SuSanA Meeting – South Asia 2026 – Summary

Pune, India · 10 October 2026 (hybrid meeting, as confirmed on the SuSanA event page)

Summary

The meeting marked a decade of the SuSanA India Chapter, a network of about 4,200 WASH practitioners started in 2016 that runs thematic discussions, webinars and regional meetings. The global SuSanA network (16,000+ members, 180+ countries, active since 2007) shared its priorities: finalising by-laws, developing strategy, diversifying funding, advocacy, AI integration, advancing tools (SFD, ECAM), and youth engagement.

Short "espresso" talks followed, with common themes of circularity, resource recovery and moving from infrastructure to lasting services:

- **SANIHUB:** a humanitarian sanitation knowledge hub with a helpdesk and a multilingual domain-specific AI (web and WhatsApp); a wider AI-powered WASH Hub is planned.
- **Devanahalli (Karnataka):** treated used water recharges lakes and the shallow aquifer; about 1 MLD now supplies the town (35% of demand at 70 LPCD), 184 ML supplied since 2023, with scale-up to 6 MLD proposed.
- **Alexandria, Egypt:** sludge digestion at ~700 t/day produces biogas and ~5 MW of power, with up to ~60% energy saving and ~35% less sludge disposal.
- **Natural Solutions (Dr Ajit Gokhale):** reed-bed and nature-based sewage treatment, from 500 L/day to 1.5 million L/day.
- **Rajeev Munankami (SNV):** FSTPs alone do not deliver citywide services, so governance, finance and a recognised, professional sanitation workforce are needed.
- **Plant to Pad Hub:** biodegradable menstrual pads from banana fibre, with learning shared between Nepal and Kenya.
- **Girija Ramakrishna (CDD India):** safe faecal sludge reuse needs safety, field-tested agronomic value, fit-for-purpose quality criteria and policy frameworks.
- **Paresh Chhajed:** FSM in India has scaled rapidly (about 1,500 cities with FSTPs operational or planned), but scheduled desludging, reuse markets, regulation and monitoring remain unfinished business.

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction – Nitya Jacob, Dayanand Panse
2. Opening remarks by the RC coordinator and setting the scene – Nitya Jacob
3. Experiences with SuSanA – Dayanand Panse
4. Introduction to SuSanA by the Global Steering Committee and vision of SuSanA – Girija Ramakrishna, Arne Panesar
5. Espresso presentations on sector-related topics, projects and initiatives – all presenters; moderator: Arne Panesar
6. Q&A session and summarizing – Paresh Chhajed-Picha, Girija Ramakrishna
7. Wrapping up – Arne Panesar

Source: SuSanA Meeting – South Asia 2026.

Participants (22, from the handwritten attendance sheet)

#	Name (organisation)	#	Name (organisation)
1	Girija R (SuSanA, South Asia and CDD India)	12	Dayanand B Panse (Ecosan Services Foundation)
2	Rajeev Munankami (SNV)	13	Pawan Labhasetwar (IIT Madras)
3	Alexandra Hoehne (GTO)	14	Dr Arumugam Kalimuthu (WASH Institute)
4	Dr Ajit Gokhale (Natural Solutions)	15	S. Vishwanath (Biome Environmental Trust)
5	Paresh Chhajed (SuSanA)	16	M. Subburaman (SCOPE, Tirupati)
6	Satish Khade (Lokpeeth Foundation)	17	Nitya Jacob (SuSanA)
7	Dr Swati Dixit (Symbiosis Arts & Commerce)	18	Lakshmi Priya B.S. (Ecosan Services Foundation)
8	Prabhanjan Prabhu (Natural Solutions)	19	Amol Shewale (CYDA)
9	Arun Rayavellore (Energy & Environment Resource Group)	20	Sreevidya Satish (Dhiway)
10	Dr Kunwar D Yadav (SVNIT, Surat)	21	Depinder Kapur
11	Pravinjith ICP (EcoParadigm, Bengaluru)	22	Ravindra Sinha (Bhujal Abhiyan)