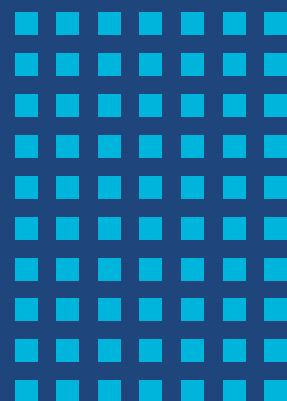


PUNE KNOWLEDGE CLUSTER

Established by the Office of The Principal Scientific Adviser, to the GoI under The City Knowledge & Innovation Cluster Initiative (CKIC), the Pune Knowledge Cluster aims to bring together Academic Institutions, R&D organizations, Industries, NGOs, Civic Bodies, Local & State governments to collectively work for the betterment of Pune City by leveraging the science & technology capabilities of its partner organizations.

From The PKC Desk



Greetings, dear readers!

We are back with the next issue of PEAKS – PKC's Quarterly Newsletter! In this issue, we highlight key milestones from PKC's journey from April to June 2026.

The **Cover Story** features our program, **Building a Water-Resilient Pune: The Launch of the Pune Sponge Cities Collective**. The **Sneak Peak** section gives the reader a peek into **WEnyan Engagement Week 2026: Celebrating Four Years of Empowering Women in Science**. In this issue, we are also **In Conversation** with **Dr. Prashant Agrawal, CEO, Microfilter Polymers Ltd..**

The section **Innovations in Action** showcases **Boson Whitewater**.

In this issue, the readers will also get an overview of the events that PKC has organized and important partnerships that PKC has fostered within the last quarter.

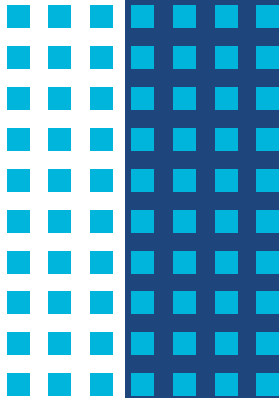
This issue also marks the launch of **KINETICS Knowledge & Innovation Network for Ecosystem Transformation & Impact** —PKC's flagship dialogue and podcast series featuring conversations with leading scientists, innovators, policymakers, and industry leaders.

Happy reading!

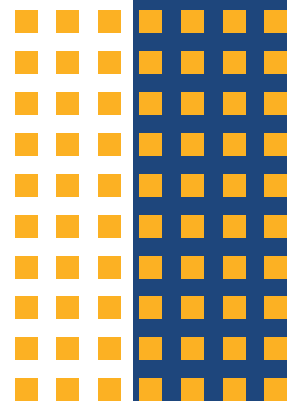


Issue available at
<https://www.pkc.org.in/resources/newsletter/>
Or Scan the QR Code

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Cover Story

Building a Water-Resilient Pune:

The Launch of the Pune Sponge Cities Collective

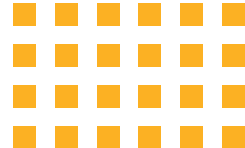
Cities are increasingly on the frontlines of climate change. Across India, urban centres are witnessing a growing paradox: intense rainfall events that overwhelm drainage systems during the monsoon, followed by prolonged periods of water stress in the summer. These are not isolated challenges, but symptoms of a changing climate interacting with rapid urbanisation, declining groundwater reserves, the loss of natural drainage networks, and the expansion of impervious built environments.

Addressing this reality demands more than conventional engineering solutions. It calls for integrated, science-driven urban water management that treats water not as a problem to be drained away, but as a resource to be retained, restored, and managed across the urban landscape.

Recognising this imperative, the **Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC)**, with support from the **Wipro Foundation**, launched the **Pune Sponge Cities Collective** on **20 May 2026**. Conceived as a multi-stakeholder platform, the Collective seeks to strengthen Pune's water resilience by bringing together scientific expertise, technological innovation, institutional collaboration, and community participation to advance nature-based solutions for urban water management.

Reimagining the Urban Water Cycle

The concept of a Sponge City represents a fundamental shift in the way cities interact with water. Rather than rapidly conveying stormwater away through conventional drainage infrastructure, Sponge Cities are designed to absorb, retain, infiltrate, filter, and gradually release rainwater by restoring natural hydrological processes.



Green infrastructure, groundwater recharge, wetland restoration, permeable surfaces, and water-sensitive urban design together help reduce flood risk while simultaneously strengthening water security, improving ecological health, and enhancing the resilience of cities to climate variability.

Internationally, Sponge City approaches are increasingly recognised as a cornerstone of climate adaptation and sustainable urban development. For rapidly urbanising cities such as Pune, they offer an opportunity to reconcile ecological restoration with urban growth while building long-term resilience against future climate risks.

A Collaborative Platform for Action

The Pune Sponge Cities Collective has been established as a collaborative platform that brings together research institutions, civil society organisations, technical experts, practitioners, and community stakeholders to co-design practical, evidence-based, and scalable solutions for urban water resilience.

Its work will focus on three strategic priorities:

- ◆ Demonstrating pilot interventions that strengthen groundwater recharge, enhance rainwater retention, and promote water-sensitive urban infrastructure.
- ◆ Developing **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Water** to improve data integration, enable evidence-based decision-making, and foster meaningful citizen participation.
- ◆ Building institutional capacity while facilitating policy engagement through collaborative research, knowledge exchange, and cross-sector learning.

By integrating scientific evidence with local knowledge and collaborative governance, the Collective aims to develop models that are both locally relevant and scalable across Indian cities confronting similar climate and water challenges.

The Power of Partnerships

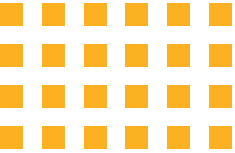
Urban resilience cannot be achieved through fragmented interventions. It depends upon sustained collaboration across institutions, disciplines, and communities.

Reflecting this philosophy, the Pune Sponge Cities Collective convenes organisations with complementary expertise in hydrogeology, watershed management, ecological restoration, environmental education, and community engagement. Founding collaborators include **ACWADAM, Bhujal Abhiyan Trust, Punarbharan Foundation, Centre for Development Studies and Activities (CDSA), Centre for Environment Education, Tree Public Foundation, Jeevitnadi – Living River Foundation**, alongside several other organisations committed to strengthening Pune's urban water systems.

The inaugural strategy meeting at Pune Knowledge Cluster marked not merely the launch of a new initiative, but the beginning of a long-term collaborative process aimed at building resilient urban systems through shared knowledge, scientific evidence, and collective action.

Contributing to National and Global Agendas

The Pune Sponge Cities Collective aligns with India's growing emphasis on climate-resilient urban development and integrated water resource management. Its objectives complement key national initiatives, including the **National Water Mission** under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change**



(NAPCC), AMRUT 2.0, and the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain** campaign, all of which advocate sustainable water management, groundwater recharge, stormwater management, and participatory governance.

The initiative also contributes to India's climate adaptation commitments under the **Paris Agreement** and the country's **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** by advancing nature-based solutions and strengthening urban resilience.

Equally, the Collective advances several **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. It directly supports **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)** by promoting sustainable water management and protecting water-related ecosystems; **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)** by fostering climate-resilient urban planning; and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)** through adaptation-focused, evidence-based interventions. Its collaborative framework further reinforces **SDG 15 (Life on Land)** through ecosystem restoration and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)** by demonstrating the value of multi-stakeholder partnerships in addressing complex urban challenges.

Looking Ahead

The challenges of urban water management cannot be addressed through isolated projects or institutional silos. They require systems thinking, interdisciplinary collaboration, robust scientific evidence, and sustained engagement across sectors.

The Pune Sponge Cities Collective embodies this integrated approach. By creating a platform that connects research, policy, technology, and practice, it seeks not only to improve Pune's resilience to floods and water scarcity but also to generate knowledge, demonstrate scalable solutions, and inform the future of climate-resilient urban development in India.

As cities continue to navigate the accelerating impacts of climate change, initiatives such as the Pune Sponge Cities Collective underscore an important lesson: resilient cities are built not solely through infrastructure, but through the integration of science, partnerships, ecological thinking, and collective action.



In Conversation

Dr. Prashant Agrawal

CEO, Microfilter Polymers Ltd.



Q: You have been working in the water treatment space for over a decade. What was the first real problem you encountered that made you believe this sector needed deeper intervention, not just products but systems?

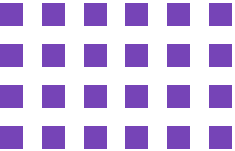
Coming from a chemistry background, I initially believed that technology alone could solve most water-related challenges. However, I soon realized that water treatment is fundamentally a systems problem.

A purification system may work perfectly in controlled conditions, but real-world performance depends on factors such as source variability, maintenance practices, infrastructure quality, operational discipline, and user behaviour. Over time, it became clear that long-term impact in this sector cannot come from products alone, but from designing systems that continue to function reliably under diverse conditions.

Q: Water purification is often seen as a solved problem at the household level. Where do you think this perception breaks down in real-world contexts, especially in India?

The perception breaks down because water conditions are highly variable, particularly in India. TDS levels, contamination patterns, groundwater quality, and municipal supply systems can differ significantly even within short distances.

In this issue of PEAKS, we are *in conversation* with **Dr. Prashant Agrawal, CEO, Microfilter Polymers Ltd.**, a company working in the water treatment and purification sector across domestic, commercial, industrial, and community-scale applications. With over a decade of experience in the field, Dr. Agrawal shares insights on the evolving challenges of water infrastructure, decentralized treatment systems, sustainability, and the realities of scaling water solutions in India.



Most systems are designed for standardized conditions, whereas actual environments are dynamic and unpredictable. The challenge today is not only purification, but ensuring long-term reliability, maintenance, and access to safe water under changing conditions.

Q: Microfilters operate across domestic, commercial, and industrial systems. How do you approach designing solutions that work across such vastly different scales and water conditions?

Our approach remains consistent across scales — first understand variability.

Whether it is a household system or an industrial plant, we focus on understanding changing water conditions, operational realities, and possible failure points. We prioritize adaptability, modularity, and maintainability because scalable water solutions must remain operationally and economically sustainable over time.

Q: In your experience, what is harder to solve — the technology of purification or the deployment and maintenance ecosystems around it?

Today, the larger challenge is deployment and maintenance rather than purification technology itself.

Even highly advanced systems can fail without proper maintenance, trained operators, and long-term operational support. Sustainable implementation requires strong ecosystems around the technology.

Q: Many water solutions fail not at installation but at long-term usage. What design or operational decisions have you taken to ensure sustainability beyond installation?

We design systems keeping real-world operational conditions in mind. This includes simplifying maintenance requirements, building resilience against variable water quality, and ensuring long-term serviceability.

For us, sustainability is closely linked to whether systems can continue performing effectively years after deployment.

Read more about Microfilter at <https://microfilter.org/>

Sneak Peak

WEnyan Engagement Week 2026: *Celebrating Four Years of Empowering Women in Science*

The **WEnyan Engagement Week 2026**, organised by **Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC)** with the support of **BASF Chemicals India Pvt. Ltd.**, brought together WEnyan Scholarship awardees, mentors, researchers, and experts for a week of learning, collaboration, and celebration. Marking four years of the WEnyan programme, the engagement week reflected the programme's continued commitment to strengthening the scientific ecosystem for women researchers through capacity building, mentorship, and professional development.

Designed to extend learning beyond research laboratories, the week featured a series of workshops that equipped awardees with practical skills essential for today's research landscape.



WEnyan Awardees at WEnyan Research and Impact Symposium at BASF



The programme commenced with a workshop on **"How to Build a Start-up"** at Venture Center, where participants explored the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and innovation. The session introduced researchers to the journey of translating scientific discoveries into impactful ventures by understanding problem identification, solution validation, business models, and the entrepreneurial mindset. The workshop encouraged participants to envision how research can address real-world challenges and create societal value.

Recognising the rapidly evolving digital research environment, the next workshop focused on **"Digital Literacy and Safety for Researchers & Usage of AI Tools."** Led by **Kshitija Tilak** and **Atharva Pathak**, the session provided practical guidance on responsible use of artificial intelligence, digital security, ethical research practices, and emerging technologies that can improve research productivity. Participants gained valuable insights into navigating the digital ecosystem safely while leveraging AI as an effective research tool.

Effective communication remains a critical component of successful scientific careers. To strengthen this aspect, awardees participated in an interactive workshop titled **"Block by Block: Laying the Foundations of Effective Communication,"** conducted by **Ms. Anita Nagarajan**, Communications and Editing Consultant and Chair, European Association of Science Editors (EASE) India. Through practical exercises and discussions, participants explored the principles of communicating research with clarity, purpose, and impact, enabling them to engage diverse audiences and amplify the reach of their work.

The week culminated in the **WEnyan Research and Impact Symposium 2026**, bringing together awardees, mentors, academic leaders, government representatives, and industry experts for a day of scientific exchange and celebration.

Setting the context for the symposium, **Dr. Avinash Kumbhar**, CEO, Pune Knowledge Cluster, who emphasised the importance of creating supportive ecosystems that enable women to build successful careers in science and research. **Dr. Ritika Ganguly**, Project Manager – WEnyan, presented an overview of the programme, highlighting its vision, achievements, and growing impact in supporting women researchers through mentorship, networking, and professional development opportunities.

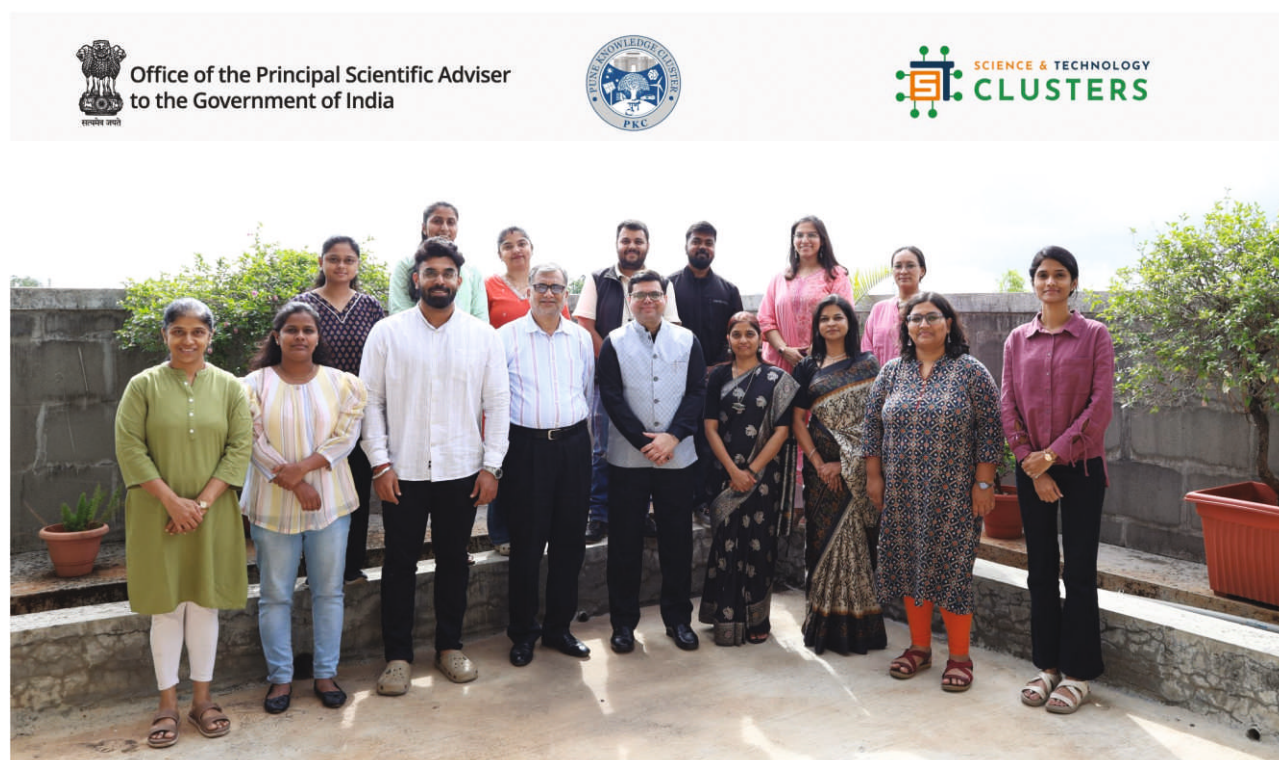
The symposium featured inspiring addresses by distinguished guests, including **Dr. Shekhar Mande**, Distinguished Professor, Bioinformatics Center, Savitribai Phule Pune University and Former Director General, CSIR; **Dr. Vishal Choudhary**, Scientist-F, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India; **Dr. Priya Nagaraj**, Senior Advisor, Pune Knowledge Cluster; and **Dr. Swaminathan Sivaram**, Honorary Professor Emeritus and INSA Emeritus Scientist, IISER Pune. Their insights highlighted the importance of scientific excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, mentorship, and inclusive research ecosystems in shaping India's innovation landscape.

One of the key highlights of the symposium was the poster presentation session, where the **24 WEnyan awardees** showcased their research to mentors and experts. The session facilitated valuable scientific discussions, constructive feedback, and opportunities for future collaborations. With the participation of **12 mentors** and a vibrant community of researchers and institutional leaders, the symposium reinforced the importance of mentorship and knowledge exchange in advancing scientific careers.



The event also marked an important milestone with the release of the **WENyan Compendium 2024–26**, celebrating the accomplishments of the scholarship awardees and documenting the programme's growing impact over the past four years.

As WENyan Engagement Week 2026 concluded, it reaffirmed that empowering women in science extends beyond providing scholarships. It requires sustained investment in mentorship, leadership development, communication skills, entrepreneurial thinking, and collaborative networks. Through initiatives such as WENyan, Pune Knowledge Cluster continues to nurture an enabling ecosystem where women researchers can excel, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to science and society.



Dr. Vishal Choudhary, Scientist 'F', Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, with the Pune Knowledge Cluster team during his visit to PKC.

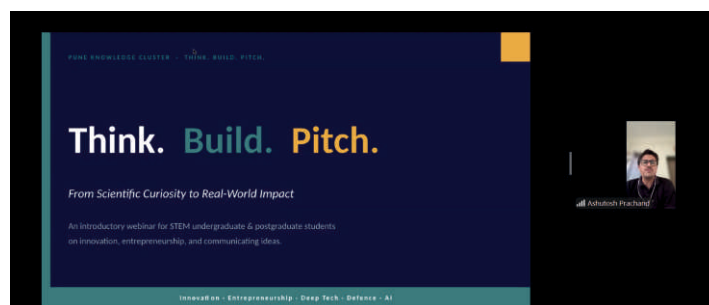
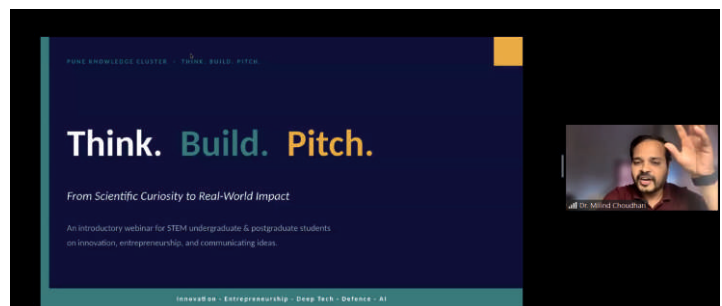
National and International Events

This section showcases events PKC has hosted to promote the building of collaborative networks and also highlights events and meetings where PKC has been invited to present its initiatives.

Events organised by PKC

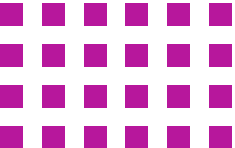
1. Think. Build. Pitch 25 May 2026

Pune Knowledge Cluster organised an online innovation bootcamp led by **Milind Choudhary** and **Ashutosh Prachand**, introducing participants to design thinking, prototyping, and pitching through an interactive, hands-on learning experience.



2. The Value of Using Simulation in Teaching | 12 May 2026

In collaboration with **Ansys (part of Synopsys)**, Pune Knowledge Cluster conducted an online workshop demonstrating how simulation tools can enhance teaching, improve conceptual understanding, and strengthen STEM education.



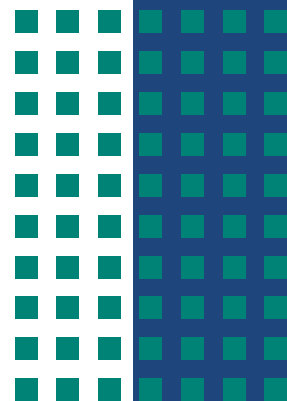
3. NASA's Artemis Mission | 27 April 2026

Pune Knowledge Cluster hosted an online public talk by **Atharva Pathak** on NASA's Artemis Mission, highlighting the programme's objectives, technological innovations, and its significance for future space exploration.

4. STEMpreneurs Series: Enabling Sustainability through Climate-Aligned Energy Transition | 21 April 2026

Pune Knowledge Cluster organised an online public talk by Dr. Priyadarshini Karve exploring climate-aligned energy transition, sustainable innovation, and opportunities in the clean energy ecosystem.

Citizen-Centric Talks



PKC's citizen-centric talks are aimed at making science accessible to citizens and increasing scientific curiosity. They are held in a hybrid mode to ensure maximum participation. Recordings of the previous talks are available on our [Youtube Channel](#).



Speaker: Dr. Shailaja Donempudi, Distinguished Scientist and Head of Business Development Group for CSIR Labs

Date: 25 June, 2026

Topic: Dr. Shailaja Donempudi shared her inspiring educational and professional journey, reflecting on the milestones, challenges, and opportunities that shaped her career in science. As part of the WEnyan Role Model Talk, she encouraged the awardees to pursue research with confidence, resilience, and curiosity while highlighting the importance of mentorship, innovation, and lifelong learning.

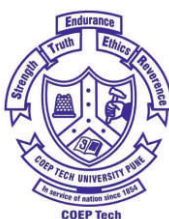
MoUs and Partnerships

In the last quarter, PKC has signed an MoU with IIT Kanpur, Adyra ESG Technologies LLP, BAIF Development Research Foundation, EarthOps, Agastya International Foundation, Center for Environmental Education (CEE), DTS Consulting GbR, COEP Technological University, Pride Hotels & Resorts, Pint of Science, National Centre for Biological Sciences- Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (NCBS-TIFR), CSIR -National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL)



CEE

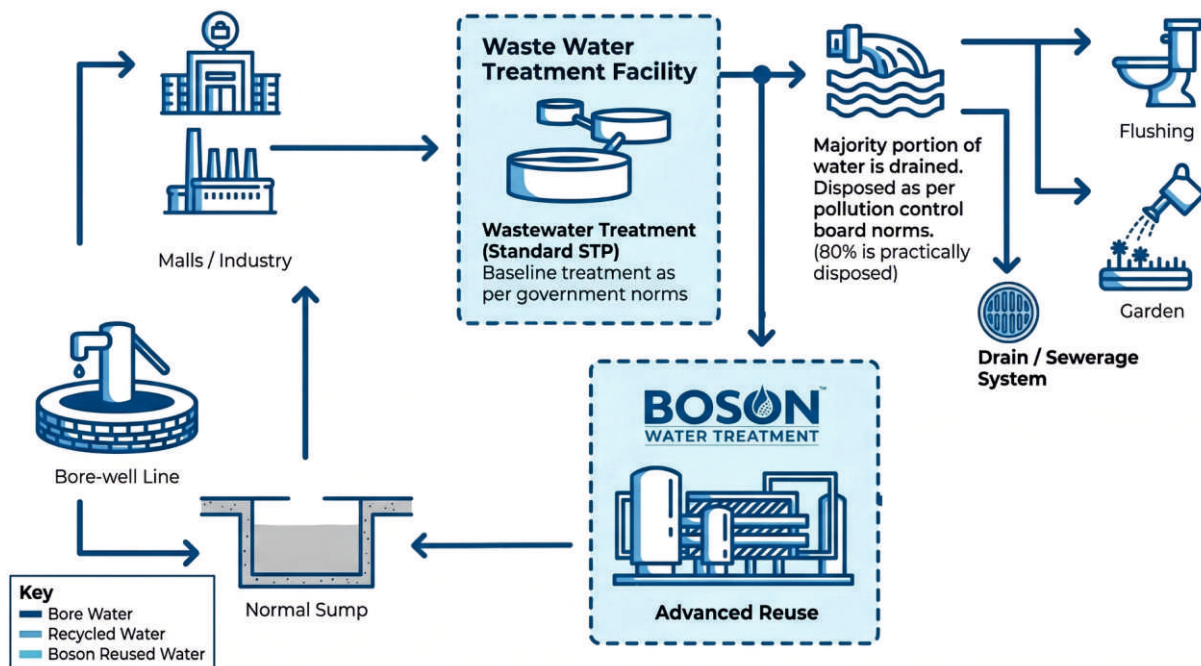
Centre for Environment Education

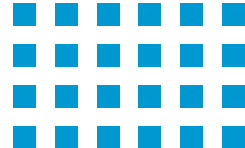


Innovations in Action

This section showcases impactful innovations that leverage science & technology for the betterment of society.

Boson Whitewater: Boson Whitewater is transforming how cities manage one of their most overlooked resources—wastewater. Founded in 2011, the company is enabling a shift from conventional water management to a circular approach, where treated wastewater is recovered, reused, and reintegrated into urban and industrial water systems. By treating wastewater as a valuable resource rather than a waste product, Boson is helping address growing concerns around freshwater scarcity and urban water security.





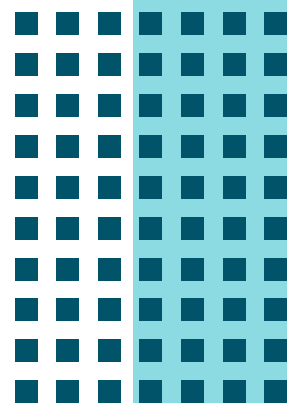
At the heart of its innovation is a decentralized water treatment model supported by proprietary treatment technologies, real-time monitoring, and automation. Through its Water-as-a-Service (WaaS) model, Boson designs, builds, owns, and operates wastewater treatment systems, supplying high-quality treated water to industries and commercial establishments without requiring significant upfront investment from users. This approach makes water reuse both economically viable and operationally scalable.

Boson has demonstrated that wastewater reuse can move beyond pilot projects to become a practical component of everyday urban infrastructure. Its solutions have enabled commercial buildings and industries to reduce dependence on freshwater, improve water efficiency, and in some cases achieve water-positive operations. By creating localized water reuse loops, the company is contributing to more resilient and resource-efficient cities.

Today, Boson Whitewater treats approximately **1.4 million litres of wastewater every day**, reducing freshwater extraction while minimizing wastewater discharge into the environment. Through technology, innovation, and a partnership-driven approach, the company is advancing a future where water is continuously recovered, reused, and valued as a critical resource for sustainable urban development.

New Series Launch

KINETICS: *Knowledge & Innovation Network for Ecosystem Transformation & Impact*

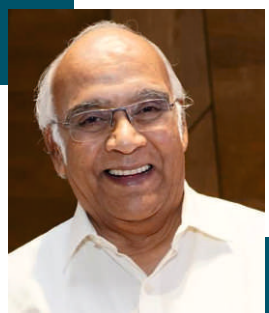


In April 2026, **Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC)** launched **KINETICS – Knowledge & Innovation Network for Ecosystem Transformation & Impact**, a conversation series that brings together some of India's leading scientists, innovators, and thought leaders.

The series was created to provide a platform for meaningful conversations on science, technology, innovation, and leadership. Through interactive team dialogues and podcast conversations, KINETICS offers an opportunity to learn from experts who have shaped research, built institutions, developed technologies, and contributed to national science and innovation initiatives.

More than just a speaker series, KINETICS is designed to encourage the exchange of ideas across disciplines, spark new collaborations, and inspire the next generation of researchers and innovators. By sharing real-world experiences, challenges, and lessons from accomplished leaders, the series helps bridge the gap between scientific research, innovation, industry, and society.

Since its launch, KINETICS has featured distinguished voices from academia, research, industry, and policy, creating a growing repository of conversations that celebrate excellence while fostering dialogue on the future of India's innovation ecosystem.

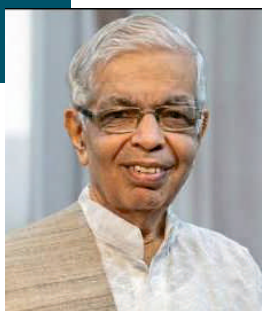


10 April 2026 | Launch of KINETICS | Team Dialogue

Padma Shri Swaminathan Sivaram

Polymer Chemist and Mentor

- ♦ The inaugural dialogue explored India's scientific innovation journey, leadership in research, and the importance of nurturing robust innovation ecosystems.



15 May 2026 | Team Dialogue & Podcast

Arvind Natu

*Honorary Consultant, IISER Pune; DAAD Research Ambassador;
Former Senior Scientist, CSIR-NCL*

- ✦ The conversation reflected on scientific leadership, institution building, and creating an enabling environment for research excellence.



21 May 2026 | Team Dialogue & Podcast

Rahul Walawalkar

Co-founder and President, Net Zero Energy Transition Association (NETRA)

- ✦ The session focused on India's clean energy transition, energy storage technologies, and the role of innovation in achieving net-zero goals.



26 May 2026 | Team Dialogue & Podcast

Kishore Paknikar

*ANRF Prime Minister Professor, COEP Technological University;
Former Director, Agharkar Research Institute*

Vinay Bhandari

*ANRF Prime Minister Professor, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda;
Former Chief Scientist, CSIR-NCL*

- ✦ The dialogue highlighted translational research, scientific collaboration, and the evolving role of research institutions in addressing national priorities.



4 June 2026 | Team Dialogue & Podcast

Umesh Shaligram

Executive Director and Board Member, Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd.

- ✦ The discussion explored innovation in vaccine development, leadership in the biotechnology sector, and translating scientific research into large-scale public health impact.

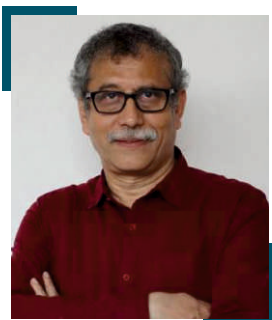


5 June 2026 | Team Dialogue

Praveer Asthana

PSA Fellow; Former Director, Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences; Former Head of Nano Mission and INSPIRE Programme Division, DST

- ✦ The session examined science policy, national research initiatives, and strengthening India's innovation ecosystem through strategic investments in science.



22 June 2026 | Team Dialogue & Podcast

Sourav Pal

Professor, Ashoka University; Former Director, CSIR-NCL and IISER Kolkata; Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awardee

- ✦ The conversation offered insights into scientific excellence, interdisciplinary research, mentorship, and the future of chemistry and higher education in India.

Why KINETICS Matters

KINETICS reflects PKC's commitment to creating opportunities for meaningful conversations across science, technology, industry, and policy. By bringing together accomplished leaders from diverse fields, the series offers valuable insights into scientific discovery, innovation, leadership, and the collaborative efforts needed to address real-world challenges.

As KINETICS continues to grow, it aims to become a platform that not only captures the experiences and perspectives of distinguished experts but also inspires researchers, students, innovators, and practitioners to exchange ideas, build partnerships, and contribute to a stronger and more connected innovation ecosystem.

Watch the Conversations

Scan the QR code to watch the complete KINETICS series on YouTube.



Team connect



Name: Omkar Janrao

Vertical: Associate Project Manager (Geologist)
Environment & Sustainability (Water) Vertical

“As a Geologist at Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC), I work on hydrogeological surveys, waterbody mapping, and Sponge City initiatives for sustainable water management and groundwater recharge. I also support technical coordination with academic and government institutions”

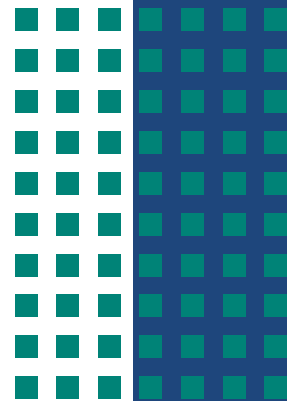


Name: Kumar Awni

Vertical: Civil Engineer – Environment & Sustainability
(Water) Vertical

“As a Civil Engineer at Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC), I work on hydrogeological surveys, waterbody mapping, Sponge City planning, and groundwater recharge projects. My role includes engineering assessments, technical analysis, site investigations, and coordination with academic and government institutions to support sustainable urban water management.”

Intern connect



Name: Rutuja Haribhau Gaikwad

Vertical: Geology intern in "Pune Sponge City Collective" Project.

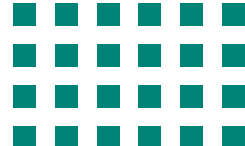
“During my internship at PKC, I worked on the Pune Sponge City Collective project, where we actively participated in field surveys to identify suitable interventions for improving groundwater recharge. I also contributed to report writing by documenting survey findings, analysing observations, and preparing technical reports. During the internship, I gained hands-on experience using QGIS software for spatial data analysis and mapping. Overall, this internship was an incredible enriching experience, where I acquired a wealth of knowledge and practical skills.”



Name: Tejas Suryakant Lokare

Vertical: Civil Engineer Intern in Pune Sponge City Collective

“Working with PKC on the Pune Sponge City Collective has strengthened my analytical, technical, and project coordination skills while enhancing my ability to develop scientific solutions for groundwater recharge and water resource management. The experience has also significantly contributed to my final-year project on Rainwater Harvesting and provided a strong foundation for my future research and professional work in sustainable water management.”

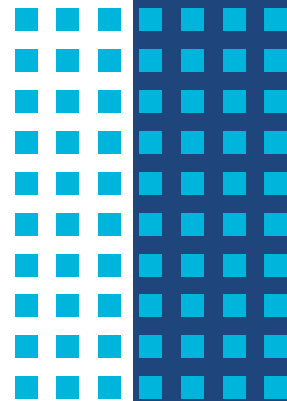


Name: Jashashree Mahanta

Vertical: Geology intern under “Pune Sponge City Collective” project.

“My internship at PKC has been a wonderful learning experience. I have worked on groundwater recharge studies, GIS mapping, field visits, and report preparation, which gave me practical exposure to real projects. It has helped me understand how technical concepts are applied in the field and has improved both my technical and professional skills. It's a hands-on effort at the intersection of geology, urban planning, and climate adaptation.”

PKC Offerings



Cities become more sustainable when everyday choices become easier

Pune Knowledge Cluster's Phase 1 established the evidence base: 6,000+ commuter surveys, 16 community engagement events, 25 footpaths assessed, and 42 RWAs formally petitioning for improved walkability - resulting in a verified 3.4% ridership uplift at project stations, with no infrastructure investment required.

The journey continues. Towards Greener Commutes now extends this programme to Pune's corporates and institutions - across walk, bus, cycle, metro, and carpool.

Employee and student participation is independently verified by Adyra ESG Technologies under ISO 14064-3, converting everyday commute behaviour into auditable CSR and ESG data for participating organizations.

Organisations can participate through two engagement tracks

CSR Community Sponsorship or CSR + Verified BRSR Reporting, designed for organisations with statutory sustainability disclosure requirements.

We welcome conversations with sustainability, ESG, and CSR leaders interested in bringing this evidence-led, measurable approach to their workforce.

Whether your organisation is looking to strengthen employee engagement, reduce its carbon footprint, or enhance sustainability reporting, Towards Greener Commutes offers an evidence-based, scalable solution.

For collaborations and enquiries:

Anita Kane

Pune Knowledge Cluster

✉ anita.kane@pkc.org.in

Ritesh Vikram

Adyra ESG Technologies

✉ riteshvikram@adyraesgtechnologies.com



Every commute is a choice.

Let's make it count.

The Journey Continues - extending to corporates and institutions



Phase 1

3.4%

Higher ridership growth at
Project vs control stations

6,000+

Commuter surveys
16 community events

25

Footpaths assessed
42 RWAs petitioned for improved
walkability

HOW THE PROGRAMME WORKS

1 PKC Designs & Runs the Programme

Citizen research, walkability analysis, community engagement, and behavioural nudges across walk, bus, cycle, carpool and metro corridors. PKC has been doing this in Pune since Phase 1 - this is the institutional mandate Govt recognises.

Section 8 - 12A - O/o Principal Scientific Adviser, Govt

2 Adyra Independently Verifies

Your employees enrol on AdyraEngage and log commute trips with evidence. Adyra verifies outcomes under ISO 14064-3 - independent of PKC. The separation is what makes the verification statement credible to a statutory auditor.

ISO 14064-3 Lead Verifier - AA1000 ACSAP

3 Your Organisation Receives

Verified sustainability reporting outputs specific to your Pune operations. CSR, BRSR Core, and SBTi deliverables - generated through your employees' participation. One sponsorship, multiple reporting outputs.

TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

TRACK A - CSR SPONSORSHIP

Community Programme Funding

- ✓ Fund Green Commute as a civic CSR initiative
- ✓ PKC CSR Impact report + participation certificate
- ✓ Employee and student engagement metrics
- ✓ Green Mobility Insights Report
- ✓ Suitable for Pvt Ltd - reframeable as Employee Engagement Programme

For organisations that prefer to keep CSR funding and ESG reporting separate, or where statutory CSR does not apply.

TRACK B - CSR + ESG REPORTING

Full Verified BRSR Package

For listed companies with BRSR Core obligations

- ✓ All Track A deliverables, plus:
- ✓ ISO 14064-3 verified Scope 3 Cat 7 BRSR statement
- ✓ Auditor-ready BRSR Core disclosure text
- ✓ SBTi Scope 3 narrative if applicable
- ✓ Annual verification cycle tied to your reporting year

Dual-benefit eligibility (CSR spend + ESG reporting) to be confirmed with your compliance team before proceeding.

WHAT SPONSORS RECEIVE

One sponsorship. Verified outputs across CSR, BRSR, and SBTi - specific to your organisation.

CSR Impact Report

PKC-issued impact report and certificate. Ready for your CSR committee. Schedule VII Clause (iv) - Environment.

Green Mobility Insights Report

Corridor-level commute intelligence for your facility. Modal shift, walkability data, TCFD transition risk disclosure.

BRSR Core - Scope 3 Cat 7 Statement

ISO 14064-3 verified employee commute emissions. Auditor-ready. Paste-ready disclosure text for your BRSR Core filing.

SBTi Scope 3 Narrative

Verified commute reduction evidence and Scope 3 engagement target narrative for climate disclosure.

Employee & Student Engagement Data

Participation rates, modal shift metrics, individual Green Commute certificates. For HR and annual reporting.

PKC - Programme Owner

Section 8 Company - Govt-established - 12A Certified
O/o Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India
Citizen research - Walkability advocacy - Green mobility

PKC - Programme Owner

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Request a 30-minute briefing + illustrative verified report template

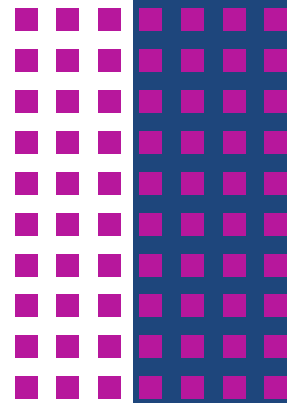
Adyra - Independent Verification

Ritesh Vikram
riteshvikram@adyraesgtechnologies.com

Adyra ESG Technologies - Verification Partner

ISO 14064-1,2,3 Lead Verifier - AA1000 ACSAP Certified - Pune
Verification independent of PKC
Required for ISO 14064-3 validity

Reports & Publications



Behaviour Nudges for Metro Rides

Summary Report

Can Behavioural Nudges Increase Public Transport Use? Evidence From Pune Metro

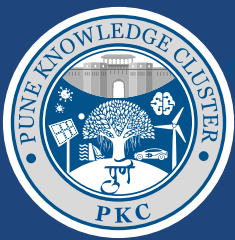
Discover how evidence-based behavioural interventions increased metro ridership through citizen engagement, data-driven insights, and low-cost, scalable solutions for sustainable urban mobility.

WEnyan Compendium

Explore the stories, scientific pursuits, and milestones of WEnyan scholars, mentors, and the collaborative ecosystem driving women in STEM.



*Scan the QR code to access
the complete reports.*



Pune Knowledge Cluster

Office Address: 3rd floor, Placement Cell, Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind Rd, Ganeshkhind, Pune, Maharashtra 411007.

+91 78238 92474 | contact@pkc.org.in | www.pkc.org.in

