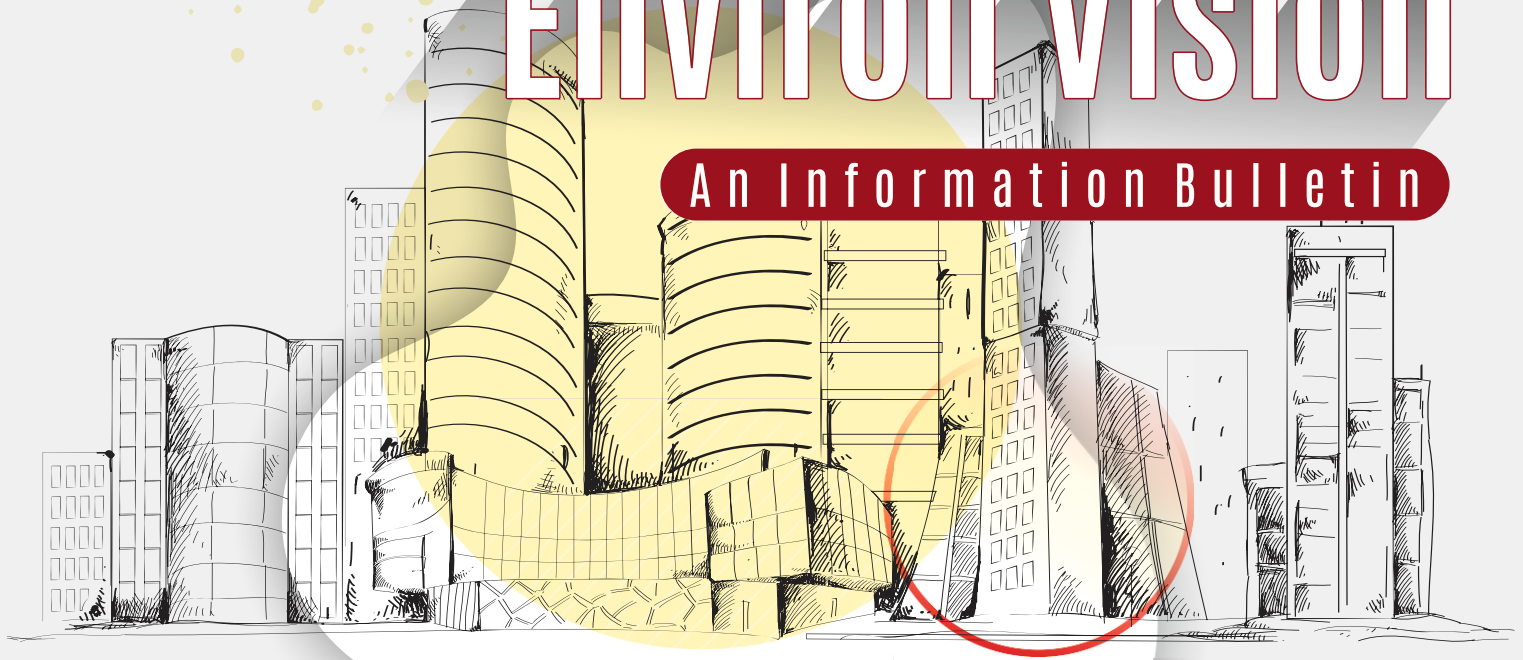


Vol - 20 No. 12 December 2025


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

# Urban Environ Vision

An Information Bulletin



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 Programs on **Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U) 2.0**

29<sup>th</sup> December 2025

30<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### Key Highlight

**The group work sessions adopted collaborative learning and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange among the participants. They enabled practical application of SBM - U 2.0 concepts through problem identification and action-plan development. The group exercises strengthened teamwork, critical thinking, and solution-oriented approaches to urban sanitation challenges.**

## BACKGROUND

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 SBM 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 the remediation of legacy waste, 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 SBM 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 the integration of smart infrastructure, cutting-edge waste valorization technologies, and comprehensive policy frameworks, SBM-U 2.0 is poised to

redefine India's urban paradigm ushering in 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 two Regional Specialized Training Programs on 'Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM - U) 2.0' on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at Mumbai, Maharashtra. These training programs were supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

## KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of these programs was to empower stakeholders with the expertise to effectively implement the SBM Guidelines 2024. They strengthened capacities in waste management, sustainable sanitation, circular economy, and smart governance. The initiatives also promoted behavioral change and strategic public-private collaboration to advance urban sustainability.

## PARTICIPATION

A total of 55 participants attended these training programs. The participants comprising SBM stakeholders and representatives of Housing Societies attended these training programs from Maharashtra. The following table indicates participation in each training program.

Sr. No.	Date of the Specialized Training Programs	No. of Participants
1	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	28
2	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	27
	Total	55

## INTRODUCTION

On 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai, delivered the introductory address by warmly welcoming the trainers and participants. She briefly outlined the functioning of RCUES, Mumbai and highlighted the key objectives of the training program.



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

On 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai, delivered the introductory

address by welcoming the trainers and participants. She provided an overview of RCUES, Mumbai and outlined the objectives and agenda of the training sessions.



**Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.**

## INAUGURATION

Both the training programs were inaugurated by Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, in the presence of Dr. (Prof.) Sneha Palnitkar, Chief Executive Officer, Waste Management Resource Centre (WMRC), AILSG, Mumbai, Dr. Subhash Dalvi, Founder and Director, Asthashree Sustainability Foundation (ASF), Mumbai, Adv. Ashwini Borude, Director, ASF, Mumbai, Ms. Ansari and Ms. Hardikar.



**Inauguration of the training program on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (L to R) Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, Adv. Ashwini Borude, Director, ASF, Mumbai, Dr. (Prof.) Sneha Palnitkar, Chief Executive Officer, WMRC, AILSG, Mumbai, Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, Dr. Subhash Dalvi, Founder and Director, ASF, Mumbai, and Mr. Prakash Sawant, Official of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mumbai.**

Dr. Salvi delivered the keynote address during the program, highlighting its vision for achieving sustainable, inclusive, and garbage-free cities. The address emphasized innovation, and data-driven governance to strengthen urban sanitation systems. He also highlighted the critical role of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and stakeholders in translating SBM-U 2.0 guidelines into effective on-ground action. He further highlighted the priorities outlined under SWM 2024, underlining the need to move beyond routine waste collection toward circular economy practices. In conclusion, he emphasized the need for stronger inter-departmental convergence and continuous capacity-building initiatives to effectively translate the vision of SBM-U 2.0 into tangible, measurable, and sustainable environmental outcomes.



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

## TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The first technical session on 'Overview of SBM-U 2.0' was delivered by Dr. Palnitkar. She outlined the mission's evolution briefly from achieving ODF status to ensuring long-term sustainability through scientific solid and liquid waste management. She explained key focus areas such as source segregation, door-to-door collection, the 3R approach, compliance with waste management rules, and the Garbage Free Cities framework. The session also highlighted the importance of behaviour change, citizen participation, digital monitoring, grievance redressal, and decentralized waste management systems in strengthening urban sanitation outcomes.

In conclusion, Dr. Palnitkar emphasized that SBM-U 2.0 is a holistic, people-centric mission aligned with public health,

environmental sustainability, and the Sustainable Development Goals. She underlined the need for coordinated efforts by ULBs, institutions, and communities to sustain sanitation gains and achieve garbage-free cities. The session reinforced that lasting impact depends on integrating infrastructure, governance, and behavioral change through continuous capacity building and community engagement.



**Dr. (Prof.) Sneha Palnitkar, Chief Executive Officer, WMRC, AILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.**

The second session on 'Behavioural Change & Citizen Engagement in Waste Management' was led by Adv. Borude. This insightful session showcased practical models of zero-waste management and community-led sanitation initiatives implemented at grassroots level. Drawing from real-world case studies, particularly from slum settlements and institutional campuses, she highlighted the importance of source segregation, composting of wet waste, recycling of dry waste, and elimination of single-use plastics. The session emphasized

strong community participation, women's leadership, children's engagement, and sustained awareness through innovative tools such as street plays, wall paintings, rallies, and cleanliness drives.



**Adv. Ashwini Borude, Director, ASF, Mumbai addressing the participants.**

The session also highlighted the replicability and scalability of these initiatives across diverse urban settings. Adv. Borude emphasized that with consistent guidance, institutional support, and community ownership, zero-waste practices can be sustained over time and integrated into mainstream urban governance frameworks under SBM-U 2.0.

Adv. Borude concluded the session by demonstrating how grassroots action, supported by municipal collaboration and continuous capacity building, can successfully transform waste management systems. Her session reinforced that behavioral change, ownership by local communities, and simple decentralized solutions are key to achieving the objectives of

SBM-U 2.0. The session was inspiring to the participants to replicate and adapt zero-waste practices in their respective urban contexts to move towards cleaner, sustainable, and garbage-free cities.

The third session on 'Role of Swachhata Leaders under SBM-U 2.0' was delivered by Dr. Dalvi. He highlighted the significant role of Swachhata Leaders in driving behavioral change and ensuring effective implementation of SBM-U 2.0 at the grassroots level. The session emphasized leadership, community engagement, and ownership as key enablers for sustainable sanitation outcomes. Dr. Dalvi also shared practical insights and real-world examples demonstrating how Swachhata Leaders can act as catalysts between ULBs and communities. The session encouraged participants to adopt proactive, people-centric approaches to strengthen urban cleanliness and sustainability initiatives.



**Dr. Subhash Dalvi, Founder and Director, ASF, Mumbai addressing the participants.**

## GROUP EXERCISE

Group exercises were conducted in both training programs, with participants divided into four groups. Each group was assigned a theme aligned with SBM-U 2.0 and tasked with deliberating on key challenges and formulating practical, implementable action plans. The groups collaboratively discussed issues, proposed solutions, and presented their action plans before the participants and resource persons.



**Presentation of group exercise by participants.**

The exercise encouraged teamwork, critical thinking, and practical application of SBM-U 2.0 guidelines. It enabled participants to translate theoretical knowledge into context-specific strategies. The interactive format enhanced peer learning and reinforced problem-solving skills. The best-performing group was appreciated for its innovative approach, clarity of action plan, and effective presentation.

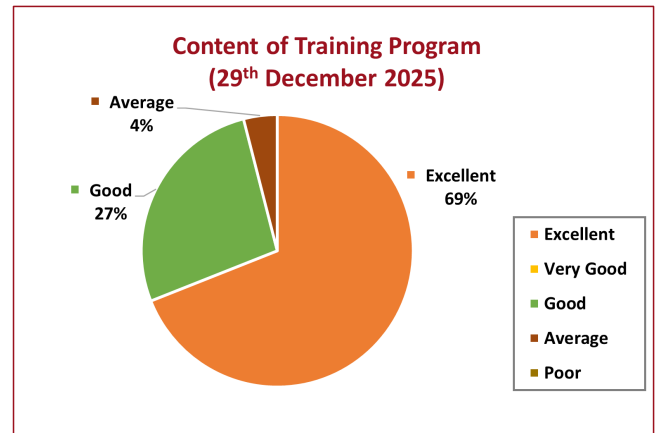
## SUMMING UP

Ms. Ansari closed the first training program by proposing a Vote of Thanks to the trainers and participants, following the feedback session and certificate distribution. The second training program concluded with closing remarks by Ms. Hardikar.

## TRAINING EVALUATION

### Training Program (29<sup>th</sup> December 2025):

The training evaluation was carried out based on feedback collected from participants on SBM-U 2.0. Participants shared their inputs on content relevance, clarity, and practical usefulness. This feedback helped assess the effectiveness and overall impact of the training program.



The first chart shows participants' feedback on the content of the training program held on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Most participants

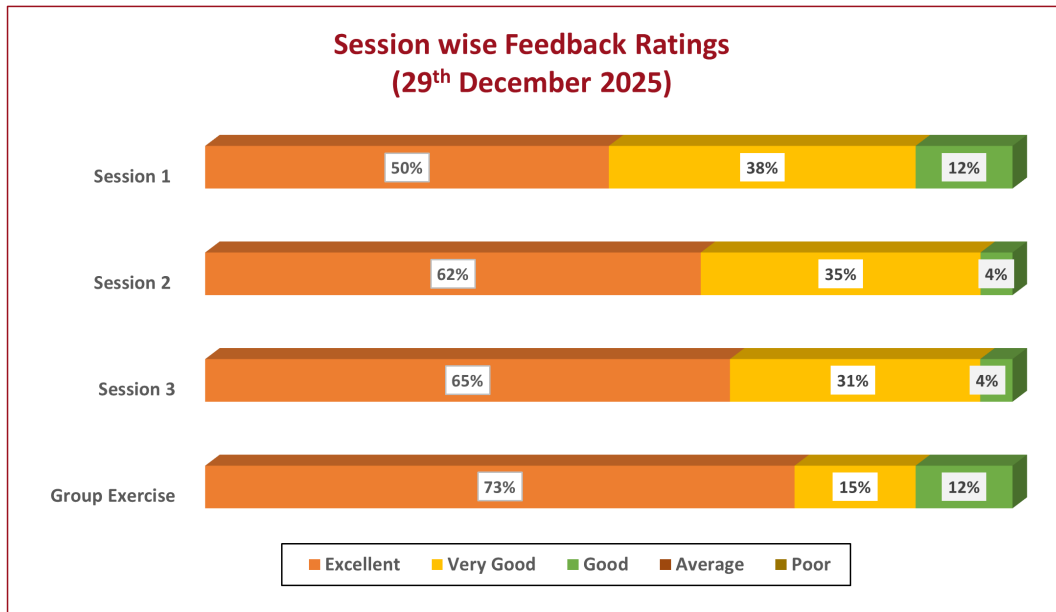
rated the content as 'Excellent' (69%), indicating high satisfaction with the relevance, clarity, and usefulness of the training program to the participants. 'Good' ratings account for 27%, showing that most remaining participants also viewed the content positively. Only a small proportion rated it 'Average' (4%), reflecting an overall very positive response. Overall, the chart highlights that the training content was well-received and effective for most participants.

The second chart presents session-wise feedback for 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025. It indicates a strong overall response, with most participants rating all sessions as 'Excellent' and 'Very Good'. Session 3 and the Group Exercise received particularly high 'Excellent' ratings (65% and 73% respectively), highlighting

better engagement and clarity as the program progressed. While a small proportion of 'Good' ratings were observed, there were no 'Average' or 'Poor' ratings, reflecting a consistently positive perception of the training content and delivery.

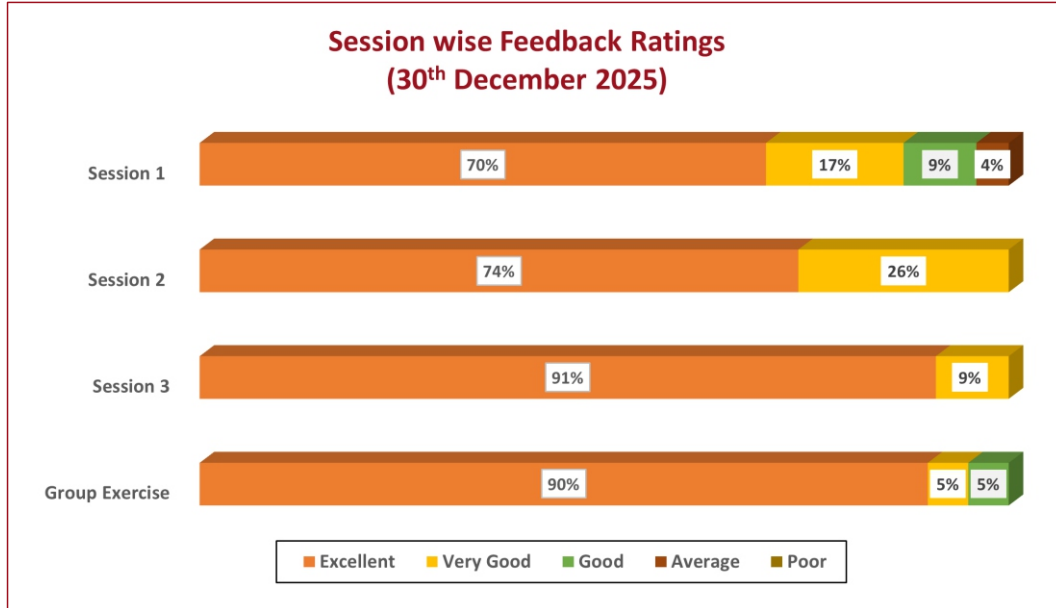
**Training Program (30<sup>th</sup> December 2025):**

The third chart presents participants' feedback on the content of the training program conducted on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025. An excessive 91% of participants rated the training content as 'Excellent', reflecting very high fulfilment with the quality, significance, and delivery of the sessions. The remaining 9% rated it as 'Good', indicating a generally positive experience.



Notably, there were no ratings under 'Average', or 'Poor', which highlights the strong effectiveness and acceptance of the training content among participants.

The fourth chart presents session-wise feedback for 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025. It shows a stronger performance across sessions, with exceptionally high 'Excellent' ratings, especially for Session 3 (91%) and the Group Exercise (90%). Session 2 also recorded a robust response with 74% 'Excellent' ratings. The overall trend reflects enhanced participants' satisfaction, improved understanding, and effective facilitation during the training program.



## GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS



02

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Climate Investments and Technology Impact Summit (CITIS)

09<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
New Delhi.

The Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG), Mumbai, participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Climate Investments and Technology Impact Summit (CITIS), co-located with the 10<sup>th</sup> India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) on 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, a national platform focused on shaping district- and city-level climate and water investments.

The inaugural session featured senior national and international leaders, including Mr. Sunil Tatkare, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Raigad), His Excellency Mr. Benedikt Hoskuldsson, Ambassador of Iceland to India, and His Excellency Mr. Tomaž Mencin, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to India, who deliberated on transformational pathways across key sectors in India. Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai, contributed as a key speaker in two high-impact thematic roundtables on 'Creating Markets for Treated Wastewater' and 'Sewage Sludge Management and Resource Valorization', where he emphasized decentralized treatment approaches, appropriate pricing mechanisms, and targeted subsidies as critical enablers for scalable reuse

models. In the sludge management dialogue, he highlighted that while sustainability-led sludge valorization remains institutionally challenging, it is technically feasible and achievable with the right mix of policy support, standards, and market development. Dr. Salvi was also invited to the inauguration of the Centre of Excellence on 'Reuse of Treated Wastewater'.

This engagement reinforced RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai's commitment to applied research, policy translation, and city-ready implementation frameworks, as the institution continues to support urban local bodies in advancing climate-resilient and economically viable water and sanitation solutions aligned with national priorities.

## GLIMPSES OF THE SUMMIT



**03**

# National Forum on 'Future Cities and Urban Sustainability'

12<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIIILSG), Mumbai, actively participated in a National Forum on 'Future Cities and Urban Sustainability', organized by Mahatma Education Society's Pillai College of Engineering, on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, contributing evidence-based perspectives on the intersecting environmental, social, and governance challenges shaping India's urban future. The forum served as a multidisciplinary platform to examine how rapid urbanization, climate change, and socio-economic inequities are redefining the role of cities in achieving national development and sustainability goals. Representing as Director, RCUES of AIIILSG, Mumbai, Dr. Ajit Salvi, presented a technical paper titled 'Environmental and Social Impacts in Cities,' which critically examined how climate stressors such as rising urban temperatures, deteriorating air quality, energy insecurity, and inadequate access to essential services disproportionately burden low-income households, informal settlements, and vulnerable populations. The presentation highlighted that these impacts are not isolated environmental concerns but systemic urban equity issues, with direct implications for public health, productivity, livability, and social cohesion.

Dr. Salvi emphasized the urgent need for equity-centered urban climate action, advocating for policy and planning frameworks that integrate social vulnerability into climate resilience, infrastructure investment, and service delivery. The discussion underscored the importance of sustainable and decentralized energy solutions, improved urban environmental governance, and empowered municipal institutions capable of translating national commitments into locally relevant action. The contribution also aligned urban sustainability pathways with India's long-term policy frameworks, including Viksit Bharat 2047, Net Zero Emissions by 2070, and the Sustainable Development Goals, stressing that cities will be the primary arenas where these ambitions are realized or fall short.

Through its participation, RCUES of AIIILSG, Mumbai, remains committed to the role of cities as critical agents of climate mitigation and adaptation, while highlighting the need for inclusive, data-driven, and implementation-oriented approaches that prioritize social equity alongside environmental performance.

## GLIMPSES OF THE NATIONAL FORUM



04

# Saifee Burhani Expo 2025 - Construction 360 (Mumbai Edition)

19<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG), Mumbai, actively participated in the Saifee Burhani Expo 2025 - Construction 360 (Mumbai Edition), on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at Bombay Exhibition Centre, NESCO, Mumbai, a platform centered on the theme 'Building India's Sustainable Future: Infrastructure Roadmap to 2047'. The expo brought together policymakers, technical experts, industry leaders, and urban practitioners to deliberate on India's long-term infrastructure transition in the context of sustainability, resilience, and inclusive growth.

Representing RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai, Director, Dr. Ajit Salvi, contributed as a panelist in a technical and candid panel discussion. His interventions emphasized the need for India's infrastructure planning to evolve beyond isolated, project-driven approaches towards systems-based thinking. The discussion underscored that infrastructure pathways to 2047 must integrate environmental sustainability, governance reform, and capacity building at the Urban Local Body (ULB) level.

A significant focus of Dr. Salvi's contribution was the urban water and sanitation sector. While acknowledging the substantial

progress made through investments in urban water supply, wastewater treatment, reuse initiatives, and flagship infrastructure programs, he highlighted persistent structural gaps. These included fragmented institutional responsibilities, underutilization of treated wastewater, weak demand creation mechanisms, limited integration across departments, hesitancy and peoples' perception. RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai's presence in forward-looking platforms contributes to shaping integrated, systems-based approaches for infrastructure and sustainability in India's roadmap to 2047 through its core work.



**05**

## Framing the Future

*Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, discussed with Mr. Ved Prakash Pandey, Executive Engineering and Mr. Deepak Shrivastava, Project Director, Delhi Jal Board, on nature-based technologies for waterbody rejuvenation as a key area for collaboration. The deliberations focused on solutions such as constructed wetlands, bio-remediation, and rainwater harvesting to improve water quality and ecological health. The discussion emphasized on integrating these approaches within ongoing AMRUT 2.0 missions to promote sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure. The discussion concluded with a shared interest in advancing joint initiatives for environmentally sustainable urban water management.*



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