

SUSTAINABLE
WATER
MANAGEMENT
CONCLAVE Maharashtra Edition

30th OCTOBER, 2025 MUMBAI

Building a Resilient & Sustainable Water Infrastructure for Viksit Maharashtra

EVENT REPORT



Sustainable Water Management Conclave- Maharashtra Edition

The Sustainable Water Management Conclave, held in Mumbai, **presented by Autodesk in association with APAC Media**, brought together policymakers, technologists, industry leaders, and experts to address India's urgent water challenges.

As rapid urbanization, water scarcity, and climate change intensify, the conclave focused on how digital innovation and collaborative governance can shape resilient and sustainable water ecosystems.

Centered on the theme "Resilient and Sustainable Water Management Systems for Viksit Maharashtra," the discussions aimed to explore how technology, partnerships, and forward-looking policies can help Maharashtra lead India's path toward a water-secure and future-ready Viksit Bharat 2047.



Building Resilient & Sustainable Water Ecosystems through Technology



In his keynote address, **Prithviraj B.P., IAS, Additional Commissioner, Pune Municipal Corporation, Government of Maharashtra**, spoke about the growing challenge of water scarcity and the urgent need to build resilient water ecosystems through technology and citizen participation. He highlighted India's massive investment in water and sanitation programs such as the Jal Jeevan Mission, AMRUT, and Swachh Bharat.

Citing Pune as an example, he explained how rapid urbanization is putting pressure on limited resources, with 80% of the population living in just 20% of the area. He emphasized the need to improve water service quality, reduce non-revenue water losses, and involve citizens through initiatives like Jal Sakhi and Jal Chetna, which promote conservation and awareness. "We must secure each and every drop of water — this is not just a government responsibility but a collective mission. Technology and citizen participation together can help us build a truly water-resilient urban future," he said.



In his keynote address, **Dr. Kailas Shinde, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Government of Maharashtra**, spoke about the growing pressure on water resources amid rapid urbanization and the need for efficient, sustainable water management. He explained how Maharashtra faces competing demands between agriculture, industry, and urban areas, emphasizing that drinking water remains the top priority.

Citing Navi Mumbai as a model, he shared how the city has achieved 100% water treatment and supplies treated water to industries and major infrastructure projects, including the upcoming airport and bullet train. "Navi Mumbai has shown that 100% water treatment and reuse is possible with the right technology and planning," he said. Dr. Shinde also highlighted the use of digital monitoring, leak detection, dual plumbing systems, and industry collaboration to reduce non-revenue water and improve water-use efficiency.



In his special keynote address, **Radhabinod Aribam Sharma, IAS, Commissioner and Administrator, Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation, Government of Maharashtra**, emphasized that water scarcity is a growing concern despite its abundance on Earth, as less than one percent of it is usable. Using examples from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Mira-Bhayandar, he highlighted the widening gap between water demand and availability, underscoring the urgent need for resilience, sustainability, and circular water use.

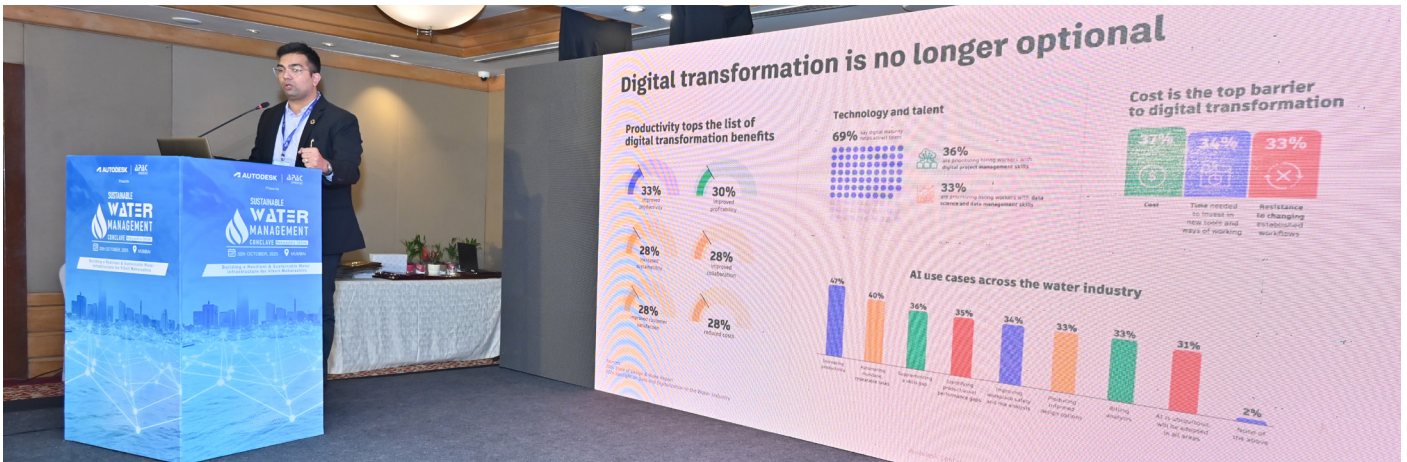
Radhabinod further stressed that technology such as AI, GIS mapping, and digital monitoring can play a role, but their effectiveness depends on four key pillars- capacity building, awareness, participation, and convergence. "Technology alone won't solve our water crisis unless people are trained, aware, and willing to participate," he noted.

Industry Perspective: Nikhil Bagalkotkar, Director - Technical Sales, Autodesk



Presenting an industry perspective, **Nikhil Bagalkotkar, Director- Technical Sales, Autodesk**, spoke about the urgent need for digital transformation in India's water and infrastructure sectors amid rising climate challenges, urbanization, and soaring costs.

He described India's current phase as a 'watershed moment' in water management. With water demand expected to rise by 50% by 2047, he said the sector must embrace digital tools like AI, GIS, SCADA, and drones for smarter project execution. Demonstrating Autodesk's India-specific solutions, he shared how AI helped optimize the design of the Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant, saving 4,500 man-hours and €300,000.

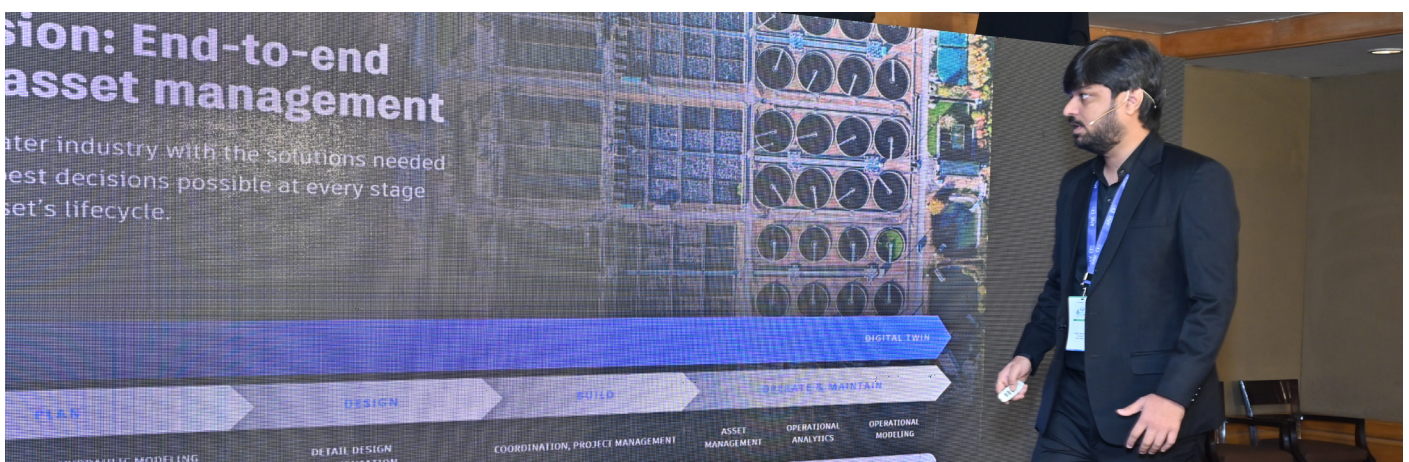


Technical Presentation & Case Study: Videet Deshmukh, Product Specialist Sales, Autodesk

In his technical presentation, **Videet Deshmukh, Product Specialist Sales, Autodesk**, highlighted how the company has become a global leader in water infrastructure software by integrating GIS, hydraulics, and hydrology into one unified platform. He explained that Autodesk's water infrastructure solutions help authorities manage real-time challenges like flooding, drainage blockages, and water pressure drops through AI- and machine learning-based predictive analysis. He emphasized the power of digital twins, which create live replicas of water and drainage networks to support faster, data-driven decision-making.



Videet also spoke about Autodesk's cloud-based collaboration tools that allow consultants, contractors, and officials to work together on the same model simultaneously, improving efficiency and accountability. He explained how Autodesk's Info360 suite enables real-time asset management, simulation, and maintenance planning, making water operations smarter, faster, and more resilient.



Panel Discussion

Towards a Water-Secure Future: Policy, Technology & Collaboration for Viksit Maharashtra



Panelists:

- **Ajay Saxena**, Sector Head (Infrastructure Development) & PPP Head, MITRA, Government of Maharashtra
- **Viraj Loliyana**, Sr. Advisor, Maharashtra Institution for Transformation (MITRA), Government of Maharashtra
- **Rajni S. Patil**, Executive Engineer, (Information Management & Training Division) Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra
- **Pradip P. Kalbar, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, IIT Bombay

Moderator: **Preethi Rao**, Tech Sales Manager, Autodesk

The panel discussed how Maharashtra can move towards becoming a water-secure and climate-resilient state through better policy, planning, and use of technology. Speakers highlighted the importance of capacity building, data-driven decision-making, and collaboration across departments to improve water management. They spoke about the use of technologies like SCADA and real-time monitoring systems for better control of river basins and dams. The discussion also emphasized the need to balance advanced digital solutions with ground realities, ensuring reliable and equitable water supply before moving to tools like digital twins.

The panel further explored how public-private partnerships can play a key role in addressing infrastructure gaps. They stressed the importance of proper feasibility studies, cost assessments, and active government participation for such partnerships to succeed. The conversation closed with a forward-looking view on creating a circular water economy by 2047—reducing wastewater discharge, promoting reuse of treated water, and building resilient systems supported by innovative financing and global collaboration.

Key Takeaways of the Conclave

- Water scarcity requires urgent, collective, and technology-driven solutions
- Sustainable water management depends on both innovation and citizen participation
- Digital transformation is key to improving efficiency, transparency, and accountability
- Circular water use and reuse of treated water can ease pressure on resources
- Public-private partnerships can accelerate infrastructure development and resilience
- Achieving a water-secure Maharashtra by 2047 needs an integrated policy, technology, and community action

GLIMPSES



Head Office – India

Office No. - 1410, 1411, 14th Floor, Iconic Corenthum , Sector - 62, Noida - (201310)