

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP



CHIEF GUEST

Shri Lanka Dinakar

Chairman, 20 Points Programme, Government of Andhra Pradesh

As Chairman of the 20 Points Programme, Government of Andhra Pradesh, he brings the perspective of state-level development monitoring and implementation to the conference. His presence underlines the priority the State accords to sustainable water management across urban and rural Andhra Pradesh.



GUEST OF HONOUR

Ar. Dr. Amogh Kumar Gupta

Chairman, BoG, School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada

Ar. Dr. Amogh Kumar Gupta chairs the Board of Governors of the School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada. A strong proponent of indigenous solutions to water management, he has consistently argued for reviving traditional water systems as living infrastructure rather than heritage. The conference is convened under his patronage.



CHIEF PATRON

Prof. Dr. Ramesh Srikonda

Director, School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada

Prof. Dr. Ramesh Srikonda is the Director of the School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, an Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. His academic and professional work spans architecture, planning, sustainable development and the built environment. His engagement with sustainability and climate-responsive development complements the conference vision of resilient urban and rural water systems.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Prof. Dr. Venkata Krishna Kumar Sadhu

Professor of Architecture, SPA Vijayawada

Prof. Dr. Venkata Krishna Kumar Sadhu is Professor of Architecture at SPA Vijayawada, with over 27 years of teaching and professional experience. As the **Keynote Speaker**, he will provide a broader perspective on the role of planning in sustainable development, positioning water management within the larger framework of sustainable and resilient settlements.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Andhra Pradesh's water systems are under pressure from two directions at once: cities growing faster than their networks, and a climate that no longer delivers water on the old schedule. Securing supply for urban and rural settlements now turns as much on policy, financing and institutional capacity as on engineering. This one-day national conference brings together policy makers, practitioners, financiers and academics across four themes — from water security and the circular water economy to digital twins and supply chain financing. The aim is practical: what would a circular, climate-resilient water economy actually take to build.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Water Security: Policy, Planning & Design

01

Circular Water Economy & Indigenous Knowledge Systems

02

Digital Twins & Emerging Technologies for Water Security

03

Water Supply Chain Management and Financing

04

ORGANISED BY

School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada — an Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Government of India

CHIEF PATRON(S)

Ar. Dr. Amogh Kumar Gupta, Chairman, BoG, SPAV

Prof. Dr. Ramesh Srikonda, Director, SPAV

PATRONS

Prof. Dr. Adinarianane R
Head, Dept. of Planning

Prof. Amitava Sarkar
Head, Dept. of Architecture

CONVENOR

Dr. R. N. S. Murthy

CO-CONVENOR

Dr. Arpan Paul Singh

VENUE

Krishnaveni Sabhagar, SPA Vijayawada



SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE,
VIJAYAWADA

ONE-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sustainable Water Management for Urban & Rural Andhra Pradesh

*Towards a Circular, Climate-Resilient Water
Economy*

29 AUGUST 2026 · 09:30 – 17:30

Krishnaveni Sabhagar
School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada
An Institution of National Importance, Ministry of Education

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS & EXPERTS

POLICY & PRACTICE EXPERTS



Dr. Rajesh Kumar Jain

Chief Engineer, NWDA, Jal Shakti, New Delhi

Dr. Rajesh Kumar Jain represents the national institutional perspective on water management through his association with Jal Shakti, Government of India. His contribution focuses on the **institutional and policy framework for mandatory rainwater harvesting**. This is particularly relevant to strengthening decentralised water resources, reducing dependence on conventional supply systems and enhancing groundwater recharge, reinforcing the role of policy, regulation and institutional mechanisms.



Shri P. Devendra Rao

Chief Engineer, NWDA, Jal Shakti, Hyderabad

Shri P. Devendra Rao is a Chief Engineer with the National Water Development Agency, Jal Shakti, Hyderabad, bringing extensive experience in water-resource planning and engineering. He will explore the potential of **stepped wells, tanks and ooranis as recharge vectors**, connecting traditional water systems with contemporary water-security strategies and highlighting the value of decentralised, locally adapted approaches to conservation.



Shri Jitendra Pal

Investment Operations Specialist, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Shri Jitendra Pal is an Investment Operations Specialist with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. His participation brings the critical perspective of **infrastructure finance and investment** to sustainable water management. He will address the financing of urban water systems and the challenge of mobilising resources for resilient infrastructure, showing how water-sector priorities can be translated into viable investments and implementable projects.

POLICY & PRACTICE EXPERTS (CONTD.)



Shri Mithun Anand

Co-founder & Chief Technology Officer, Inn pact Solutions

Shri Mithun Anand is Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of Inn pact Solutions, working at the intersection of geospatial technologies, digital transformation, climate action and water and sanitation. He will speak on **Digital Twins for Urban Water Networks**, bringing the technology dimension to real-time monitoring, system modelling, infrastructure management and data-driven decision-making for utilities.



Shri Kaushik Ghosh

Faculty, Urban Management Centre, Kolkata

Shri Kaushik Ghosh brings an urban-management perspective to water and sanitation systems, with experience in urban environmental management and water-related programmes. His contribution focuses on **Water Supply Chain Management**, highlighting the interconnected nature of water sourcing, treatment, distribution, consumption and service delivery, and moving beyond individual assets towards integrated water-system management.

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXPERTS



Prof. S. Ramakrishna Rao

Former Vice-Chancellor, Krishna University

Prof. S. Ramakrishna Rao is an academic and environmental engineering expert and former Vice-Chancellor of Krishna University. His background in environmental engineering provides a strong technical foundation for addressing water quality, treatment and environmental management. His contribution focuses on the **reuse of water through natural treatment systems**, directly addressing the principles of a circular water economy through recovery, treatment and productive reuse.

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXPERTS (CONTD.)



Prof. Dr. Ayon Kumar Tarafdar

Professor, Department of Planning & Head, A-CUPCB, SPA Vijayawada

Prof. Dr. Ayon Kumar Tarafdar heads the **AMRUT Centre of Urban Planning for Capacity Building (A-CUPCB-SPAV)**, with over 23 years of experience in research, teaching and professional practice across climate-sensitive development, resilience, environmental planning and spatial planning.



CONFERENCE CONVENOR

Dr. R. N. S. Murthy

Environmental Planner, SPA Vijayawada

Dr. R. N. S. Murthy is an Environmental Planner at SPA Vijayawada, working on environmental planning and sustainable resource management. He speaks on **rainwater harvesting** as a strategy for decentralised water management, reducing runoff and supporting groundwater recharge at the local level.



Shri Rajeev R

Environmental Planner, SPA Vijayawada

Shri Rajeev R is an Assistant Professor of Planning at SPA Vijayawada, specialising in Environmental Planning. His research covers **environmental regions, waterbodies and wetlands, climate resilience, carrying capacity and adaptive planning** — water resources as part of larger ecological systems.



CONFERENCE CO-CONVENOR

Dr. Arpan Paul Singh

Urban Planner, SPA Vijayawada

Dr. Arpan Paul Singh is an Urban Planner at SPA Vijayawada, working across urban planning, environmental management, infrastructure and spatial economics. He speaks on the **economic benefits of Digital Twins in urban water management** and how digital innovation delivers measurable gains for utilities and cities.