

# Karnataka Water & Sanitation Sustainability SUMMIT 2024

*The Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department (RDWSD) of Karnataka remains resolute in its mission to secure safe and sustainable drinking water and sanitation for rural communities. While progress has been noteworthy, challenges in sustaining and executing these projects persist. In an unprecedented move, RDWSD, in collaboration with the Department of Electronics, Information Technology, and Biotechnology (E, IT, and BT) has set a new standard at the Tech Summit 2024, marking a milestone for Karnataka's water and sanitation landscape.*



## Summit Inauguration and International Participation

The Karnataka Water and Sanitation Sustainability Summit held on October 29, 2024 was inaugurated by Shri Priyank Kharge, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, alongside Shri Krishna Byre Gowda, Minister of Revenue, with the theme “Harnessing Innovation for a Water-Secure Future,” the summit gathered national and international stakeholders, including delegates from Israel and the Netherlands, to share innovative strategies for overcoming water and sanitation challenges specific to rural Karnataka.

## Encouraging Innovation for Water Security

At the summit, 22 startup innovations were presented, with six selected received a grant of 25 lakh each. The winning startups are Navmarg Research and Innovation, Biome Environment Trust, REVY Environment Solutions, Oceo Water Pvt Ltd, Dime Klear Pvt Ltd, and Krishi Hrudyta Pvt Ltd—proposed transformative solutions that will undergo evaluation, with potential for larger implementation.

## Insights from Industry Leaders and Government Officials

Minister Shri Priyank Kharge emphasized Karnataka's commitment to exploring cutting-edge technologies and strategic partnerships to improve the quality of life for its rural communities. He noted that this summit is a landmark convergence of government, industry, and innovation, all dedicated to building resilient, water-secure communities across Karnataka.

Minister Shri Krishna Byre Gowda highlighted the importance of adopting sustainable strategies to improve public health and resilience, stating, “Through collaborations with global experts and local innovators, we are empowering Karnataka's villages and developing long-term solutions to tackle water scarcity.”

Shri Sharath Bachegowda, Chairman of KEONICS, emphasized the urgency of addressing water scarcity and groundwater depletion. He underscored KEONICS' commitment to nurturing innovation via technology hubs, incubation centers, and district-level collaborations. Highlighting the Nipuna Karnataka program for skill development, he underscored its role in fostering local expertise in water management.



## Key Presentations by Government Officials

Shri Vishal R, IAS, Secretary (Fiscal Reforms), Finance Department, delivered an insightful presentation on the state's rural development initiatives, highlighting achievements under the Jal Jeevan Mission. His focus on providing safe drinking water and sustainable waste management solutions has been instrumental in improving public health and rural infrastructure.

Shri Anjum Parvez, Additional Chief Secretary, RDPR, shared Karnataka's strategies for water sustainability. Addressing the state's evolving climate and water needs, he emphasized the importance of adapting infrastructure to ensure long-term water security for rural Karnataka.

## Engaging Panel Discussions

The summit featured dynamic panel discussions on a range of critical topics: Water Security Through Innovation, Technology for Water Recycling, Climate-Resilient Water Conservation, Innovations in Water Potability, Financing Water Security, Smart Water Management Systems, and Big Data in Water Management. Experts shared forward-thinking insights, paving the way for sustainable, scalable solutions.

## Way Forward: A New Standard for Sustainable Water and Sanitation

Through this landmark summit, RDWSD has set a high standard for sustainable water and sanitation efforts. By partnering with six pioneering startups, the Karnataka government is laying the foundation to address water scarcity and sanitation issues in rural areas and building a framework for future collaborations that will support sustainable development across Karnataka's communities.

With a commitment to innovation and impact, RDWSD reaffirms its dedication to ensuring safe, sustainable water and sanitation services for rural Karnataka, setting a benchmark that will shape the future of water security initiatives in the state and beyond.

