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IFAT India 2026 advances technology and partnerships for India's water and waste infrastructure

More than 500 exhibitors from over 30 countries connect with 20,118 business visitors, including government agencies, urban local bodies, utilities and industry at the Mumbai edition

- **Six international pavilions** representing China, Germany, Italy, South Korea, Norway and the Netherlands
- Policy and industry deliberations across the **Blue, Orange and Green Stages, AIILSG Forum and Speakers' Corner**
- **235+ pre-scheduled Buyer-Seller meetings** focused on project requirements and technology partnerships

Mumbai, 11 September 2026: IFAT India 2026 concluded at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai after bringing together **20,118 business visitors and more than 500 exhibitors from over 30 countries** to address India's evolving water, wastewater, waste-management and recycling requirements.

Organised by Messe Muenchen India from 9–11 September, the trade fair provided a business and knowledge platform for government agencies, urban local bodies, utilities, industrial users, project developers and technology providers to evaluate solutions, discuss project requirements and build implementation-focused partnerships.

The international presence included six country pavilions representing **China, Germany, Italy, South Korea, Norway and the Netherlands**. Dedicated **SWAN, IWA, ULB, SME and Start-up Pavilions** brought together established technology providers, emerging enterprises, municipal authorities, investors, researchers and professional institutions.

Solutions presented across the exhibition addressed water and wastewater treatment, treated-water reuse, digital monitoring, membrane systems, Zero Liquid Discharge, waste collection and sorting, material recovery, recycling, biogas, refuse-derived fuel, waste-to-fuel applications and energy recovery.

Among the new products showcased were **Fornax's R-MAX3300** for high-capacity Alternative Fuel and Raw Material pre-processing; **NX Filtration's** compact, scalable Integrated Rack for ultrafiltration systems; **Micro Transmission Systems' Back Rake Screen** for removing solid waste from large channels and drains; **Fivebro Water Services' SUMO-TESK range** of multistage centrifugal pumps for high-pressure water-treatment applications and **Thermax's Miracle** for treating high-TDS water while increasing water recovery and reducing energy use and operating costs.

Public and private stakeholders focus on project delivery

The Mumbai edition was inaugurated in the presence of **Smt. Agnimitra Paul**, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, Government of West Bengal; **Smt. Isha Kalia**, IAS, Joint Secretary and Mission Director, NULM and PM SVANidhi, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; **Shri S. Suresh Kumar**, IAS, Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Senior representatives from state governments, urban local bodies, diplomatic missions, knowledge institutions, professional associations and the environmental technology industry also attended the opening ceremony, reflecting the coordination required to translate infrastructure priorities into viable projects.

The inaugural ceremony also brought together representatives from the **All India Institute of Local Self-Government, ASSOCHAM National Water Council, Builders' Association of India, German Water Partnership, German Recycling Technologies and Waste Management Partnership, GIZ India, International Solid Waste Association, International Water Association, Indian Water Works Association, Material Recycling Association of India, National Solid Waste Association of India, SWAN India Alliance, TERI Centre of Excellence on Water Reuse, KPMG in India and IFAT Worldwide**. Their participation reflected the cross-sector coordination required to translate India's environmental infrastructure priorities into viable projects.

Bhupinder Singh, President – IMEA, Messe München, and CEO, Messe Muenchen India, said, *"India's environmental infrastructure agenda is entering a delivery-led phase. Technology choices must perform under local operating conditions, align with procurement frameworks and deliver measurable outcomes. IFAT India 2026 allowed decision-makers to assess solutions against real project requirements and engage directly with potential partners. Bringing these conversations closer to investment and implementation is where the platform creates lasting value."*

Katharina Schlegel, Exhibition Director and Global Industry Lead, IFAT worldwide, Messe München, said, *"IFAT India 2026 demonstrated the country's growing significance to the global environmental technology industry. The participation of policymakers, utilities, industrial users and technology providers enabled a meaningful exchange between international experience and local requirements. As part of the worldwide IFAT network, the Mumbai edition is building partnerships that can help proven solutions achieve scale in India."*

Knowledge programme addresses policy, finance and execution

With **KPMG as Knowledge Partner**, discussions across the Blue, Orange and Green Stages examined water security, sanitation, waste management, resource recovery, circularity, infrastructure finance and climate-resilient urban development within the broader framework of Viksit Bharat 2047.

At Speakers' Corner, specialists presented practical perspectives on water reuse, Zero Liquid Discharge, digital water management and advanced treatment technologies. The **International Solid Waste Association's Young Professionals Group** also introduced a proposed University Challenge aimed at bringing research-led ideas and emerging talent into the environmental sector.

The **All-India Institute of Local Self-Government, Mumbai**, led two forums focused on strengthening urban service delivery. The Chief Engineers' Forum, supported by AMRUT 2.0, examined project execution, technology adoption and long-term performance across water, wastewater, sanitation and solid-waste infrastructure. Its National Conference, organised with UNICEF India, addressed coordinated planning for improved sanitation and waste-management outcomes across rural and urban India.

*Commenting on the forums, **Dr Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.), Director General, AILSG**, said, "AILSG brings 100 years legacy of supporting urban governance and service delivery. Our nine-year journey with IFAT India has grown into a powerful platform for transforming municipal dialogue into actionable governance. As the Government Partner for Strategic Connect, AILSG took pride at IFAT India 2026 in uniting grassroots innovation with high-level policy advocacy. While our specialised conference sessions tackled pressing frameworks around circularity, wastewater, and urban climate resilience, the ULB Pavilion provided a national stage for local bodies to present their indigenously engineered solutions. This seamless integration of technical discourse and ground-level validation is precisely what bridges policy intent with scalable execution. We value our enduring collaboration with Messe Muenchen India in steering local bodies in India toward a self-reliant, sustainable urban future."*

Buyers evaluate technologies against operating requirements

Municipal and industrial buyers used the exhibition to compare technologies, examine lifecycle and service requirements, discuss retrofit opportunities and assess how proposed systems could be integrated with existing infrastructure.

The **Buyer-Seller Forum** supported this commercial engagement through more than **235 pre-scheduled meetings** between exhibitors and buyers from India and international markets. These meetings provided a structured setting to discuss project specifications, technology suitability and potential partnerships.

Looking forward

*Reflecting on the way forward, **Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, IAS (Retd.), Former Director General, NMCG; Advisor, NIUA; and Chairman, IFAT India Advisory Committee**, said, "India's water and waste-management priorities require faster translation of policy into projects that deliver lasting results and help sustainability. IFAT India brings government, industry and technology providers together to address the practical challenges surrounding implementation, financing and operations. This collective effort will be critical to building water secure and resilient cities and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047."*

IFAT India will return to Mumbai from **29 September to 1 October 2027**, bringing the environmental technology community together to develop solutions and partnerships across India's water, wastewater, waste-management, recycling and circular-economy sectors.
