INDIA SANITATION COALITION
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AWARDS & CONCLAVE SPECIAL

10th Edition ISC-FICCI SANITATION AWARDS CEREMONY & INDIA SANITATION CONCLAVE

The 10th edition of the ISC-FICCI Sanitation Awards recognised excellence and impact across 12 categories, celebrating organisations and initiatives advancing water, sanitation and solid waste management.

The awards were supported by valued partners, Nayara Energy, ITC, Dettol Banega Swasth India and GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF) whose continued commitment contributes to advancing sustainable WASH solutions across India.

The inaugural **Rashid Kidwai WASH Finance Awards (RKWFA)** recognised contributions across three award categories, highlighting the role of innovative financing in strengthening WASH solutions and enabling them to scale. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Water.org, honouring an exceptional contribution to the sector.

LAUNCH OF KEY PUBLICATIONS

The conclave marked two significant milestones with the launch of the commemorative accolade for the 10th ISC-FICCI Sanitation Awards, celebrating a decade of recognising excellence across the WASH ecosystem, and the inaugural Rashid Kidwai WASH Finance Awards accolade, recognising the role of purposeful finance in advancing sustainable WASH outcomes

The conclave also marked the launch of the compendium, 'Reimagining Solid Waste and Water Management for Climate Action: Pathways, Partnerships and Innovations', bringing together insights, approaches and innovations that explore how water and waste management can become integral to India's climate action agenda.

The conclave featured addresses by Shri C. R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti; Ms. Naina Lal Kidwai, Chair, ISC; Ms. Jyoti Vij, Director General, FICCI; and Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, former Director General of CSIR and Chair of the Awards Jury, who joined virtually. The speakers highlighted innovation, sustainable financing, public-private partnerships, and scalable WASH solutions.

The conclave recognised the Swachhata Saathis of the Lighthouse Initiative Phase II for their contribution to community-led sanitation action. Their recognition highlighted the critical role of local champions in strengthening participation, ownership and the sustainability of WASH outcomes on the ground.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

'Unlocking WASH Impact through Partnerships', moderated by Mr. Prabhakar Lingareddy, Executive Vice President & Head – Social Investments, ITC Limited brought together stakeholders from government, industry and the development ecosystem and explored the next frontier of WASH, service reliability, community ownership, source sustainability, digital governance and integrated water and sanitation systems.

'Philanthropy and the Future of the WASH Sector', moderated by Ms. Kaveri Dhavan, Associate Director, Dasra explored how philanthropic capital can accelerate innovation and support long-term, inclusive and scalable WASH solutions. The discussion examined opportunities to strengthen collaboration, mobilise resources and build sustainable models for the sector's future.

FIRESIDE CHAT ON A SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF WASH IN INDIA

The Day 2 fireside chat brought together Ms. Naina Lal Kidwai and Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, to discuss priorities for India's next phase of WASH development. The conversation highlighted the importance of strong local institutions, accountability and a shift from infrastructure creation towards resilient systems that deliver sustained outcomes.

NATIONAL THEMATIC MASTERCLASSES

The National Thematic Masterclass on Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) to Cement brought together stakeholders across waste management, cement and urban systems. The closed-door discussion explored the practical challenges and opportunities across the RDF value chain, from segregation, preprocessing and drying to fuel quality, logistics, cost viability and long-term collaboration between ULBs, waste processors and cement manufacturers.

The National Thematic Masterclass on 'Tourism & WASH: Financing for the Future', brought together stakeholders to explore how destinations can move towards integrated, sustainable and financially viable WASH systems. Using the Dwarka-Okha integrated solid and liquid waste management model as a point of discussion, the closed-door roundtable examined the role of institutional coordination, catalytic finance, service delivery, behaviour change and long-term O&M. The conversation focused on a critical question: How can tourism destinations build WASH systems that work not just during peak periods, but sustainably over time?

JULY

ISC's webinar, 'Water, Nature, Progress' brought together sector leaders like Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Mr. Parameswaran Iyer, Executive Director, World Bank Group and Mr. Richard Damania, Chief Economist. Sustainable Development Practice Group, World Bank, to explore water security as a driver of economic growth and climate resilience. Discussions highlighted the need to scale proven solutions through stronger governance, investment, water reuse, and circular economy approaches.

India Sanitation Coalition (ISC) advanced its Integrated Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) initiative in collaboration with District Administration of Sindhudurg Ms. Nataisha Patel, CEO, ISC, presented a roadmap outlining key focus areas, including scientific waste management, source segregation, recycling, plastic waste management, and waste-to-wealth solutions. Initiative aims to strengthen coordination among stakeholders, promote a circular economy, and develop sustainable waste management practices that protect Sindhudurg's natural environment and support its tourism sector.

In collaboration with GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF), ISC supported community-led sanitation improvements in Kancharam village, Rajam Mandal, Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh. Through collective Shramdaan involving Self-Help Groups (SHGs), youth volunteers, sanitation workers, Gram Panchayat representatives, and residents, the initiative strengthened drainage networks, waste segregation, composting infrastructure, and community ownership of sanitation systems