

From Circular Economy to Ecological Sanitation:

Re-centering Nature in Urban Water Systems

As water and sanitation challenges grow more complex, this conference seeks to revisit the concept of EcoSan (ecological sanitation) and explore how it can shape climate-resilient urban futures.



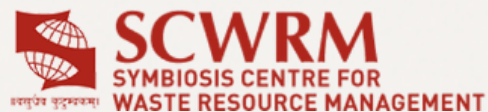
9-10
OCTOBER 2026



**Sandipani International
Convention Center,
SIU, Lavale, Pune**



Organized by:



CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

Reposition Ecological Sanitation: as a foundational framework within contemporary global sustainability discourse, rather than a legacy term subsumed under newer branding.

Bridge disciplines and generations: bringing academia, practitioners, urban planners, engineers, policymakers, and young professionals into direct, structured dialogue rather than parallel, disconnected conversations.

Showcase real implementation: case studies that demonstrate ecological and circular approaches working at municipal scale, not just in pilot or demonstration settings.

Enable cross-learning: creating a dedicated platform for Global South practitioners to exchange context-specific lessons that rarely travel through Global North-centric conference circuits.

Set a forward agenda: developing a concrete, forward-looking agenda for climate-ready urban water and sanitation systems, culminating in a public declaration and policy brief that outlive the event itself.





Core Themes



Closing water and nutrient loops in urban systems



Decentralized wastewater management and reuse



Climate adaptation and mitigation through sanitation



Nature-based and ecosystem-integrated solutions



Governance and institutional models for circular sanitation



Urban resilience in the Global South



Target Participants



Urban planners and municipal officials



Civil, environmental, and water engineers



Researchers and academicians



Development practitioners and NGOs



Climate and sustainability professionals



TENTATIVE AGENDA

DAY ONE

Inaugural Ceremony & Keynote Address

Context Setting: From Infrastructure to Ecosystems: Reframing Urban Water Systems

Planery Session: Scaling Ecological Systems: From Pilots to Policy

Focus Area:

- Municipal implementation experiences
- PPP and CSR models
- Integration with stormwater and groundwater management
- Monitoring and performance optimization
- Digital tools for decentralized systems

Panel Discussion: Are We Truly Circular? Questioning the Circular Economy Narrative in Urban Sanitation

Discussion Points:

- Is circular economy merely rebranding Ecosan principles?
- Technological vs ecological circularity
- Risks of over-centralization under circular branding
- Lessons from Global South cities

SIU Campus Tour, Gala Dinner & Networking

DAY TWO

Parallel Track 1: Evidence from the Field: Closing Loops in Practice

Sub themes:

- Climate adaptation case studies
- City sanitation planning experiences

Parallel Track 2: Designing with Nature: Rethinking Sanitation Systems for the Next Decade

Interactive design-thinking workshop focused on decentralized, climate-responsive sanitation models.

Panel Discussion : Climate Crisis, Water Stress, and Urban Futures: Why Ecological Sanitation is Non-Negotiable

Discussion Points:

- Sanitation and GHG emissions
- Groundwater depletion and reuse
- Flooding, drought cycles and local water retention
- Linking sanitation to climate adaptation finance

Closing Ceremony