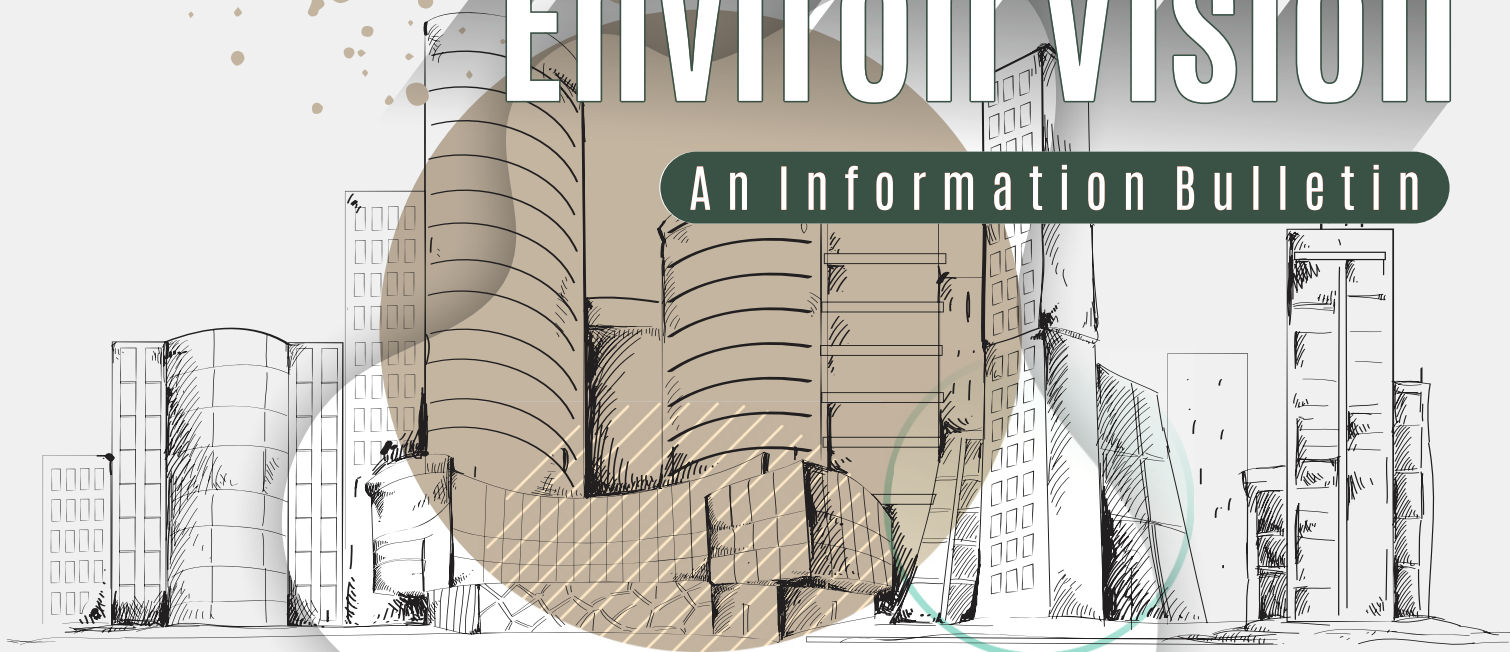


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RCUES, Mumbai
Enabling better cities...

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, supported by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India

Urban Environ Vision aims to take its readers through offline and online training programs of RCUES, Mumbai while providing encouragement and knowledge to its participants and displays the efforts undertaken by RCUES, Mumbai.

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Regional Specialized Training Program on Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U) 2.0

16th April 2025
Kota, Rajasthan

Key Highlights

The key highlights of the training comprised the topics of waste management, laws and regulations, sustainability, and ways to encourage positive behavior through informative sessions. It also introduced digital tools for tracking progress and involving citizens. Additionally, interactive group activities were also included to explore the process of developing SWM action plan and its implementation.

BACKGROUND

The Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 marks a significant step forward in India's approach to urban sanitation and waste management, building upon the foundation laid by its predecessor. Launched in 2021, this initiative is closely aligned with the SBM Guidelines 2024, striving to realize the vision of garbage-free and water-secure cities. With its modern outlook, SBM-U 2.0 employs data-driven strategies and technology-focused methodologies to achieve its ambitious objectives. The mission emphasizes 100% waste segregation at its source, scientific waste processing, and the remediation of legacy waste dumps. It also prioritizes universal access to safe sanitation and the sustainable management of wastewater. Through the promotion of systematic reforms and innovative practices, SBM-U 2.0 aims to improve urban living standards, safeguard public health, and foster environmental sustainability.

At its core, the SBM Guidelines 2024 serve as a strategic blueprint, advocating for integrating circular economy principles, inclusive community participation, and intelligent waste management ecosystems into urban planning. The mission emphasizes the significance of behavioral change, capacity building, and strong public-private partnerships as cornerstones of sustainable progress. By leveraging smart infrastructure, advanced waste processing technologies, and comprehensive policy frameworks, SBM-U 2.0 is poised to transform India's urban narrative. It envisions a future where cities are not only cleaner but also resilient, forward-thinking, and aligned with the principles of long-term sustainability.

Considering this background, the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of

Local Self Government (AIIILSG), Mumbai, organized a Regional Specialized Training Program on 'Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U) 2.0' on 16th April 2025 at Kota, Rajasthan. This training program was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The training program aims to empower the stakeholders with the expertise to implement the SBM Guidelines 2024 effectively. It strengthens capacity in waste management, sustainable sanitation, circular economy, and smart governance, while fostering behavioral change and strategic public-private collaboration to drive urban sustainability.

PARTICIPATION

In all, 63 participants comprising Executive and Junior Engineers, Sanitary Inspectors, Community Development Officers, Sanitation/SWM Specialists, Health Workers, Community Organizers, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from Rajasthan attended this training program.

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIIILSG, Mumbai warmly welcomed the dignitaries, subject matter experts, and the participants. In her address, she emphasized the pivotal role played by the RCUES of AIIILSG, Mumbai, in building the institutional and operational capacities of the

ULBs across western and north-eastern regions of India through targeted and impactful training initiatives. She also outlined the structure of the training program, articulating its key objectives and expected outcomes, particularly in the context of effectively implementing the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2024.



Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

INAUGURATION

The training program was inaugurated by Mr. Rakesh Jain, BJP District President, Kota District, Rajasthan, by lighting a traditional lamp. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Jagdish Soni, Principal Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO), Health Department, KMC, Dr. Hemlata Gandhi, City Mission Manager (CMM), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), KMC, and SBM Ambassador, Kota, Mr. Anuj Asthana and Ms. Maleka Ansari.



Mr. Rakesh Jain, BJP District President, Kota, District, Rajasthan inaugurated the training program by lighting the lamp.

In his inaugural speech, Mr. Jain highlighted the importance of SBM-U 2.0 in making cities cleaner, greener, and more sustainable. He explained how the training program helps move from basic sanitation practices to a complete waste management system. He emphasized that the participants play a key role in achieving important goals like 100% waste segregation, scientific waste processing, and garbage-free cities. He also encouraged teamwork and collaboration for successful implementation and wished everyone success in their learning journey. A vote of thanks for this session was given by Mr. Anuj Asthana, Centre Manager, AIILSG, Kota, Rajasthan.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

In the first session, Ms. Ansari delivered a presentation on 'The Legal Framework & Enforcement in SWM 2024', where she detailed the updated rules and laws governing solid waste

management. She emphasized the importance of proper waste handling, including collection, segregation, and disposal, while underscoring the need for enforcement and legal accountability to ensure clean and safe cities. Highlighting the roles of ULBs alongside households, businesses, and waste workers, Ms. Ansari explained that while ULBs oversee the implementation and monitoring of SWM systems, the active participation of all stakeholders is crucial. She also addressed challenges, such as limited awareness, coordination gaps, and resource shortages, offering insights into overcoming these obstacles. The session provided valuable knowledge on how robust legal frameworks and collaborative efforts can strengthen waste management practices in urban areas.

The second session on 'Sustainability & Circular Economy in Waste Management' was delivered by Mr. Anil Kumar Jain, former Additional Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Government of Rajasthan, focusing on strategies for cities to transition into Zero Waste Cities.



Mr. Anil Kumar Jain, former Additional Chief Engineer, PHED, Government of Rajasthan addressing the participants.

He outlined the SWM 2024 guidelines, which emphasize better waste segregation, recycling, and composting to minimize landfill dependency and reframe waste as a valuable resource.

The session introduced the Circular Economy concept, promoting the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle, along with waste valorization techniques such as composting, biogas production, and the creation of recycled products. As regards plastic waste, Mr. Jain highlighted the role of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in ensuring manufacturers take accountability for post-consumer waste. He also stressed the need for adopting sustainable alternatives like biodegradable materials to foster a cleaner and more environmentally responsible future.

Mr. Anand Jagtap, former Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Solid Waste Management (SWM), Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mumbai delivered the third session on 'Behavioral Change and Citizen Engagement in Waste Management', emphasizing the key role of public involvement in achieving effective and sustainable waste practices. He explained how behavioral changes, such as proper waste segregation, reducing plastic use, and recycling, directly impact urban cleanliness and long-term waste management success. Highlighting successful community-driven models, he shared examples where residents actively participated in waste collection, segregation, and composting. Mr. Jagtap stressed the importance of awareness campaigns, incentives, and supportive policies in driving good practices. He also advocated for Decentralized Waste Management (DWM), which involves managing waste locally through community efforts rather than relying on large central facilities, fostering a sense of ownership, reducing transportation costs, and promoting environmental responsibility at the grassroots level.



Mr. Anand Jagtap, former OSD, SWM, BMC, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Dr. Hemlata Gandhi, CMM, DAY-NULM, KMC and SBM Ambassador, Kota conducted the fourth session on 'Monitoring, Evaluation, and Digital Tools in Solid Waste Management'.



Dr. Hemlata Gandhi, CMM, DAY-NULM, KMC and SBM Ambassador, Kota addressing the participants.

She introduced Swachh Survekshan 2025 (SS2025), a national cleanliness survey assessing cities on sanitation and waste management indicators through service-level progress, citizen feedback, and independent observation, which motivates ULBs to adopt best practices. She also highlighted the use of digital tools like the Swachhata App, the SBM Dashboard, and the SS2025 Portal for tracking complaints, monitoring waste collection, and providing real-time data for better decision-making. Ms. Gandhi stressed the importance of citizen feedback in ensuring transparency and accountability and emphasized how technology enhances monitoring while empowering citizens to contribute to improving urban sanitation standards.

GROUP EXERCISE



Participants engaged in group exercise.

The final session of the training program featured an interactive group exercise on 'Developing Solid Waste Management (SWM) Action Plans for Cities', aimed at promoting collaborative

problem-solving and strategic thinking. The participants were divided into six groups, each addressing a specific theme linked to national missions and urban development. Key topics included the use of technology for efficient SBM implementation, aligning Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) with sanitation goals, innovative Information, Education and Communication (IEC) & Behavior Change Communication (BCC) strategies, and strengthening the role of elected representatives. Each group proposed practical, context-specific action plans such as integrating digital tools in ULB operations, incorporating waste systems in housing projects, and using local influencers to drive behavioral change.

The group discussions encouraged the participants to assess current challenges and propose strategic, real-world solutions critically. The presentations highlighted the importance of data-driven governance, community engagement, and political leadership in the implementation of the mission. The exercise fostered teamwork and emphasized mission convergence, reinforcing that coordinated efforts among stakeholders, governments, communities, and institutions are key to achieving sustainable urban development.



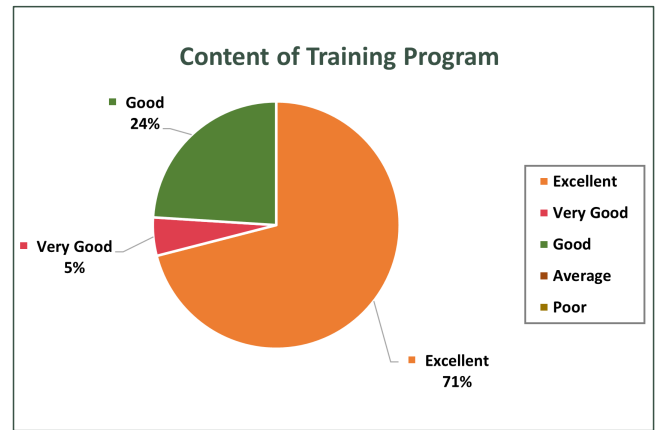
Presentation of group exercise by participants.

Dr. Richa Gautam, KMC's Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO), chaired the concluding session of the training program. She also had the honor of distributing the training completion certificates to all the participants, marking the program's successful conclusion.



Certificate Distribution to the participants at Kota, Rajasthan.

sessions were 'Sustainability & Circular Economy in Waste Management' (81%), 'The Legal Framework & Enforcement in SWM 2024' (85%), and 'Behavioral Change & Citizen Engagement in Waste Management' (88%). While Monitoring, Evaluation & Digital Tools in Solid Waste Management' received a lower but still positive rating (62%), it highlighted opportunities for further refinement.



SUMMING UP

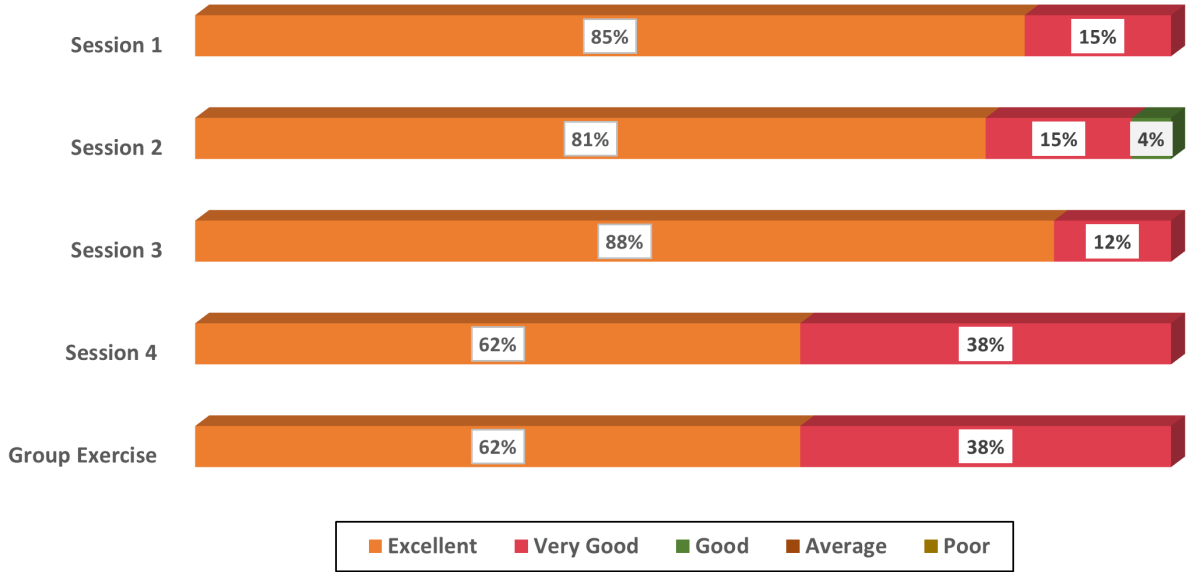
After the feedback and Question & Answer session, the training program concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Ms. Maleka Ansari. She expressed her gratitude to both the trainers and participants for their active engagement and valuable contributions throughout the program.

TRAINING EVALUATION

The training program was highly successful, with almost all sessions receiving positive feedback. The most appreciated

Overall, the feedback highlights the program's effectiveness in delivering valuable insights through expert-led discussions. The high ratings for sustainability, enforcement, and citizen engagement sessions suggest strong participant engagement, while the response to digital tools indicates an opportunity to refine content or presentation methods. The interactive group exercise added an extra dimension to the program, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in developing effective waste management strategies. These insights can help shape future training programs for even greater impact.

Session wise Feedback Ratings



GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM





Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Program on Strengthening Preparedness for Monsoon Emergencies

16th May 2025

Key Highlight

The training program provided valuable insights to the participants on improving coordination among local authorities, and enhancing the capacity to anticipate and manage monsoon induced disasters. It also emphasized on equipping the participants with essential skills and practical tools for effective disaster preparedness and response.

BACKGROUND

The monsoon season is a critical component of the natural cycle, playing a key role in sustaining ecological balance and supporting biodiversity. Monsoon rains contribute to the refilling of rivers, lakes, and groundwater reserves vital for drinking water and irrigation. Despite the benefits, the monsoon season presents significant challenges. Heavy rainfall can lead to severe flooding, displacing populations and disrupting livelihoods. In hilly and mountainous regions, landslides can destroy homes, damage infrastructure, and cut off essential services. Water accumulation often results in outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as cholera and dengue. Urban areas, especially those with inadequate planning, are highly vulnerable to infrastructure failures during extreme weather events. Furthermore, climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of these hazards,

adding to the urgency of effective preparedness and response. Considering these growing risks, the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES) of the All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai, organized a Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Program on 'Strengthening Preparedness for Monsoon Emergencies', on 16th May 2025. This program was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

KEY OBJECTIVE

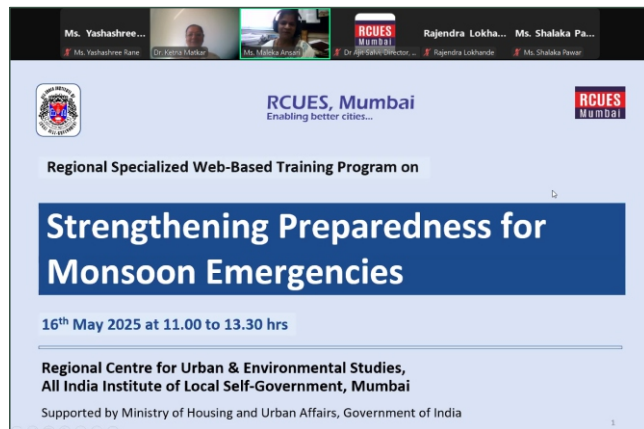
The program focused on strengthening the capacity of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and key stakeholders to effectively plan

for, respond to, and manage monsoon-related disasters, thereby reducing risks and enhancing urban resilience.

PARTICIPATION

Over 35 participants, comprising Disaster Management Project Coordinators, Safety Officers, Fire Fighters, Fire & BMS Station Officers, District Child Protection Officers (DCPOs), Firemen etc. attended the training program.

INTRODUCTION



Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

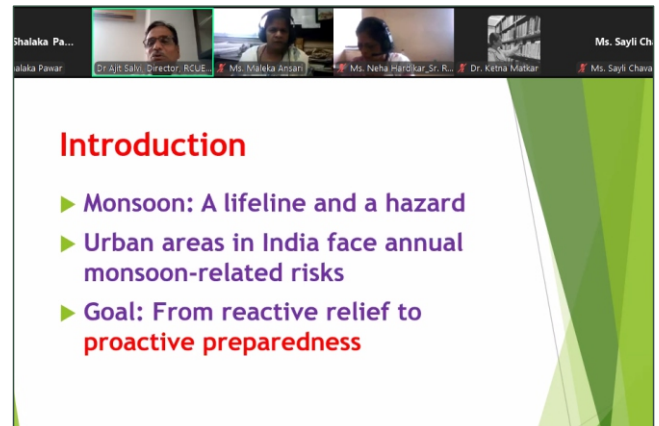
Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIIILSG, Mumbai, welcomed the speakers and the participants and gave an insightful overview of RCUES of AIIILSG, Mumbai, emphasizing its vital role in promoting sustainable urban

governance through capacity-building efforts. She highlighted that training program aims to build a thorough understanding of the need to prepare for monsoon emergencies by explaining the different monsoon disasters that have taken place in the past.

INAUGURATION

Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AIIILSG, Mumbai, inaugurated the web-based training program. In his address, Dr. Salvi emphasized the importance of monsoon preparedness and highlighted the key role that ULBs play in ensuring effective planning and response.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS



Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AIIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Dr. Salvi also delivered the first session on 'Monsoon Preparedness - Role of ULBs' and provided a detailed and

practical framework for strengthening urban resilience in the face of increasingly intense and unpredictable monsoons. He began by highlighting the dual nature of the monsoon as both a life-supporting force and a seasonal hazard, especially in rapidly urbanizing regions of Western India. Cities like Mumbai, Pune, Surat, Goa, and Udaipur, he noted, face recurrent threats such as flooding, infrastructure collapse, disease outbreaks, and storm surges. Dr. Salvi structured the session around five key pillars of monsoon preparedness. Infrastructure Readiness focused on pre-monsoon desilting, structural audits, and strengthening drainage in flood-prone areas. Emergency Action Planning involves city-specific contingency plans, setting up Emergency Operation Centres, and stockpiling essential relief materials. Public Communication stressed real-time alerts, awareness campaigns in schools and communities, and local volunteer engagement. Health and Sanitation aspects included anti-larval measures, chlorination, disease outbreak preparedness, and proper waste disposal. Resilience and Recovery emphasized the swift restoration of essential services, mobile health units, temporary shelters, and nature-based solutions like wetlands. He also shared best practices from cities like Mumbai, Surat, Goa, and Udaipur that have implemented innovative flood resilience measures. He emphasized that ULBs must play a leading role in monsoon preparedness through annual audits, pre-monsoon budgeting, disaster team training, and transparent communication. He also advocated for the adoption of technology such as GIS mapping, drones, and mobile reporting apps, integrated with Smart City control centers.

Ms. Sayali Chavan, Assistant Professor, SKM's J. M. Patel College of Commerce, Mumbai, conducted the second session

on 'Understanding Monsoon Hazards and Risk Assessment'. She began the session by providing a comprehensive overview of monsoon patterns across different regions of India, highlighting their variability and the common hazards associated with them, such as flooding, waterlogging, and infrastructure damage. Ms. Chavan emphasized the significance of early identification and assessment of these risks to minimize their impact on urban populations. She introduced the concept of vulnerability mapping to the participants, explaining how it helps identify areas and communities most at risk. Additionally, she discussed various tools and methodologies that can be employed for effective hazard and risk assessment, including GIS-based mapping, historical data analysis, and community-based assessments. The session aimed to equip urban planners and municipal officials with practical knowledge to improve resilience and preparedness at the local level.

Ms. Shalika Pa...
Ms. Shalika Pawar

Ms. Sayali Chavan

Ms. Manika Adgil

Dr. Jyoti Bhatnagar

Ms. Neha Hardik...
Ms. Neha Hardik_57_Res...

Dr. Ketan Mhatre

OVERVIEW OF MONSOON PATTERN

- MONSOON IS THE SEASONAL REVERSAL IN THE WIND DIRECTION DURING A YEAR.
- IT WAS FIRST NOTICED BY THE SAILORS WHO CAME TO INDIA.
- IT WAS NAMED 'MONSOON' BY THE ARAB TRADERS.
- IT'S SUSTAINED IN THE ZONE BETWEEN 20° N AND 20° S.
- ITS DURATION IS BETWEEN 100- 120 DAYS FROM EARLY JUNE TO MID-SEPTEMBER.

Ms. Sayali Chavan, Assistant Professor, SKM's J. M. Patel College of Commerce, Mumbai addressing the participants.

The third session, titled 'Community-Based Preparedness and Emergency Action Planning,' was delivered by Mr. Rajendra Lokhande, Assistant Chief Officer, Disaster Management Department, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mumbai. Mr. Lokhande underscored the vital role of community participation in disaster preparedness, stressing that effective emergency planning must be inclusive and grounded in local realities. He highlighted the importance of engaging residents through awareness campaigns, public education initiatives, and participatory planning processes to build a culture of preparedness. The session focused on the creation of localized emergency action plans tailored to specific community needs and vulnerabilities.



Mr. Rajendra Lokhande, Assistant Chief Officer, Disaster Management Department, BMC, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Mr. Lokhande also emphasized the significance of resource mobilization, such as equipments, manpower, and communication tools, during emergencies. Additionally, he discussed the necessity of seamless coordination between

community members, local authorities, and municipal departments to ensure a timely and efficient response to disasters. The session aimed at empowering urban stakeholders with practical strategies to strengthen grassroots resilience.

The fourth session, titled 'Emergency Response Simulation and Coordination Exercise,' was conducted by Dr. Ketna Matkar, Founder and Managing Director, Cipher Environmental Solutions LLP, Thane. Dr. Matkar focused on the critical importance of structured response mechanisms during monsoon-related emergencies. She provided an in-depth explanation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that guide response teams in real-time scenarios, emphasizing clarity, speed, and accountability. The session also covered essential communication protocols and the establishment of a clear Chain of Command to ensure coordination among various stakeholders during crises.

Emergency Support Functions (ESF)

14 Emergency Support Functions identified as an integral part to carry out emergency response activities.

Sr. no	Emergency Support Function	Lead Agency
1	Communication	Disaster Management Unit (BMC)
2	Public Safety and Law & Order	Mumbai Police
3	Fire Fighting	Mumbai Fire Brigade
4	Search and Rescue	Mumbai Fire Brigade
5	Transport	Transport Commissioner
6	Public Health and Sanitation	Executive Health Office (BMC)
7	Resource Management	Disaster Management Unit (BMC)
8	Information Management	Public Relations Officer (BMC)
9	Mass care, Housing and Human Services	Education Officer (Municipal Corporation)
10	Relief Supplies	Collector (City)
11	Energy (Power, Fuel & Gas)	Brihan Mumbai electricity Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST)
12	Utility Services	Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Special Engineering), Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai
13	Public Works and Infrastructure	Director (Engineering Services and Projects), BMC
14	Oil and Hazardous Materials	Director, Industrial Safety and Health (DISH)

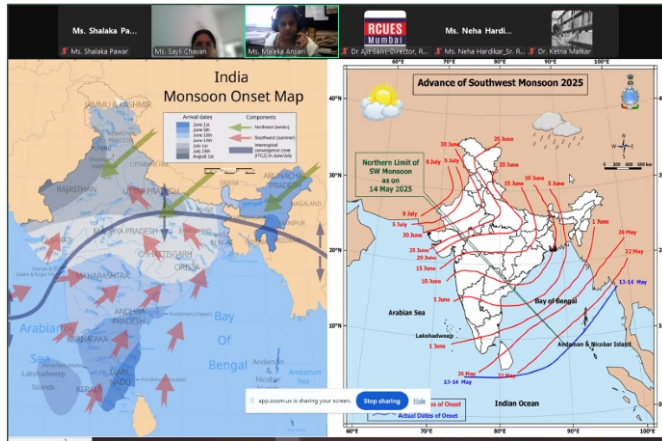
Dr. Ketna Matkar, Founder and Managing Director, Cipher Environmental Solutions LLP, Thane addressing the participants.

Dr. Matkar highlighted the value of conducting regular mock drills and simulation exercises, particularly in the context of urban flood scenarios, to test preparedness levels and refine emergency strategies. She explained how such simulations help identify gaps in response, improve inter-agency coordination, and build confidence among frontline responders. The session concluded with a presentation of practical insights on integrating these exercises into municipal disaster management plans to enhance overall urban resilience.

SUMMING UP

The training program concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Ms. Ansari. After taking feedback from the participants, she expressed her gratitude to all trainers for their valuable contributions and encouraged the participants to actively apply the insights and knowledge gained during the sessions in their work roles.

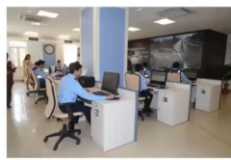

GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED WEB-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM



Emergency Operation Center

State of the Art Emergency Operation Center at Municipal Head Office & in 24 Administrative Wards

- Operative round o' clock, 24 x 7
- Latest Communication Systems
- Early Warning System
- 21 Hot Lines connected with various Stake Holders
- Hot line connectivity with 24 Administrative Wards, 4 Major & 2 Peripheral Hospitals.
- Other communication like Internet, VHF, Fax and Television Sets are Installed
- HAM radio setup established
- VHF network with 58 various stakeholders
- 1916 with 10 hunting lines operational for disaster-related and civic complaints
- Direct feed of 5000+ CCTV cameras under MCS project is available in the Control Room.
- Mirror image of main EOC is established in City Institute of Disaster Management, Parel.



Regional Specialized Training Program on Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U) 2.0

21st - 22nd May 2025
Surat, Gujarat

Key Highlight

The key highlight of the program was the implementation of new waste management practices, enhancing circular economy strategies, integration of behavioral change and hands-on learning to drive sustainable & zero-waste urban transformation.

BACKGROUND

The Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 represents a transformative leap in India's urban sanitation and waste management landscape, building upon the foundational successes of its predecessor. Launched in 2021, it is strategically aligned with the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Guidelines 2024, driving the vision of Garbage-Free and Water-Secure cities through a holistic, data-driven, and technology-enabled approach. The mission mandates 100% source segregation, scientific waste processing, and remediation of legacy waste dumpsites, alongside the universalization of safe sanitation and sustainable wastewater management. By fostering reforms and pioneering innovative solutions, SBM-U 2.0 aims to enhance urban livability, public health, and environmental resilience. The SWM Guidelines 2024 serve as a blueprint for

achieving these objectives, embedding circular economy principles, participatory governance, and intelligent waste ecosystems into urban planning. A strong emphasis on behavioral transformation, capacity building, and synergistic public-private collaborations underscores the mission's commitment to long-term sustainability. Through integrating smart infrastructure, cutting-edge technologies, and comprehensive policy frameworks, SBM-U 2.0 is poised to redefine India's urban paradigm, transitioning to an era of cleaner, more sustainable, and future-ready cities.

Considering this background, the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai organized a Regional

Specialized Training Program on 'Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U) 2.0' on 21st - 22nd May 2025 at Surat, Gujarat. This training program was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The training program aimed to empower stakeholders with the expertise to implement the SWM Guidelines 2024 effectively. It strengthened their knowledge in waste management, sustainable sanitation, circular economy, and smart governance, while fostering behavioral change and strategic public-private collaboration to drive urban sustainability.

PARTICIPATION

In all, 35 participants, comprising City Managers, Medical Officers, Deputy Health Officers, Chief Sanitary Inspectors, and Sanitary Inspectors attended the training program.

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai extended a warm welcome to the participants. She highlighted the well-structured and impactful nature of RCUES, Mumbai's training programs, making significant contributions to strengthening the capacities of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across India. Introducing the training program with clarity, she outlined its objectives and scope, setting the tone for the sessions ahead. Emphasizing the critical importance of

effective implementation of the SWM Guidelines 2024, she called for strict enforcement mechanisms and stressed the pivotal role of key stakeholders in driving sustainable and inclusive urban transformation.



Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

INAUGURATION

The training program was officially inaugurated by Padmashri Ms. Ramilaben Gamit, Social Activist, Gujarat, Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG Mumbai, Mr. Pundalik Awate, Consultant, SBM, Mumbai, and Mr. Anand Jagtap, former Officer on Special Duty (OSD), SWM, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mumbai. During her inaugural speech, Ms. Ramilaben mentioned the impactful work she undertook in transforming nine villages into open defecation-free zones by constructing 700 toilets and empowering tribal women through 162 self-help groups inspired by the SBM and highlighted the critical importance of working at the grassroots level to drive meaningful change.



Inauguration of the training program at Surat. (L to R) Mr. Anand Jagtap, former OSD, SWM, BMC, Mumbai, Mr. Parvez Malik, Regional Director, AILSG, Surat, Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG Mumbai, Padmashri Ms. Ramilaben Gamit, Social Activist, Gujarat, Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, Mr. Pundalik Awate, Consultant, SBM, Mumbai and Mansi Gothankar, Research Associate, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai.

Further, Dr. Salvi delivered a special keynote address on the newly released SWM Guidelines 2024, highlighting their integration into the broader framework of SBM-U 2.0. He underscored that the successful practices implemented in Surat serve as exemplary models and should be replicated across other States, which is the core objective of organizing this regional training program.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

In the first session, 'The Legal Framework & Enforcement in SWM 2024', Dr. Salvi provided an in-depth analysis of the

SWM Rules 2016, shedding light on their key provisions, achieved outcomes, and persistent implementation challenges. He highlighted the progress made, including increased waste collection and processing rates, biogas units, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) registration on the platforms. However, he also noted ongoing issues such as low segregation compliance, underutilized processing plants, and limited integration of the informal sector. Building on this foundation, Dr. Salvi introduced the SWM Rules 2024, emphasizing the enhanced clarity in waste categorization, stricter enforcement provisions, and expanded responsibilities for ULBs. He stressed the importance of 100% door-to-door collection, imposition of user fees, scientific disposal practices, and the integration of waste pickers into formal systems. Through his comprehensive presentation, Dr. Salvi explained the revised regulatory framework, which aims to transform waste management practices and drive systemic improvements under SBM-U 2.0.



Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

In the second session on 'Sustainability & Circular Economy in Waste Management', Mr. Awate focused on strategies to transit urban areas towards zero-waste cities in alignment with the SWM Rules 2024. He emphasized that the 2024 rules serve as a comprehensive roadmap for developing Zero Waste and Circular Cities, where waste is not merely disposed of but transformed into a valuable resource through smart and sustainable systems. The concept of waste valorisation was the key point in his presentation, which involves converting waste into economically and ecologically beneficial outputs such as energy, compost, or recycled materials, thereby reducing environmental impact while unlocking economic potential. He highlighted the pivotal role of EPR in minimizing plastic waste by mandating producers and brand owners to take accountability for the entire lifecycle of their products, including post-consumer waste management. He further stressed that achieving true circularity and sustainability is possible only through multi-stakeholder engagement.



Mr. Pundalik Awate, Consultant, SBM, Mumbai addressing the participants.

In the third session on 'Behavioural Change & Citizen Engagement in Waste Management', Mr. Jagtap emphasized that technological solutions and infrastructure can only be effective when supported by a shift in public attitudes and daily practices related to waste generation, segregation, and disposal. He focused on community-driven models and real-world best practices for citizen engagement, where sustained behavioral transformation plays a pivotal role in achieving and maintaining cleanliness standards.



Mr. Anand Jagtap, former OSD, SWM, BMC, Mumbai addressing the participants.

He further advocated for strategically designed awareness campaigns that go beyond information dissemination to foster emotional and civic ownership among residents, and discussed the effectiveness of Decentralized Waste Management (DWM), emphasizing community-centric approaches such as ward-level composting units, local resource recovery centers, and neighborhood engagement programs by linking behavioral change with policy, infrastructure, and community participation.

In the fourth session on 'Transforming Waste into Wealth: Surat's SBM-U Model for Urban Cleanliness', Dr. Rikita Patel, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Surat Municipal Corporation, Gujarat emphasized the importance of an integrated waste management ecosystem combining door-to-door waste collection, real-time digital monitoring, mechanized sweeping and segregation at source, enabled by the 'One Zone, One Agency' model. She highlighted that the city's success was instrumental because of 100% door-to-door collection, widespread adoption of 5-bin segregation, and the use of GPS-tagged vehicles with Time-Place-Movement tracking to ensure operational efficiency.



Dr. Rikita Patel, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Surat Municipal Corporation, Gujarat addressing the participants.

She suggested best practices like Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), Waste-to-Compost and Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) plants, plastic-to-fabric recycling, and legacy dumpsite remediation as key measures. Importantly, she underscored the role of Information, Education & Communication (IEC)

strategies in fostering a culture of cleanliness, including Swachhata rallies, school-based awareness programs, zero-waste events, and 5R centres promoting reuse and donation of excess household items.

SITE VISIT

On 21st May 2025, a site visit to the Kosad Recycle Track System (RTS), Material Recovery Facility (MRF), and Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste Processing Plant was arranged to provide the participants with practical knowledge. Visit to the Kosad RTS provided the participants with crucial insights into the technological backbone that showed Surat's waste management efficiency with an integrated system leveraging real-time tracking and data analytics to optimize waste collection routes, ensuring timely pickups, and reducing logistical inefficiencies. At the Kosad MRF, the participants understood the intricate processes involved in segregating and preparing dry waste for recycling. They observed the waste collection and pre-sorting areas, understanding the initial steps of waste handling, mechanical & manual sorting, which further led to the baling process, in which sorted recyclables are compacted for efficient transport. The Kosad C&D Waste Processing Plant offered a compelling demonstration of how construction and demolition debris, typically considered waste, is efficiently converted into useful resources. The participants witnessed the robust process of collection and initial segregation of C&D waste. The key insight was in observing the powerful crushing and screening operations. The participants gained practical insight into how materials like sand, gravel, and coarse aggregates are meticulously produced in high-value end products, such as recycled sand, recycled soil, paver blocks, and curb stones.



Participants during the Site Visit at Kosad C&D Waste Processing Plant, Surat, Gujarat.

GROUP EXERCISE

On 22nd May 2025, as part of an interactive group exercise, the participants were divided into four groups, each responsible for developing a SWM Action Plan focused on any one key area from the following themes:

- Group 1 - Waste Prevention & Reduction,
- Group 2 - Public Awareness & Behavior Change Communication,
- Group 3 - Waste Collection & Segregation, and
- Group 4 - Policy Regulation & Governance.

Each group analyzed the current gaps and challenges in their assigned topic and proposed innovative, actionable strategies to strengthen urban waste management systems. Group 1 emphasized circular economy practices, reuse, and eco-design, while Group 2 advocated culturally sensitive, community-driven awareness campaigns. Group 3 focused on improving segregation at source, integrating informal workers, and enhancing waste

collection infrastructure, whereas Group 4 proposed stronger regulatory frameworks, financial incentives for compliance, and robust monitoring systems. Collectively, the exercise fostered a collaborative environment that brought together diverse insights and practical solutions, offering a holistic approach to improving solid waste management in cities.

SUMMING UP

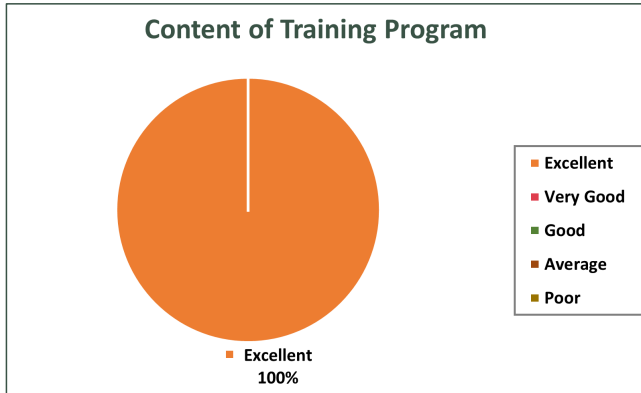
This training program concluded on a successful and impactful note. Mrs. Ansari extended heartfelt gratitude to all the esteemed speakers, enthusiastic participants, and the dedicated supporting staff whose efforts ensured the smooth execution of the two-day event. The program ended with the participants sharing valuable feedback and with a formal certificate distribution ceremony, acknowledging the active participation and engagement of the attendees, and reinforcing their role as key enablers in the implementation at their workplace.

TRAINING EVALUATION

Training evaluation is essential to assess the impact of the training program on the participants, identify areas for improvement, and ensure that the learning objectives are achieved.

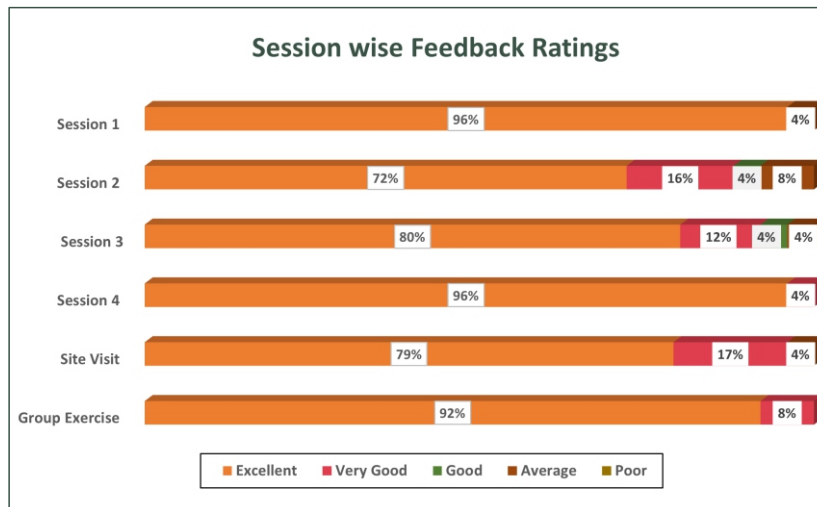
The feedback from this training program reflects highly positive outcomes, with 100% of participants rating the content as excellent. These results demonstrate that the training content was substantially applicable and greatly acknowledged by the participants. Notably, none of the participants rated the content as poor or average, indicating that the program's structure and design effectively met participants' expectations. This

overwhelmingly positive response emphasizes the overall success and effectiveness of the program's content.



Noteworthy sessions that gained exceptional ratings included 'The Legal Framework & Enforcement in SWM 2024 and 'Transforming Waste into Wealth: Surat's SBM-U Model for

Urban Cleanliness', both achieving an impressive 96% Excellent feedback. These ratings reflect a high level of satisfaction among participants concerning the clarity, relevance, and applicability of the content delivered. The session on 'Sustainability & Circular Economy in Waste Management', acknowledged as valuable, receiving 72% Excellent and 16% Very Good ratings. The session on 'Behavioral Change & Citizen Engagement in Waste Management' received 80% Excellent ratings, indicating strong alignment with participants' expectations. The Site Visit earned 79% Excellent and 17% Very Good feedback, underlining its value in providing on-ground learning. The Group Exercise on developing the SWM Action Plan was especially well-received, with 92% Excellent feedback for its interactive, practical, and team-based format. Overall, the consistently positive responses reflect both the faculty's subject-matter expertise and the program's success in delivering meaningful and actionable training content.



GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM





India Event Expo 2025

31st May 2025
Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG), Mumbai, participated as a distinguished jury member at the India Event Expo 2025, held on 31st May 2025 at the CIDCO Exhibition & Convention Centre, Navi Mumbai to evaluate live competitions showcasing excellence in the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) industry. The event brought together leading experts from diverse domains such as tourism, innovation, sustainability, and urban governance. The expo served as a powerful national platform to highlight India's growing influence in the global experiential services economy while promoting sustainable development and urban innovation.

As part of the esteemed jury, Dr. Salvi observed a strong convergence of innovation, sustainability, and experiential service design within the MICE sector. He noted that the participating teams and showcased models reflected a growing awareness of environmentally conscious event planning and the integration of sustainable practices in urban infrastructure. He was particularly struck by how MICE platforms are evolving beyond their traditional economic roles to become enablers of urban resilience, inclusive growth, and

smart service delivery. Dr. Salvi also observed that several emerging solutions have great potential for replication in second- and third-tier cities, where event-based tourism could be a powerful catalyst for local development and municipal revenue generation.

From RCUES Mumbai's perspective, participation in this expo was both strategic and enriching. It amplified the Centre's visibility in national urban innovation forums and enabled knowledge exchange with stakeholders from creative industries, tourism, and digital services. Key takeaways included the potential to launch capacity-building programs tailored for event-linked urban development, the relevance of developing policy guidelines for sustainable event infrastructure, and the importance of creating cross-sector partnerships with bodies like Network of Indian MICE Agents (NIMA), India Think Council, and industry leaders from the block chain and hospitality sectors. Dr. Salvi's engagement at the India Event Expo 2025 reinforced RCUES Mumbai's commitment to embedding sustainability, innovation, and collaboration into India's urban future, leveraging platforms like the MICE sector to create smarter, greener, and more inclusive cities.

GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT



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