

# INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PALAKKAD

## GLOBAL SANITATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (GSCOE)



### NEWSLETTER



## IPA Delegates Visit TECHIN & GSCOE to Explore Collaborative Growth in Upskilling and Industrial Outreach

Representatives from the Indian Plumbing Association–Chennai and Kochi chapters, Dr. S. Virapan and Anantha Siva Iyer, visited the facilities of TECHIN at IIT Palakkad and the Global Sanitation Center of Excellence (GSCOE), IIT Palakkad on 09 August 2024. The visit included discussions focused on expanding collaboration through initiatives in upskilling and enhanced industry engagement.



## Strategic Planning for Urban Sanitation at NFSSM Alliance Meeting

Dr. Devasena M, Chief Technical Officer, GSCOE took part in the NFSSM Alliance Strategy Meeting held in Goa on August 29-30, where partners from across India gathered to reflect, strategize, and set a forward-looking agenda for urban sanitation.

Discussions centered on operationalizing the Alliance's long-term priorities and developing initial drafts for Task Force Work Plans. Additionally, Dr. Devasena joined the kick-off meeting of the Innovation & Technology Task Force on October 10, 2024, to advance collaborative efforts in this domain.



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## Participation in Africa Asia Research Network Workshop on Non-Sewered Sanitation at Bangkok

GSCO & TECHIN at IIT Palakkad are proud to have participated in the Africa Asia Research Network on Non-Sewered Sanitation collaborative workshop in Bangkok, Thailand. Our team presented NSS research and business models to a panel of international experts, fostering insightful discussions on advancements and strategies in non-sewered sanitation systems. This workshop offered a valuable opportunity for engagement and collaboration as we work together to innovate and enhance sanitation solutions globally.



## Achievement

**Congratulations** to Dr. Praveena, Gangadharan, Project Director, GSCO, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, for being selected as the Regional Coordinator South as part of the International Water Association India Chapter Committee.

## Congratulations



**Dr. Praveena Gangadharan**  
Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering

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#### EFT: Pooja & Work Initiation

The work initiation ceremony for the Engineering Field Testing (EFT) project commenced with a pooja on 14th August 2024, marking an auspicious start. The project has since been progressing steadily, with a focus on achieving its core objective.

The EFT platform aims to assess the suitability and technical viability of prefabricated onsite treatment systems for blackwater, greywater, and urine with flush water from residential dwellings for students. These facilities will provide valuable insights to refine and optimize NSS solutions based on user feedback and real-world performance data.



#### Dr. Devasena's visit to University of Southampton and Engagement with Prof. Yannis Ieropoulos & Team

Dr. Devasena, Chief Technical Officer at GSCOE, recently met with Professor Yannis Ieropoulos, Chair in Environmental Engineering and Head of the Civil, Maritime, and Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Southampton, and his team. The discussions centered on key advancements in environmental engineering and the exchange of insights in the field.



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### **GSCOE's first publication featured in the Chemical Eng Journal**

A recent publication by Dr. Praveena Gangadharan, Project Director at GSCOE, and Reiva, research scholar, has been featured in the Chemical Engineering Journal (Impact Factor: 13). This paper marks the first publication under GSCOE in collaboration with ESSENCE and the Department of Civil Engineering

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1385894724061485>

### **Lab Alliance Meeting at Gates Foundation Office, New Delhi**

Dr. Guruprasad, Project Scientist and Mr. Pragadeesh, Senior Lab Executive attended the Lab Alliance Meeting on September 25 at the Gates Foundation in New Delhi. The meeting gathered key stakeholders to discuss collaborative efforts, share updates, and align strategies to advance ongoing projects and initiatives.

### **Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on Biosolids Management in Uttarakhand**

Dr. Guruprasad, Project Scientist, GSCOE participated in the Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on Biosolids Management held on September 27, 2024, in Uttarakhand.

The meeting aimed to enhance institutional coordination for integrated biosolids management, promote knowledge sharing on adaptable co-composting practices, and develop strategic frameworks to support the government in forming a working group dedicated to establishing a state-level biosolids management strategy.



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### Kick-off Workshop for GSGS India Hub at Mumbai

Dr. Praveena Gangadharan, Project Director, GSCO participated in the Kick-off Workshop for the Global Sanitation Graduate School (GSGS) India Hub, held in Mumbai on September 27-28, 2024. Organized by CEPT University and Dasra, the workshop focused on strategizing the establishment and implementation of the India Hub.

Key attendees included Prof. Damir Brdanovic from Delft University of Technology, who shared insights into GSGS, and Mr. Roshan Shrestha from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, who delivered a keynote on Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS). IIT Palakkad joined as a potential partner in this impactful initiative.



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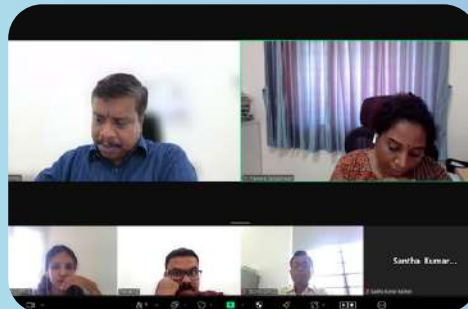
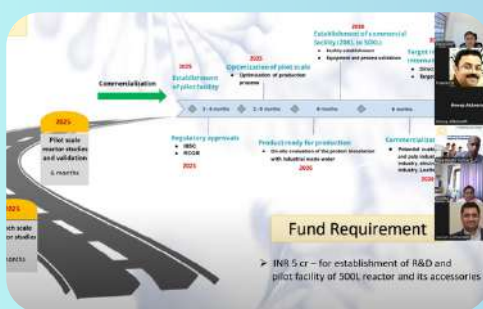


### NEWSLETTER



## Samastha 6.0 Innovation Pitch Event: Focus on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

The Technology Innovation Foundation of IIT Palakkad (TECHIN), in collaboration with the Global Sanitation Center of Excellence (GSCOE) at IIT Palakkad, successfully hosted the Samastha 6.0 innovation pitch event focused on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene. The first round of pitches took place on 12th and 13th September 2024, leading up to the finale pitch event held on 04th and 05th October 2024.



## Site Assessment Visit for Omniprocessor Installation at Muttathara STP

Mr. Midhu Unnithan, Chief Operating Officer, TECHIN, IIT Palakkad and Dr. Guruprasad, Project Scientist at GSCOE, visited the Muttathara Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) site alongside representatives from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), WASHi, Suchitwa Mission, and Ankur Scientific.

The visit aimed to evaluate the suitability of the designated area within the STP premises for the potential installation of the Omniprocessor (OP). The team also held discussions with the Principal Secretary (LSGD), along with officials from Suchitwa Mission and the Kerala Water Authority, to explore the feasibility of the site for OP implementation and outline an initial action plan for the project.



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## Texmo Industries Engineers Visit to GSCOE

On September 19th, a team of engineers from Texmo Industries visited the Global Sanitation Center of Excellence (GSCOE) to explore technical collaboration in the field of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). This engagement highlights a shared commitment to advancing sustainable water and wastewater management solutions.

## Industry-Academia Conclave 2024

IIT Palakkad hosted the Industry-Academia Conclave 2024 in September, uniting industry leaders, academic experts & innovators to foster collaboration and drive meaningful advancements.

GSCOE is proud to have been part of this initiative, which continues to inspire innovation and strengthen the synergy between academia and industry.



## Upskilling Initiative: Certified Plumbing Technician Program

Certified Plumbing Technician Program conducted by TECHIN & GSCOE of IIT Palakkad, is a unique upskilling initiative aimed at providing aspirants with practical expertise & professional skills in plumbing. Another batch of the course concluded with a valedictory function held in October 2024 at the TECHIN office, Kanjikode, Palakkad, celebrating the empowerment of another group of individuals with the knowledge & tools to advance their careers.



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## Participation in the 11th India CSR and ESG Summit 2024 – Asia's Largest CSR and Sustainability Forum

Our team participated in the 11th India CSR and ESG Summit 2024, Asia's largest forum dedicated to CSR and sustainability. This event provided an excellent opportunity to network, engage in meaningful discussions, and share insights on sustainable innovations and future growth.



## Seminar on Sustainable Sanitation Strategies

The Global Sanitation Centre of Excellence (GSCOE) organized a seminar on sustainable approaches to sanitation. Prof. N C Narayanan, Professor (HAG) and Head at the Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies, IIT Bombay, was the guest speaker at the event.

The talk highlighted the experiences of the Water Group within the Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies, IIT Bombay in developing protocols for technology choices, facilitating sustainable sanitation planning for small towns and creating a 'Living Lab' in a small town in Kerala. The group also strives to do iterative and transdisciplinary learning with other academic institutions to identify sustainable pathways for transitioning environmental services like solid and liquid waste management and scaling them up to other locations, thereby rejuvenating urban local bodies.





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## Engagement in G2RT Workshop & Exploring Collaboration Opportunities with UKZN

Dr. Guruprasad, Project Scientist, GSCOE attended the 'Generation II Reinvented Toilet (G2RT): End-of-Program Workshop – A Look Back and A Look Ahead' held in Durban, South Africa, from October 13-15, 2024. During the visit, Dr. Guruprasad also explored the WASH lab at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) to understand its facilities and foster collaborative opportunities between GSCOE and UKZN.



## Delegates from T-Works, Hyderabad Visit GSCOE for Potential Collaboration

On 30th October 2024, a delegation from T-Works, Hyderabad, including Dr. K. Siva Prasad (Head of R&D) and Mr. Sahaj Sandhu (Manager - Startup and MSME Development), visited the GSCOE facilities. This visit facilitated discussions on potential collaboration in the rapid prototyping of cost-effective and indigenized WaSH technologies and other initiatives.

