

“Biosolids Management in India's Sanitation Landscape.”

The GSCOE exhibition booth at the International Water Association (IWA) Pavilion attracted wide interest from visitors, sparking discussions on collaborative opportunities, research partnerships, and knowledge exchange initiatives.



Additional news feeds
about the event



<https://iitpkd.ac.in/news/global-sanitation-center-excellence-iit-palakkad-showcases-its-potential-ifat-india-2025>

Hosted the visit of the Japan Industrial delegation to GSCOE of IIT Palakkad



The GSCOE had the privilege of hosting Mr. Yasuhiro Matsumoto, Director – TSS Business Development, Taisei Kougyou Co. Ltd., and Mr. Kenichi Tamura, Director, E-Square Inc., Japan. on the 16th of October 2025. The visit served as a dynamic platform for exploring sustainable sanitation technologies, sharing innovative perspectives, and identifying future opportunities for Indo–Japan collaboration in advancing inclusive sanitation solutions.



Under the guidance and support of the IIT Palakkad leadership, the GSCOE team, headed by Dr. Praveena Gangadharan (Project Director, GSCOE) and Dr. Devasena. M (CTO, GSCOE) facilitated this meeting and engagement, underscoring the center's enduring commitment to strengthening global partnerships and fostering industrial innovation in the sanitation and environmental sectors.

Empowering Young Minds: Training of school students for water quality testing



As part of the IIT Palakkad's outreach initiative, through its Educational Outreach Office, GSCOE hosted four students under the DEO's Gifted Education Programme for an independent study on the quality of borewell water used in their homes. During the one-day hands-on training session on October 28, 2025, using a lab-developed portable water testing kit.

Students analyzed water samples for parameters such as pH, turbidity, hardness, and fluoride, gaining practical insight into water quality assessment. They also learned about heavy metal contamination and advanced instrumental techniques. This interactive exercise built scientific curiosity and fostered awareness of water safety and environmental stewardship - reflecting the institute's commitment to community-centred scientific learning.

Accomplishments



Dr. Praveen G (Project Manager- GSCOE) has completed the training and certified through the Level-2 national-level workshop on “Managing Large Collaborative Research Projects: Tools, Techniques & Tactics of Scientific Project Management,” conducted on 09th and 10th September 2025 at the National Center for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore. This workshop was organized by the Research Development Office of the NCBS-TIFR and the Technical training cell of IISER Pune. Congratulations...!



Upcoming Events



GSCOE of IIT Palakkad will be participating and exhibiting at the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 8-12 December 2025.

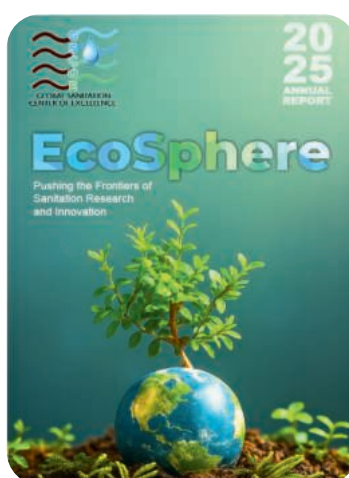
We are looking forward to showcase our technological capabilities and expertise in the eighth edition of this leading biennial international event that supposed to bring together around 3000 water professionals from over 80 countries.

See you at Bangkok !

Other resources and publications



Sabrija AM and Praveena Gangadharan,
Journal of Water Process Engineering
Volume 78, October 2025, 108835
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jwpe.2025.108835>



GSCOE
Annual Report 2025



Weblink of GSCOE lab
services:
[gscoe.iitpkd.ac.in/lab-
infrastructure-and-services](https://gscoe.iitpkd.ac.in/lab-infrastructure-and-services)
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