



(L to R: Professor Abhay Bambole, Dr. Vishal Thombare, Professor Sachin Kore, Dr. V. Ramachandra, Er. M. A. Kawalkar, Er. R. Radhakrishnan, Er. Jitendra Pathak)

Mumbai, 17th June – The Indian Concrete Institute (ICI) successfully organized a two-day international conference on “*Innovations in Structural Health Monitoring and Retrofitting of Structures*” at Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI), Mumbai, on 6th and 7th June, drawing participation from eminent scholars, industry professionals, and researchers from across the nation and abroad.

The conference commenced on Friday, 6th June with a grand inaugural session, presided by **Dr. V. Ramachandra** (President, ICI), **Professor Abhay N Bambole** (Chairman, ICI Mumbai Chapter), **Er. R. Radhakrishnan** (Secretary General, ICI), **Er. M. A. Kawalkar** (President Elect, ICI), **Dr. Vishal Thombare** (Vice President, West, ICI), **Er. Jitendra Pathak** (Secretary, ICI) and led by the Patron of the conference, **Professor Sachin Kore** (Director, VJTI).



A large and diverse audience comprising



academicians, industry experts, researchers, and students attended the inaugural ceremony. In the inaugural address, Professor Kore emphasized the pivotal role of interdisciplinary collaboration between academia and industry in driving innovation. Professor Kore shared insights on VJTI's critical role in delivering consultancy services to various government bodies, highlighting how these projects contribute significantly to national infrastructure development, policy formulation, and engineering practice. He also emphasized the presence of Centers of Excellence at VJTI, which serve as hubs of innovation, research, and advanced development in various engineering disciplines, further strengthening the institute's impact on industry and society.

A special felicitation ceremony was held to honour **Er. P.Y. Manjure** (Director, Fresynet), **Er. Kamal Hadker** (Chairman, SterlingEngineering

Consultancy) and **Er. Vikas Ramgude (PWD, Maharashtra)** for their outstanding contributions to the engineering industry.



The day followed by subsequent technical sessions featured rich discussions from Er. Vijay Desai (Dimple Chemicals & Services Pvt. Ltd., Pune) and **Professor M. Shahir Liew** (Vice Provost of Knowledge and Research Exchange, Nottingham University Malaysia), drawing active participation from researchers, students, and professionals from both academia and industry.



The conference featured impactful technical contributions from **Dr. Aparup Biswal** (L&T Construction), **Er. Sunny Surlaker** (Director, Assess Build Chem Pvt. Ltd.), and **Dr. Vinod Vanvari**, whose presentations delivered in-depth analyses and advanced perspectives on emerging challenges and innovations in the field.

The second day of the conference opened with parallel technical sessions delivered by **Dr. Vishal Thombare** (Deputy Chief Engineer, BMC) and **Dr. Yogini Deshpande** (Technical Director, Renuka Consultants) that continued to highlight innovative and practical applications.

The conference was further strengthened and dignified by the esteemed presence of **Shri Abhijit Bangar** (IAS, Addt. Municipal Commissioner (Projects), BMC) who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. His address highlighted the vital

intersection of engineering innovation, urban governance, and the transformative role of public infrastructure in nation-building.

A special award felicitation ceremony was held to honour **Er. S.R. Tambe** (Public Works Department, Maharashtra), **Er. P.L. Bongirwar** (Secretary, PWD, Maharashtra), and **Er. Jayant Kulkarni** (Managing Director, Epicons Consultant Pvt. Ltd.) in recognition of their distinguished leadership, strategic contributions to infrastructure development, and their enduring impact on advancing engineering practice and public works excellence across the state and beyond.

The second half of the session featured technical presentations by **Prof. Abhay Bambole**, **Er. Nilotpol Kar** (Managing Director, Sika India Pvt. Ltd.) , and **Dr. Mangesh Joshi** (CEO, Sanrachana Structural Strengthening Pvt. Ltd.) , who delivered domain-specific insights and shared applied research findings, contributing meaningfully to the ongoing discourse on emerging challenges and innovations within the structural health monitoring sector.

Towards the conclusion of the conference, an in-depth panel discussion was conducted, providing a dynamic forum for the exchange of forward-thinking ideas and collaborative insights between academia and industry. The session was moderated by Dr. Vishal Thombare with insightful contributions from Prof. Bambole, Dr. Yogini Deshpande, Dr. Mangesh Joshi and Er. Nilotpol Kar, focusing on emerging innovations, policy implications, and future directions in structural engineering and retrofitting practices.

Finally, a token of appreciation was extended to all speakers, guests, and participants for their valuable contributions and enthusiastic engagement. The program was successfully conducted, achieving its objective of fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, professional collaboration, and knowledge dissemination in the field of structural health monitoring and retrofitting.

