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**RCUES, Mumbai**  
Enabling better cities...

# Urban Environ Vision

An Information Bulletin



**RCUES**  
Mumbai

**Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies  
All India Institute of Local Self-Government, Mumbai**

Established in the year 1968, is fully supported by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India



***Urban Environ Vision aims to take its readers through off-line training programmes of RCUES, Mumbai while providing encouragement and knowledge to its participants and displays the efforts undertaken by RCUES, Mumbai.***



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# 01

# Regional Specialized Training Programme on Disaster Management, Fire Prevention & Life Safety - Contributing towards Nation Building

29<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Vadodara, Gujarat.

## Key Highlight

***The participants were taught the cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) procedure, one of the important life saving techniques in emergencies. Moreover, participants updated their knowledge on robust technologies in making disaster and fire resilient cities.***

## BACKGROUND

The Government of India has launched a 'Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States' on 4th July 2023 with the earmarked allocation of Rs. 5,000 Crore of Preparedness and Capacity Building Funding Window under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for strengthening fire services in the States up to 2025-26. With its continuous efforts, the Government has significantly oriented its approach towards disaster management in the country from relief-centric to a holistic approach of preparedness, prevention, response, recovery, mitigation and capacity building. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 articulates the need for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into development planning. The National Policy and National Plan

on Disaster Management seeks to strengthen disaster risk reduction by adopting a Technology-Driven, Pro-Active, Multi-Hazard and Multi-Sector strategy for building a Safer, Disaster Resilient and Dynamic India.

Fire poses a major threat to various occupancy in India. Almost every day, some fire occurrence are reported by the media across the country. These fires not only result in the loss of many precious lives and injuries to many, but also cause heavy property losses. Presently, fire prevention and firefighting services are come under the administrative purview of the concerned States and Union Territories. The National Building Code (NBC), is the basic model code in India on matters relating



to building construction and fire safety. The primary responsibility for fire prevention and fire protection lies primarily with State Governments. The rules for fire prevention and fire protection are laid in the form of State regulations or municipal by-Laws.

To understand the rules and regulations and to formulate right approach for fire and disaster resilient cities, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted a Regional Specialized Training Programme on 'Disaster Management, Fire Prevention & Life Safety - Contributing towards Nation Building' on 29th March 2024 at Vadodara, Gujarat. This training programme was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (Gol).

## KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of the training programme was to give knowledge to the participants on the approach to build safer, fire and disaster resilient cities by a holistic, pro-active, technology driven and sustainable development strategy and foster a prevention, preparedness and mitigation.

## PARTICIPATION

In all 60 participants comprising Regional Directors, Principal, Fire Course Coordinators, Fire Officers, and Sub-Fire Officers from Maharashtra and Gujarat states attended this training programme.

## INTRODUCTION

The training programme was commenced by Mr. Dinesh Patel, Regional Director, AIILSG, Vadodara, Gujarat by welcoming the dignitaries on the dais and the participants. He explained the objective of the training programme.



**Mr. Dinesh Patel, Regional Director, AIILSG, Vadodara, Gujarat addressing the participants.**

## INAUGURATION

The training programme was inaugurated by Mr. Ranjit Chavan, President, AIILSG by lighting the lamp in the presence of Ms. Hansa Patel, Chief Executive Advisor, AIILSG, Vadodara, Mr. Vivek Buchakey, Technical Director, National Fire Academy (NFA), AIILSG, Vadodara, Mr. Chandresh Shah, Honorary Director, AIILSG, Vadodara & Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai.



**Mr. Ranjit Chavan, President, AIILSG inaugurated the training programme by lighting the lamp. (L to R) Mr. Vivek Buchkey, Technical Director, NFA, AIILSG, Vadodara, Mr. Chandresh Shah, Honorary Director, AIILSG, Vadodara, Ms. Hansa Patel, Chief Executive Advisor, AIILSG, Vadodara & Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai.**

Mr. Chavan in his inaugural speech welcomed all the participants at National Fire Academy at Vadodara. He mentioned the importance of fire courses running at Regional Centres in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan and encouraged Fire In-Charge of these centres to update their knowledge through technical sessions and demonstration to be organized later. He concluded his inaugural speech by wishing great success to the training programme.

## TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The first technical session on 'Role of ULBs in making Disaster & Fire Resilient Cities' was delivered by Mr. Rajendra Lokhande, Shift In-Charge, Disaster Management Department, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Maharashtra. He

focused on the role of ULBs in disaster and fire reduction in cities, and explained the Prime Minister's Ten-Point Agenda for Disaster Risk Reduction. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, enunciated a Ten-Point Agenda in his inaugural speech at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016, held in New Delhi during November 2016, which has also been incorporated in the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP).

The ten key elements mainly related to disaster risk reduction, risk coverage, women leadership in disaster risk reduction, investing in risk mapping, developing network to work on disaster-related issues, utilizing the opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies for disaster risk reduction, making use of every opportunity to learn from disasters, building on local capacity and initiative to enhance disaster risk reduction and bring about greater cohesion in international response to disasters.



**Mr. Rajendra Lokhande, Shift In-Charge, Disaster Management Department, BMC, Maharashtra addressing the participants.**

He then spoke on Institutional Legal Framework and explained in detail the Disaster Management Act -2005, Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act - 2006 (Amendment 2024), Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Rule - 2009 and National Building Code - 2016 (Part-4). He highlighted the role of ULBs while implementing the above cited Acts. He said that role of ULBs comprises preparation of Disaster Management Plan of the city with Communication Protocol & Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) of various stakeholders, establishing Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with dedicated manpower, identifying various sources of Early Warning System, using Social Media Platform effectively & integrating Information Technology and arranging Training and Capacity Building at ULB level.

He further explained how hazards, vulnerability & risks are identified considering the sides of the triangle and how they are interlinked to each other. He spoke on the need for disaster management, which focuses on saving life, minimizing damage and restoring normalcy. He also spoke on 7 Global targets of Disaster Risk Reduction and Risk Reducing Initiatives. He explained in detail the Emergency Operation Centre established at BMC, Maharashtra. Mr. Lokhande demonstrated information dissemination through multiple social media sites viz, face book, Instagram, chatbot, twitter, WhatsApp, etc. and concluded the session by exhibiting photos of various disasters and the effective role of ULBs in risk reduction at city level.

The session on 'Role of Industrial Fire Services in Prevention of Man-made Disasters in Industries' was delivered by Mr. Hemendra Rawal, Industrial Safety Consultant, Vadodara, Gujarat. The session focused on preventive measures in fire

services. He mentioned that industrial fire services in India are responsible for protecting life and property from fire and other disasters, including industrial hazards. Fire services also promote community-based preventive and coping strategies for emergencies. He further explained responsibilities of Industrial fire services such as issuing and ensuring compliance with fire safety clearances for the buildings over 15 meters tall, including industrial and commercial buildings, conducting fire safety inspections in hazardous occupations and advising management on how to reduce fire risk, providing training in fire prevention, firefighting and fire protection and implementing fire safety regulatory measures.



**Mr. Hemendra Rawal, Industrial Safety Consultant, Vadodara, Gujarat addressing the participants.**

He said that fire services also respond to non-fire emergencies caused by man-made disasters, such as industrial hazards, toxic releases, spillage, and landslides. Moreover, they prevent loss of life and property. Fire services also provide compassionate services, promote community-based coping strategies, and install fire protection measures.



He then spoke about the policy in Gujarat where Gujarat Government has made it mandatory for industries to get No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the fire department before applying for a new license or renewing the existing license. He further spoke on fire extinguishers which are active fire protection devices usually filled with a dry or wet chemical and are used to extinguish or control fires in emergencies. The fire extinguishers used are namely water, foam, CO<sub>2</sub>, wet chemicals in various types of fire emergencies.

He explained the importance of preparedness in fire prevention plans at city level. These plans should detail the location of fire extinguishing devices, alarm boxes, emergency lights, exits, evacuation routes, areas of refuge and identify the floor layout of industrial premises, evacuation procedures, etc. At the end, he spoke on fire triangle and types of industrial fires and how fire can be controlled with various types of fire extinguishers.

The session on the 'Role of Fire Service Personnel in Rescue Management' was delivered by Mr. Arun Kumar Yadav, Retired Fire Officer, Kota, Rajasthan. He stated that fire service personnel are responsible for extinguishing fires, protecting life and property, and rescuing people in the event of emergencies. Firefighters also work with the community to install smoke alarms, support in fire prevention. Firefighters also help while handling hazardous materials, during medical emergencies, floods, and rescuing people in emergency situations. He talked on the roles and responsibilities of Fire & Rescue Authorities (FRAs), which are set out by the Fire and Rescue Services Act - 2004. The key responsibilities of these authorities are extinguishing fires in their areas, protecting life

and property in the event of fires in their areas, rescuing and protecting people in the event of a road traffic collision, and rescuing and protecting people in the event of other emergencies. FRAs need to be alert in assessing risk in their areas. He spoke about the Fire and Rescue Services Act - 2004, which gives the Government responsibility for creating the Fire and Rescue National Framework, which outlines the Government's high level priorities and objectives for FRAs.



**Mr. Arun Kumar Yadav, Retired Fire Officer, Kota, Rajasthan addressing the participants.**

He concluded the session by discussing that a team of highly skilled professionals with specialized firefighting and rescue equipment form the backbone of any emergency services. Their expertise is paramount in swiftly tackling fires, and other critical emergencies.

The session on 'Importance of CPR during Disaster Management' was delivered by Dr. Mrugesh Suthar, Director, Academy of Emergency Medicines, Vadodara, Gujarat. He focused the session

on the importance of CPR in emergencies and explained the term CPR by stating that cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a lifesaving emergency procedure, which involves chest compression and rescuing breaths. This procedure is used when the heart stops beating or beats poorly. The procedure revives circulation of blood to the brain and other vital organs. CPR can keep oxygen-rich blood flowing to the brain and other organs until emergency medical treatment can restore the patient.



**Dr. Mrugesh Suthar, Director, Academy of Emergency Medicines, Vadodara, Gujarat addressing the participants.**

He further explained step by step the procedure by illustrating the practical CPR procedure by using manikins (dummy human figure). He explained the steps, to check and decide whether CPR is needed or not. After confirming the need for CPR, he showed how to keep the position of holding hands on victim's chest and how to start with chest compression. The participants did a practical demo of chest compression on manikins under Dr. Suthar's guidance. He concluded by stating the need for emergency hospitalization after reviving through CPR.



**Demonstration of CPR procedure by using manikins (dummy human figure) during the programme at Vadodara.**

## SUMMING UP

The training programme was concluded by proposing a Vote of Thanks to distinguished trainers and participants by Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai.

## GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMME



# Section

# 02



Regional Seminar on

## Role of ULBs in making Disaster & Fire Resilient Cities

30<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Vadodara, Gujarat.

Natural disasters have all along been part of human life on the earth. The present century is no exception to this. From the very beginning of the twenty-first century, the world has witnessed many natural disasters. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 has emphasized formulating disaster management plans at international, national, regional, and local levels. The National Disaster Management Policy of India, 2009 inter-alia, mandates that the local authorities should ensure the capacity building of their officers and manage disasters, and carry out relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction activities in the affected areas. It also calls for setting up a specific institutional framework for dealing with disasters in mega cities. In this context, the progress in empowering the local governments for effective management of disasters at the local level is noteworthy. In line with the National Disaster Management Fund and State Disaster Management Funds, local governments are required to be provided with special Disaster Management Funds. A dedicated department is also required to be created for managing various types of disasters. Fire poses a major threat to various occupancies in India. Almost every day occurrences of fires are reported by the media across the country. These fires not only result in the loss of many precious lives and injuries to many but also cause heavy

property losses. Presently, fire prevention and firefighting services come under the administrative purview of the concerned States and Union Territories. The National Building Code (NBC), is the basic model code in India on matters relating to building construction and fire safety. The primary responsibility for fire prevention and fire protection lies primarily with State Governments. The rules for fire prevention and fire protection are made in the form of state regulations or municipal by-laws.

The Seminar aims to build safer, disaster and fire resilient cities through a holistic, pro-active, technology-driven and sustainable development strategy and fosters prevention, preparedness and mitigation. To orient the participants with this aim, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted a Regional Seminar on 'Role of ULBs in making Disaster & Fire Resilient Cities' on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Vadodara, Gujarat. This Seminar was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

In all, 53 delegates comprising Regional Directors, Principal, Fire Course Coordinators, Marshals, Fire Officers, and Sub-Fire Officers from Maharashtra and Gujarat states attended the Seminar.

Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai commenced the Seminar by giving the background of RCUES, Mumbai and explained the objective of the Seminar by explaining how ULBs can be technology-driven and foster prevention & mitigation through preparedness at city level. Ms. Hansa Patel, Chief Executive Advisor, AIILSG, Vadodara also encouraged the delegates to work effectively in fire prevention and mitigation.



**Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants. Mr. Ranjit Chavan, President, AIILSG and Ms. Hansa Patel, Chief Executive Advisor, AIILSG, Vadodara also seen on the dais.**

Mr. S. J. Yadav, Retired Fire Officer, Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd., Ukai, Gujarat talked on 'Importance of 14<sup>th</sup> April - Fire Service Day'. He commenced the discussion on the importance of 14<sup>th</sup> April as Fire Service Day by stating that the day is observed as National Fire Service Day also known as 'Martyr's Day' every year in India, to pay tributes to those courageous firefighters who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty during the fire and massive explosion at Mumbai dockyard on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1944. This day is observed by paying

homage to the incredible commitment and sacrifice of 71 Fire Service personnel during an unfortunate mishap on this day, and conducting an awareness programme to prevent fire occurrences and emergencies vigilantly all the time. He further explained that this day is the symbol of the discipline, bravery and commitment of the firefighters as their motto is 'serve to save lives and property'.



**Mr. S. J. Yadav, Retired Fire Officer, Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd., Ukai, Gujarat addressing the participants.**

He further explained that the incident had occurred at freighter SS Fort Stikine at the Victoria Dock in the Bombay Port on that unfortunate day, which witnessed sacrifices made by the 71 Fire Service personnel in their bid to save lives and property, while fighting the fire spread from the explosion. This had happened as this freighter was carrying a miscellaneous cargo of cotton rolls, gold, and ammunition consisting of almost 1400 tons of explosives caught fire, which was followed by two gigantic blasts. The intensity of the explosion was huge and devastating. At last, he explained the preventive measures to be taken as well as curative measures to avoid such mishaps in the future.

Mr. Vivek Buchkey, Technical Director, National Fire Academy (NFA), AIILSG, Vadodara addressed on 'Importance of First Aid in Disaster Management'. He elucidated that first aid is the provision of initial care for an illness or injury. It is usually performed by a lay person to a sick or injured patient until regular medical treatment can be accessed. Certain self-limiting illnesses or minor injuries may not require further medical care after the first aid intervention. It generally consists of a series of simple and in some cases, potentially life-saving techniques that an individual can be trained to perform with minimal equipment.



**Mr. Vivek Buchkey, Technical Director, NFA, AIILSG, Vadodara addressing the participants.**

He stated that the key aims of the first-aid can be summarized in three key points. The first aim is to preserve life which is the overriding aim of all medical care, including first-aid, and to save lives. The second aim is to prevent further harm by moving a patient away from the cause of harm and applying first aid techniques to prevent worsening of the condition. The third aim is to promote recovery. First-aid also involves attempting to start the recovery process from the illness or injury, and in some cases might involve completing a treatment. He added that First-aid

training often incorporates the prevention of initial injury and respondent's safety, as well as the treatment phases. He highlighted that First Aid is extremely crucial in disaster management.

After the discussions, the students of NFA, Vadodara showed practical demonstrations as done in fire emergencies, namely- how lives of victims can be saved, how casualties are shifted, how emergency first aid is provided, and how fire extinguishers are handled. The delegates were shown safety measures used in handling emergency situations. The delegates were taught various life-saving techniques through the session and practical demonstrations. Moreover, participants updated their knowledge in making their ULBs/cities disaster & fire resilient in a holistic way.



**Demonstration of safety measures used in handling emergency situations during the seminar at Vadodara.**

The certificates were distributed to the delegates at the hands of Mr. Ranjit Chavan, President, AIILSG. Later, the Seminar was concluded by Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai by proposing a Vote of Thanks to the distinguished faculty and the delegates.



## GLIMPSES OF THE SEMINAR





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