

Newsletter

Welcome to the AWWAIndia Quarterly Newsletter!

Dear Reader,

Welcome to our latest newsletter! We're pleased to share exclusive updates and highlights from the fourth quarter of 2025. This quarterly publication keeps our water sector community informed about key activities, events, and developments within our organization and across the industry. We hope you enjoy this issue and stay connected with the latest advancements and opportunities in the water sector.

Conference AICE25:

The AWWAIndia 4th Annual International Conference & Exhibition (AICE25) was held from 8th to 10th December 2025 at Hotel Radisson Blu, Indore, with support from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The event brought together water professionals from over 10 states, including industry experts, government officials, and students. Distinguished guests included Ms. Grace Lalrindiki Pachuau (Deputy Secretary, MoHUA), Mr. David LaFrance (CEO, AWWA, USA), Ms. Nuzhat Qureshi (Joint Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation), and special virtual addresses by Ms. Isha Kalia (Joint Secretary, MoHUA) and Mr. KVS Choudary (MD, MP Jal Nigam).

A pre-conference workshop on "Capacity Building for Water Projects – Success in India" was held on 8th December, attended by more than 80 professionals. Leading companies such as Laxmi Civil Engineering Pvt. Ltd., JWIL, RDS, and Autodesk shared their perspectives, followed by an open-house discussion.

The two-day technical program (9th–10th December) featured eight sessions with over 35 speakers, covering a wide range of topics including Continuous Water Supply Systems, Smart Cities and Water Solutions, Women in Water, Asset Management in Water & Wastewater Systems, Sustainable Solutions, and Achieving Water Resilience. The conference received an overwhelming response to its call for abstracts, with high-quality submissions from around the world.

Some of the key papers presented were as below:

a) Water Sector – Opportunities & Challenges, Urban India - Indore Water Supply

Presented by M. Dileep Yadav, IAS – Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC)

Indore Municipal Commissioner gave insights on the city's water management challenges and innovations. With a population exceeding 3 million, Indore's water demand has surpassed 540 MLD and is expected to rise by another 400 MLD. The city relies primarily on the Narmada River, supported by local reservoirs and groundwater, and maintains efficient supply across 22 zones using SCADA monitoring.

He highlighted the pressing issue of 30% Non-Revenue Water (NRW), stressing the need for recovery and efficiency before new investments. The Commissioner also showcased Indore's leadership in water reuse—treating 367 MLD of sewage daily and reusing 100 MLD for irrigation, agriculture, lakes, and industry, generating revenue and promoting sustainability.

b) 24x7 DFT Water Supply – Odisha Experience

Presented by Mr. Pradipta Kumar Swain, Member, National Task Force

The paper showcased the urgent need to shift from intermittent to 24x7 continuous water supply in Indian cities to effectively prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases. It highlighted WATCO's pioneering role in implementing Drink From Tap (DFT) projects, which have set a benchmark nationally and influenced new government guidelines and the December 2023 revision of the CPHEEO manual. The study detailed a systematic approach—using GIS-based asset mapping, DMA sizing, consumer surveys, hydraulic network modelling, and advanced pressure management—to ensure safe and reliable supply. Results from DFT project areas demonstrated zero waterborne disease outbreaks and full achievement of Service Level Benchmarks (SLBs). The paper concludes that nationwide adoption of continuous water supply is essential for public health and urban resilience.

c) Sustainable Data Servers – The Water and Climate Imperative

Presented by Ms. Rashmi Khunteta, GDS Water, Mott MacDonald Pvt. Ltd.

The paper addressed the urgent environmental challenges posed by the rapid expansion of data centres, which now consume 2–3% of global electricity and vast amounts of water, with usage rising exponentially due to AI and digital transformation. It emphasized that continued reliance on fossil fuels and water-intensive cooling threatens global climate targets and exacerbates water stress, especially in vulnerable regions. The paper reviewed recent guidelines from UNEP, ITU, and the World Bank promoting energy and water efficiency, and highlighted technological innovations such as direct-to-chip and immersion cooling, as well as China's pioneering underwater data centres that drastically cut energy and water consumption. The analysis concluded that building sustainable data centres—powered by renewable energy and designed for water efficiency—is essential to prevent runaway emissions and resource conflicts, making sustainable practices a non-negotiable imperative for the digital future.

d) Sustainable Solutions for India's Smart Cities

Presented by Ms. Garima Mittal, Arcadis India Pvt. Ltd.

The paper highlighted sustainable water solutions essential for India's smart cities, emphasizing digital innovation, water reuse, and integrated management. It addressed the challenges of rapid urbanization, aging infrastructure, and climate risks, and showcased global best practices such as IoT-driven monitoring, smart metering, and citizen engagement. Indian programs like the Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT, and Jal Jeevan Mission are advancing water efficiency, though most projects are still in pilot phases. Key barriers—such as funding constraints, fragmented governance, and limited public participation—were discussed. The presentation concluded with recommendations to scale successful pilots, strengthen policy alignment, foster partnerships, and enhance community involvement for resilient and efficient urban water systems.

e) Asset Management – Corrosion of Water Pipelines and Its Mitigation

Presented by Dr. Buddhadeb Duari, Lalita Infraprojects Pvt. Ltd.

The paper explained the pervasive issue of corrosion affecting all pipelines and structures, whether buried or aboveground. It described how corrosion commonly manifests as either uniform or pitting corrosion, influenced by factors such as design and environmental conditions. The causes and mitigation strategies for buried pipelines differ from those for aboveground pipelines. For buried pipelines, primary protection is

provided by protective coatings, while cathodic protection serves as a secondary measure to address coating defects. In contrast, aboveground pipelines rely on multi-layer barrier coatings to mitigate corrosion. The paper emphasized that while corrosion cannot be entirely prevented, it can be effectively managed through appropriate mitigation techniques tailored to the specific type and location of the structure.

f) Continuous Water Supply in Indian Cities through Digital Resilience

Presented by Mr. Amritanshu Kumar, Bentley Systems

The paper demonstrated how Digital Twin technology can enable the transition from intermittent to continuous (24x7) water supply in Indian cities. Leveraging national initiatives like AMRUT and the 2024 Drink from Tap guidelines, the study showed that Digital Twins—real-time, integrated models of urban water systems—significantly enhance leak detection, operational efficiency, water quality monitoring, and transparency. Drawing from case experiences, it highlighted that phased implementation, starting with pilot zones and scaling citywide, delivers measurable reductions in Non-Revenue Water (NRW), energy savings, improved service reliability, and greater citizen satisfaction. The evidence confirms that Digital Twins provide a scalable, effective pathway for cities to achieve resilient, safe, and citizen-centric water supply systems, aligning with national policy goals and advancing urban water governance in India.

Students of IIT, Indore and CEPT University also participated in the poster presentation.

AICE25 provided a platform for experts, researchers, manufacturers, government officials and practicing water professionals to share knowledge, discuss recent developments, network with peers, and collaborate on new ideas.

AIA sincerely thanks all attendees for their invaluable time and contributions to the success of AICE 2025. Key highlights from the conference include:

- 1. Young Professionals Committee:** A Young Professionals Committee has been established under the leadership of Mr. Abhishek Jadhav to foster collaboration and growth among emerging leaders in the water sector. Young professionals interested in joining are invited to contact Mr. Abhishek Jadhav at mkt.ws2epl@gmail.com
- 2. Executive Committee Appointment:** Ms. Mridula Deshpande (Mott MacDonald, Mumbai) has been invited to join the Executive Committee, supporting the long-term growth of the AWWAIndia Association.
- 3. Publication Committee:** A Publication Committee, chaired by Ms. Garima Mittal (Arcadis, Mumbai), will produce a quarterly technical newsletter featuring industry insights and expert articles. Water professionals interested in contributing their work are encouraged to contact Ms. Garima Mittal at garima72@gmail.com.
- 4. Best Poster Session Awards:** Two awards were presented to the students for outstanding Poster Sessions at AICE 2025. The awardees were Mr. Pradip Kailas Gopal and Mr. Omkar Mukund Kane.
- 5. Lifetime Achievement Award:** The AWWAIndia Association proudly presented its inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award in the Water Sector to Mr. Shirish Kardile (K Consultant, Nasik) in recognition of his outstanding contributions and lasting impact on the industry. The award was graciously accepted by his wife, Dr. Mangal Kardile, honoring his enduring legacy and dedication to advancing water management in India.
- 6. Annual Lifetime Achievement Award:** The Executive Committee announced that the “Shirish Kardile Lifetime Achievement Award in Water Sector” will be presented annually at the conference. Award criteria are available on the AWWAIndia website.

AICE25 showcased the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and excellence driving India’s water sector forward. We thank everyone for their dedication and enthusiasm at AICE25. Stay tuned for future updates and opportunities. With your continued support, we aim to foster even greater innovation and leadership in the water sector.

A glimpse of AICE25 is available below:



A glimpse of the board meeting held on 8th December 2025



Inauguration
**OF THE
CONFERENCE**



Winners of best Poster Session Presentation



Participants Immersed in Conference Proceedings



A glimpse from Women in Water section



Inauguration
**OF THE
EXHIBITION
STANDS**



**Delegates Interacting
at the Exhibition Stands**



**Students showcasing
their Exhibits**

Professional Networking in a Relaxed Setting



Important *Announcement*

AWWAIndia Association is excited to announce its 5th Annual International Conference & Exhibition (AICE26), scheduled to be held in New Delhi in October 2026. Exact dates will be shared soon, stay tuned for updates on future events by visiting www.awwaindia.org

AWWAIndia Association remains committed to advancing knowledge sharing, professional development, and advocacy in the water sector. We invite all water professionals to join our mission for sustainable water management in India. By becoming a member, you'll help shape the future of water resources—let's work together to make a meaningful impact in India and beyond.

Why become an AIA member?

- Automatic enrollment in AWWA USA membership
- Access to exclusive content, free webinars, and quarterly digital issues of Opflow India
- Quarterly AWWAIndia Newsletter
- Discounted rates on books, manuals, and events from AWWA and AWWAIndia Association

Join us today!

Visit www.awwaindia.org
or email us at info@awwaindia.org for more details.

*We look forward to welcoming you and collaborating
to advance the water sector together.*