

Newsletter

Department of Civil Engineering

SCMS School of Engineering and Technology

Vision	To emerge as a premier department, empowering Civil Engineering professionals and research-oriented innovators for sustainable development.
Mission	● Impart industry-relevant Civil Engineering education that promotes ethical conduct and lifelong learning. ● Develop innovative problem-solving skills to address societal needs and environmental challenges in infrastructure development. ● Enhance service learning and research through collaboration with government departments and local bodies.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Civil Engineering has been in existence since the inception of SSET in 2001. The department comprises highly experienced and well-qualified faculty members. It offers one undergraduate program, two postgraduate programs, and PhD programs. The U.G program is accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA). SCMS Water Institute, which is a "Centre of Excellence on Water", is working jointly with the department.

Department Activities & Highlights

The Department of Civil Engineering carried its momentum into the even semester of the academic year 2025-2026, organising a broad programme of technical workshops, industry interactions, community outreach and wellness activities between January and June 2026. Ten major events brought students into direct contact with practising engineers, government agencies, national research institutions and the local community. Together they built technical competence alongside professional confidence, social responsibility and personal well-being.

AT A GLANCE: JANUARY – JUNE 2026

Date	Activity	Resource Person / Organisation	Participants
13 Jan 2026	Build Your Career in Civil Engineering	Er. Sajan Joseph, ICEC State Chairman	61
22 Jan 2026	Water Watch – Sanitation Awareness & Water Testing	Dept. of Civil Engineering with IQAC	54
23 Jan 2026	Workshop: Water, Health and the Environment	CSIR – National Institute of Oceanography, Kochi	60
06 Feb 2026	Sustainable Groundwater Conservation and Management	Groundwater Department, Government of Kerala	97
07 Feb 2026	Department Association Day'26	FRAMES – CE Department Association	89

Date	Activity	Resource Person / Organisation	Participants
05 Mar 2026	Meditate & Elevate – Meditation Techniques	Dr. Sanju Sreedharan, HOD – CE	79
09 Mar 2026	Bombay Jam Session (International Women's Day)	Ms. Vidhu Vikram, with Senioritas – Women's Forum	28
13 Mar 2026	Launch of ICEC Student Chapter	Integrated Civil Engineers Council, Ernakulam	33
13 Mar 2026	Technical Session: How to be a Successful Civil Engineer	Er. Bindya V. Suthan, Bhadrah Civil Solutions	33
26–27 Jun 2026	Master Trainer Programme on Drinking Water Quality Testing	SMART India Foundation & WASH Institute	29

REAL-WORLD INSIGHTS: CAREER PATHWAYS

Build Your Career in Civil Engineering [13-01-2026]

Resource Person: **Er. Sajan Joseph, ICEC State Chairman**

An orientation session for S2, S4, S6 and S8 students of CE and CV was held on 13 January 2026 at the AC-I Seminar Hall. Drawing on his industry experience, the speaker mapped out career options across construction management, structural design, geotechnical and transportation engineering, consultancy and entrepreneurship. He stressed the value of software proficiency, site exposure, internships and professional certifications, and pointed to growing demand in smart cities, green buildings and sustainable construction. The interactive close covered higher studies, competitive examinations and industry expectations. 61 students attended.



Technical Session: How to be a Successful Civil Engineer [13-03-2026]

Resource Person: **Er. Bindya V. Suthan, Principal Geotechnical Consultant, Founder & CEO, Bhadrah Civil Solutions**



Conducted in collaboration with the ICEC Students' Club, this technical session traced the speaker's professional journey through geotechnical engineering and civil consultancy. She emphasised strong technical fundamentals supported by practical field knowledge, continuous upskilling and familiarity with emerging technologies, and used real project experiences to illustrate how engineering decisions are made on site. Roles across construction, geotechnical investigation, project management and consultancy were discussed, along with professional ethics, leadership and communication. A question-and-answer segment closed the hour. 33 participants.

WATER, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Workshop: Water, Health and the Environment – A One Health Approach to Tackling Disease [23-01-2026]

Organised by: **CSIR – National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Kochi**

Resource Person: **Dr. Sunny George, Director, SCMS Water Institute**

This one-day workshop at NIO Kochi responded to research identifying untreated wastewater from upstream reaches as a major driver of water-related disease in Kerala's backwaters. Interactive talks, a water-mapping exercise, outbreak case studies and a session on digital surveillance tools under the WADIM initiative replaced conventional lectures. Ms. Sruthy Robert, Assistant Professor, represented the department. The programme drew 60 participants from clinical practice, public health, environmental management and government, and set the ground for future joint studies.



One-Day Workshop on Sustainable Groundwater Conservation and Management [06-02-2026]

Organised by: **Groundwater Department, Government of Kerala**

Resource Persons: **Dr. Arts K. Purushotham, Dr. Bindhumol G.P., Dr. Joji V.S.**



Kerala has the highest well density in India, and a large share of the population still depends on groundwater for daily needs. This four-hour workshop set out why that makes conservation urgent. Following the welcome address by Dr. Sanju Sreedharan, the presidential address and the inaugural address, two technical sessions covered water quality parameters and contamination pathways, and groundwater recharge and conservation techniques. Coordinated by Ms. Sruthy Robert, the programme was attended by 97 students.

Master Trainer Programme on Drinking Water Quality Testing and HWTS [26-27 June 2026]

Organised by: **SMART India Foundation in association with WASH Institute**

Sessions handled by: **Dr. Sanju Sreedharan, Ms. Roshni K. R., Mr. Rohit Raveedran**

The department hosted the technical sessions of this four-day master training at the Environmental Engineering Laboratory. Participants were introduced to field testing methodology and JalTara field testing kits, then trained hands-on in water sampling and in physical, chemical and microbiological analysis – pH, turbidity, chloride, hardness, dissolved oxygen, residual chlorine, nitrate, fluoride, alkalinity, iron and E. coli. Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage practices were covered alongside disinfection methods. 29 participants attended, drawn from districts across Kerala and one from Tamil Nadu.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Water Watch: A Sanitation Awareness and Water Testing Programme [22-01-2026]

Venue: **Government Higher Secondary School, Palissery**

Resource Persons: **Dr. Sanju Sreedharan, HOD; Ms. Sruthy S., Assistant Professor**



Organised with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell and delivered by the 2023-2027 B.Tech batch, this outreach programme took water quality testing into the community. Participants brought samples from their household wells and were guided by S6 students through tests for pH, alkalinity, total hardness, chloride and iron, then helped to interpret the results against drinking water standards. An awareness session covered safe water handling and sanitation-related health risks. 54 external participants took part, and feedback rated the programme excellent across every parameter.

PROFESSIONAL BODIES & STUDENT CHAPTERS

Launch of ICEC Student Chapter [13-03-2026]

Resource Persons: **Er. Sajan Jose, State Chairman; Er. Sajin Salim, State Coordinator; Er. Althaf Ahammed, Convener; Er. Jinu Alex, Chairman, ICEC Ernakulam Chapter**

The department formally established a student chapter under the Integrated Civil Engineers Council. The programme opened with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Dr. Anitha G. Pillai, Principal, and Er. Jinu Alex, Chairman of the ICEC Ernakulam Chapter, formalising a long-term collaboration on technical knowledge, professional development and industry exposure. Following inauguration by the State Chairman, five student office bearers – Chairman, Vice Chairman, Convener, Joint Convener and Treasurer – were honoured with badges, and membership certificates were distributed to 33 participants.



WELLNESS, CULTURE & STUDENT LIFE

Civil Engineering Department Association Day'26 [07-02-2026]

Conducted by: **FRAMES – Civil Engineering Department Association**

Faculty Coordinator: **Ms. Sruthy M. R.**



FRAMES marked its annual day with Frameflicks, a film recap of the association's work through the year, followed by a prize distribution ceremony for the winners of the Ozone Day Model Making Competition and certificates for semester toppers. An hour of team-building activities encouraged collaboration and problem-solving across batches, and the afternoon closed with a cultural showcase of music and dance. 89 students, faculty members and staff took part.

Meditate & Elevate – Meditation Techniques [05-03-2026]

Resource Person: **Dr. Sanju Sreedharan, Associate Professor & Head, Civil Engineering**

B.Tech and M.Tech students were introduced to mindfulness and guided breathing practices that can be carried into an ordinary day. The session addressed academic pressure directly, working through practical exercises for focus, relaxation and emotional balance, and closed with suggestions for building meditation into a daily routine. 79 students participated. In the feedback, over 90 per cent of respondents found the duration appropriate and said they would attend similar wellness sessions in future.



Bombay Jam Session – International Women’s Day [09-03-2026]

In association with: **Senoritas – The Women’s Forum**

Resource Person: **Ms. Vidhu Vikram, Zumba and Bombay Jam Instructor**



Held under the theme “Fitness is not just a workout, it’s a celebration of movement”, the session opened with a discussion on the place of physical activity in modern life before moving into warm-ups and dance-based fitness routines. The instructor explained how Zumba’s rhythmic cardio differs from the Bollywood-inspired structure of Bombay Jam, and familiar music made the routines easy to follow regardless of dance experience. Faculty, staff and S2 students moved together through the hall. 28 participants; vote of thanks by Ms. Sophia Cleetus.

ACHIEVEMENTS & RECOGNITION

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the ICEC Ernakulam Chapter on 13 March 2026, establishing an active student chapter in the department with five student office bearers appointed.
- Certificates of Appreciation for institution-level academic excellence in the M.Tech Computer Aided Structural Engineering programme, APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University examinations – Ms. Shahanas V. N. (First position) and Ms. Aishwarya K. B. (Second position).
- Semester toppers across B.Tech batches and the winners of the Ozone Day Model Making Competition were recognised at Department Association Day’26.
- SSET was selected by SMART India Foundation and the WASH Institute to host the technical sessions of the Master Trainer Programme on Drinking Water Quality Testing, with participants drawn from across Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- The department extended its collaborations on water and environmental health to CSIR – National Institute of Oceanography, Kochi and the Groundwater Department, Government of Kerala.

The Department of Civil Engineering continues to provide diverse learning opportunities through technical events, workshops, and competitions. These initiatives strengthen students' practical knowledge, creativity, and career readiness.

What's Next

- Technical seminars, expert talks and industrial visits to be organised through the newly formed ICEC Students' Club under the MoU with the Ernakulam Chapter.
- Follow-up joint studies with CSIR – NIO on waterborne disease in Kerala's coastal and backwater regions, arising from the One Health workshop.
- Further community water-testing and sanitation awareness camps, building on the response to Water Watch.
- FRAMES and ARTE-FRAME activity calendar for the coming academic year, including technical competitions and cultural programmes.

Reach Out

For questions, feedback, article ideas or story contributions, write to the Department of Civil Engineering, SCMS School of Engineering and Technology, Vidya Nagar, Palissery, Karukutty, Ernakulam – 683576, Kerala, India.

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