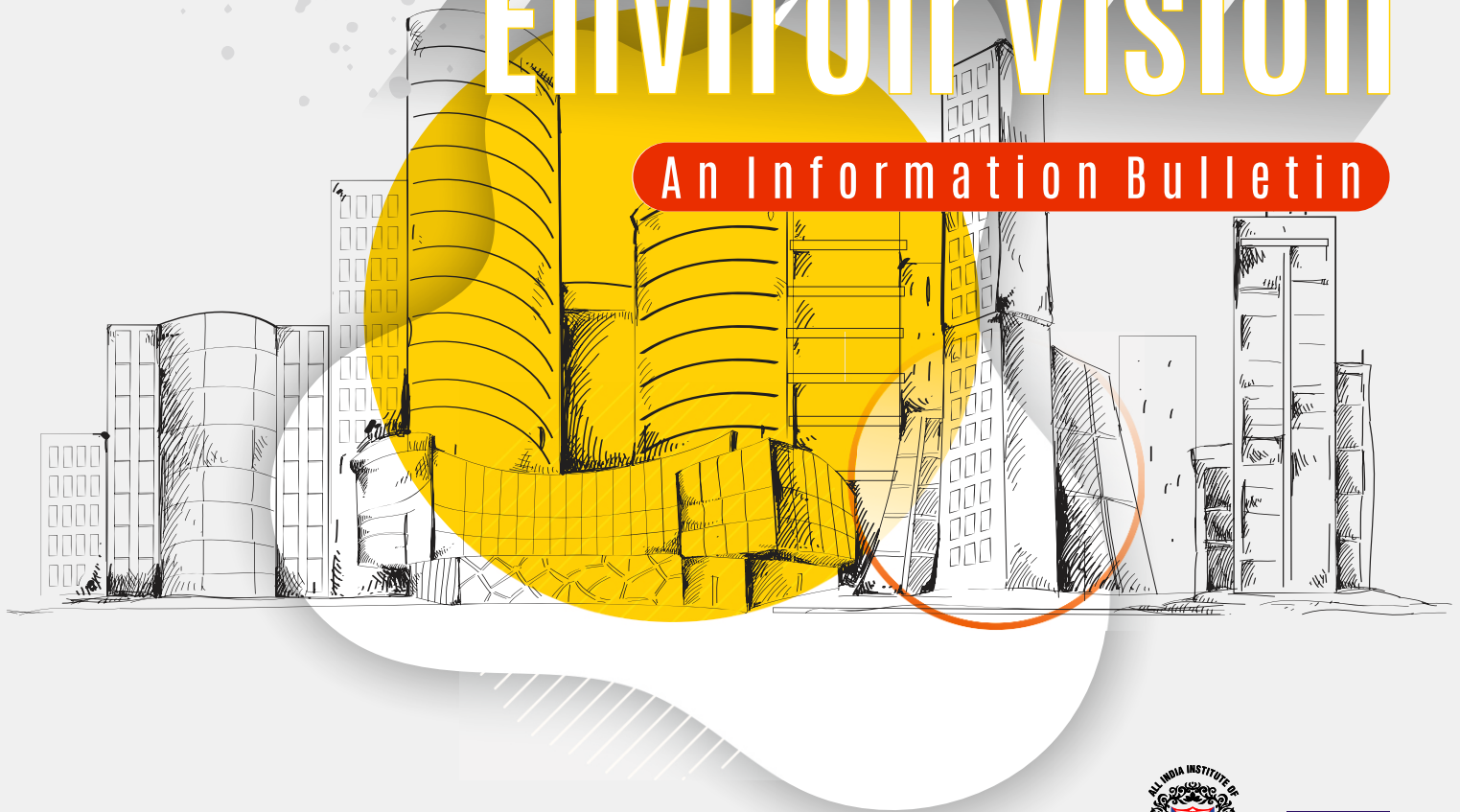


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RCUES, Mumbai
Enabling better cities...

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 Compliance with MIS under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) - Urban

23rd January 2025
Amravati, Maharashtra.

Key Highlight

The focus of the training program was on making the use of Management Information System (MIS) compliance, ensuring data accuracy, and promoting best practices for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). It featured hands-on training, expert-led discussions, and case studies, all designed to enhance participants' technical skills for the effective and transparent implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U).

BACKGROUND

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U), an initiative by the Government of India, is dedicated to achieving the vision of 'Housing for All' by providing affordable housing solutions nationwide. The program has made significant strides by integrating technological innovations to enhance project monitoring and streamline fund management, ensuring greater transparency and accountability.

A key aspect of PMAY-U's implementation is the strict adherence to MIS protocols, which play a vital role in ensuring that the mission's objectives are met efficiently. MIS facilitates real-time data updates through Aadhaar-based beneficiary identification, geotagging of housing projects, and online progress tracking by the States and the Union Territories. The

financial aspect is managed effectively through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), with fund disbursements monitored via the Public Financial Management System (PFMS). Additionally, MIS strengthens grievance redressal mechanisms through a centralized system, aids decision-making with data-driven analytics, and enhances transparency through public disclosures and regular audits.

To maximize the effectiveness of PMAY-U, officials and stakeholders must be well-trained in utilizing MIS. Proper training enables the users to update and manage data accurately, track project progress through geotagging, and ensure secure and efficient fund utilization via PFMS. It also empowers them to handle beneficiary records meticulously, resolve grievances

efficiently, and leverage real-time analytics for informed decision-making. Moreover, MIS training reinforces transparency and accountability by facilitating thorough documentation and compliance with audit requirements. Without adequate training, the full potential of MIS in streamlining operations, optimizing efficiency, and achieving the mission's housing objectives would remain unrealized.

To upskill the knowledge of mission functionaries on MIS under PMAY-U, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai organized a Regional Specialized Training Program on 'Compliance with MIS under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) – Urban' on 23rd January 2025 at Amravati, Maharashtra. This training program was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (Gol).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of this training program was to enhance participants technical and operational skills to comply with MIS requirements by facilitating effective monitoring, evaluation, and decision-making at the city level.

PARTICIPATION

A total of 68 participants comprised a diverse group of professionals. The participants included officials of the City Level Technical Cell (CLTC), such as Civil Engineers, MIS Specialists, Section / MIS Engineers, Social Development Specialists, and Project Officers from 56 ULBs across five

districts within the Amravati division. In addition, the program was attended by other relevant officials involved in housing and urban development and software developers from the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA), PFMS support section, who contributed their technical expertise to the event.

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Maleka Ansari, Senior Research Officer (SRO), RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai, extended a warm welcome to the esteemed dignitaries, subject experts, and participants. She highlighted the significant role of RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai, in conducting impactful training programs that have strengthened the capacities of ULBs across western and north-eastern India. She also provided a comprehensive overview of the training program, emphasizing its core objectives and expected outcomes in enhancing compliance with the MIS under PMAY-U.



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

INAUGURATION

The training program was inaugurated by Mr. Mahesh Motwani, Officer on Special Duty (OSD), PMAY-U, MHADA, Mumbai, Maharashtra, who emphasized the critical role of capacity building in the effective implementation of the PMAY-U.



Mr. Mahesh Motwani, OSD, PMAY-U, MHADA, Mumbai, Maharashtra inaugurated the training programme by lighting the lamp. (L to R) Ms. Maleka Ansari, Senior Research Officer, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, Mr. Akshay Suryavanshi, Technical Consultant at PFMS, Maharashtra Bank, Mumbai, Ms. Payal Singwi, Civil Engineer & Advisory Consultant, PMAY-U, Government of Maharashtra, SLTC Officials namely Ms. Sayli Nagre, Mr. Ganesh Iyer, Mr. Tahir Chaugule and Mr. V. V. Lad, Asst. Director (Admin.), RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Motwani highlighted the importance of leveraging technology-driven solutions such as the MIS and the PFMS to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in housing project execution. He underscored the government's commitment to ensuring sustainable and inclusive urban development, urging the participants to actively engage in the

training sessions to strengthen their technical expertise and operational capabilities. The event was privileged by the presence of Ms. Payal Singwi, Civil Engineer & Advisory Consultant, PMAY-U, Government of Maharashtra, Mr. Akshay Suryavanshi, and Ms. Maleka Ansari, who collectively reinforced the significance of data-driven decision-making and financial prudence in achieving the mission's goals. Additionally, State Level Technical Cells (SLTC) officials, including Ms. Sayli Nagre, Mr. Ganesh Iyer, and Mr. Tahir Chaugule, were in attendance, contributing to discussions on the best practices and strategic approaches to enhancing program implementation. The session set the stage for an insightful exchange of knowledge, aiming to equip the stakeholders with the skills necessary to drive the success of PMAY-U and deliver affordable housing solutions to urban communities.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The session on 'Implementation of the Status of PMAY-U in Maharashtra State & Compliance and Fund Release Process' was delivered by Mr. Mahesh Motwani, who provided an in-depth overview of the current progress of the PMAY-U in the state. He outlined the key milestones achieved under the mission, highlighting the number of sanctioned, under-construction, and completed housing units across Maharashtra. He also discussed the role of various implementing agencies in ensuring timely execution, addressing

the challenges in project implementation, and adopting innovative strategies for expediting construction. Stressing the significance of proper documentation and adherence to compliance protocols, Mr. Motwani emphasized that meticulous planning and monitoring are essential for the seamless execution of PMAY-U projects.



Mr. Mahesh Motwani, OSD, PMAY-U, MHADA, Mumbai, Maharashtra addressing the participants.

Furthermore, Mr. Motwani elaborated on the fund release process, explaining the structured mechanism through which financial assistance is disbursed to the beneficiaries and the implementing agencies. He provided insights into the role of PFMS and DBT in ensuring transparency and efficiency in fund utilization. He also discussed the importance of financial discipline, proper reporting, and audit compliance to maintain accountability in the scheme's implementation. The session served as a crucial platform for the stakeholders to gain clarity on the financial and administrative aspects of PMAY-U, equipping them with the knowledge required for smooth project execution and effective fund management. Through the

discussions, the participants were encouraged to adopt the best practices in project implementation, ensuring that the mission's goal of providing 'Housing for All' is achieved in a structured and transparent manner.

In the next session, Ms. Payal Singwi, Civil Engineer & Advisory Consultant, PMAY-U, Government of Maharashtra, led a detailed discussion on 'PMAY-U MIS', focusing on the critical role of the MIS in streamlining project implementation and monitoring. She highlighted the importance of maintaining accurate and up-to-date beneficiary records in the MIS platform, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and compliance with government guidelines. One of the key aspects covered in the session was the Category Gender Modification in Project Annexure Request, where she emphasized the need for accurate gender classification of beneficiaries. This modification ensures that government records align with the applicant's official documentation, enabling equitable housing allocation and supporting gender-based housing initiatives under PMAY-U. She also explained the procedural steps involved in requesting such modifications, underscoring the importance of verification and approval mechanisms to maintain data integrity.

Additionally, Ms. Singwi delved into the Beneficiary Modification in Project Annexure Requests, explaining how corrections in beneficiary details are essential to prevent duplication and discrepancies in the system. She elaborated on the structured approval process required to update beneficiary information while maintaining the authenticity of the data. Another crucial topic covered was Beneficiary-wise Fund Release, detailing the disbursement process of financial assistance through Central Assistance, State Share, and ULB Share. She explained how

funds are transferred via DBT and monitored through the PFMS to ensure accountability. The session provided the participants with a comprehensive understanding of the MIS framework, equipping them with the necessary knowledge to manage project data effectively and facilitate seamless fund allocation for eligible beneficiaries. PFMS, Dashboard, Project Proposal Approval (PPA) related issues while releasing the funds for the projects under PMAY were also discussed.



Ms. Payal Singwi, Civil Engineer & Advisory Consultant, PMAY-U, Government of Maharashtra addressing the participants.

Mr. Akshay Suryavanshi, Technical Consultant at PFMS, Maharashtra Bank, Mumbai, led a session on 'Public Financial Management System (PFMS), its Dashboard, and PPA Issues related to Fund Release for PMAY-U Projects'. His presentation covered the PFMS framework and dashboard functionalities, emphasizing PFMS's role in promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency in financial transactions through a centralized digital platform. Mr. Suryavanshi demonstrated how the PFMS dashboard allows the stakeholders to track fund

disbursement, monitor transactions, and generate real-time reports for project progress assessment. He also explained how DBT integration within PFMS ensures timely and leakage-free delivery of financial assistance to beneficiaries, maintaining financial discipline in PMAY-U project execution.



Mr. Akshay Suryavanshi, Technical Consultant at PFMS, Maharashtra Bank, Mumbai addressing the participants.

The session also addressed the PPA process, highlighting its importance for timely fund release. Mr. Suryavanshi detailed common PPA challenges, including documentation discrepancies, compliance errors, and approval delays, and their potential impact on project execution. He offered practical solutions and the best practices to mitigate these issues and ensure a smooth approval process. The interactive session allowed the participants to address their questions and gain a comprehensive understanding of the PFMS ecosystem, ultimately enhancing their ability to manage project finances effectively and contribute to the successful implementation of PMAY-U initiatives.

The post-lunch session focused on 'ULB-wise Compliance Discussions under PMAY-U', emphasizing key implementation aspects. The session provided a comprehensive review of MIS updation, ensuring precise data management and project tracking; geotagging, enabling real-time monitoring of housing developments; DBT, streamlining fund disbursement to beneficiaries; Action Taken Reports (ATRs), facilitating progress evaluation and issue resolution; and Utilization Certificates (UCs), reinforcing financial transparency and accountability. Designed to strengthen the operational efficiency of ULBs, the discussion aimed at enhancing compliance and optimizing project execution. The session was expertly led by SLTC officials from MHADA, namely Mr. Tahir Chaugule and Ms. Sayli Nagre.



Mr. Tahir Chaugule and Ms. Sayli Nagre, SLTC Officials, PMAY-U, MHADA, Maharashtra addressing the participants.

Q&A SESSION

The final session of the training program focused on 'Issues and Challenges in Handling MIS in Cities', where SLTC officials

including Ms. Sayli Nagre, Mr. Ganesh Iyer, and Mr. Tahir Chaugule, engaged in an in-depth discussion on the practical difficulties encountered in managing the MIS at the city level. The session aimed to identify key operational challenges, such as data inconsistencies, delays in updating beneficiary details, and technical glitches in the system, which often hinder smooth project execution under PMAY-U. The officials highlighted the importance of accurate data entry, real-time geotagging, and compliance with MIS protocols to ensure the integrity of project records. They also addressed common issues related to beneficiary modifications, fund tracking, and adherence to audit requirements, emphasizing the need for capacity-building initiatives to enhance the technical expertise of stakeholders involved in MIS management.

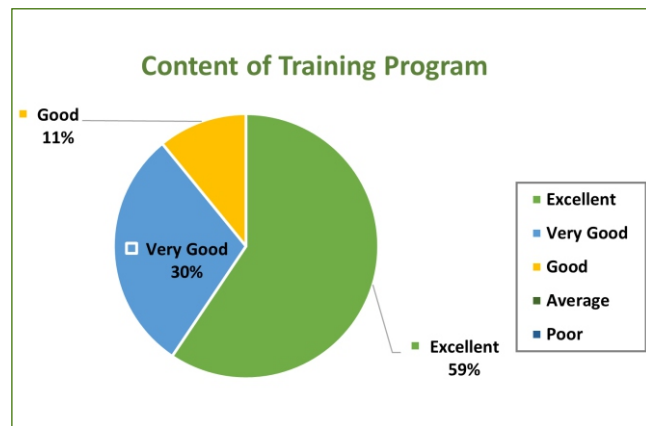
Additionally, the discussion covered strategies to overcome these challenges, including the adoption of automation tools, improved coordination among ULBs, and regular training programs for the field officers and MIS operators. The session stressed the role of PFMS integration in enhancing financial transparency and how MIS can be leveraged to track project progress more effectively. The participants shared their experiences and the best practices, fostering a collaborative approach to resolving MIS-related bottlenecks. By the end of the session, a consensus was reached on the need for standardized procedures, periodic system upgrades, and enhanced grievance redressal mechanisms to streamline MIS operations, ensuring smoother project execution and better service delivery for urban housing initiatives.

SUMMING UP

After the feedback and Q & A session, the participants were felicitated by Certificate of Attendance. The training program concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Ms. Maleka Ansari, SRO, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai. She extended her gratitude to both the trainers and the participants for their active engagement and valuable contributions throughout the program.

TRAINING EVALUATION

The training program was a resounding success, with the participants' feedback indicating high satisfaction. Nearly 90% of the sessions were rated as either excellent (59%) or very good (30%).

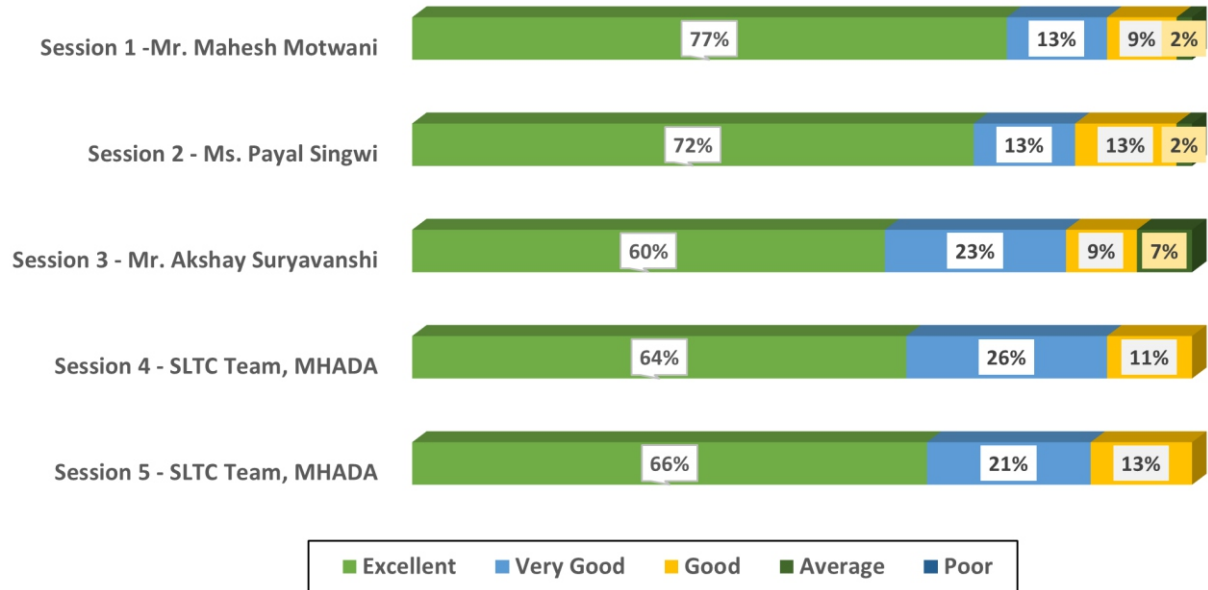


Three sessions stood out as particularly valuable: the session on 'Implementation of the Status of PMAY-U in Maharashtra State & Compliance and Fund Release Process', delivered by Mr. Mahesh Motwani, which received a 77% excellent rating; the session on 'PMAY-U MIS', presented by Ms. Payal Singwi, earned a 72% excellent rating; and Mr. Akshay Suryavanshi's session on 'Public Financial Management System (PFMS), its Dashboard, and PPA Issues related to Fund Release for PMAY-U Projects', which garnered a 60% excellent rating.

Furthermore, the facilitated discussions on ULB-wise Compliance and MIS Challenges, led by the SLTC Team, MHADA (Ms. Sayli Nagre, Mr. Ganesh Iyer, and Mr. Tahir Chaugule), were also highly regarded, with excellent ratings of 64% and 66% respectively.

Overall, the training effectively provided the participants with practical knowledge and actionable insights regarding the MIS, PFMS dashboard, and PPA processes crucial for PMAY-U project funding. It successfully tackled key challenges in urban MIS management, covering essential topics like MIS updates, geotagging, DBT, ATR, and UC. However, future session should aim for deeper coverage and refined approaches to ensure comprehensive understanding and successful implementation.

Session & Faculty wise Feedback Ratings



GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM





Regional Specialized Training Program on

Role of Elected Representatives & Mission Functionaries in Implementing National Missions

29th January 2025

Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

Key Highlight

The key highlights of this training program included equipping the officials with collaborative skills, clarifying their roles, and showcasing best practices. It also addressed various challenges, and emphasized the importance of local context, citizen engagement, and technology through comprehensive sessions.

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI), is dedicated to enhancing urban infrastructure and living standards through various missions and programs. While the progress is on track, implementation still has some challenges. The goal of the Ministry is to create sustainable, smart urban environments that improve citizens' quality of life. Achieving this vision requires strong collaboration between the elected representatives and the mission functionaries. The elected representatives play a vital role in pushing local mission operations. They ensure that urban initiatives meet community needs, provide oversight, champion local interests, and engage with citizens to align missions with public expectations. By addressing unique urban challenges, they foster a sense of ownership and trust within the community.

The mission functionaries, on the other hand, are responsible for translating policies into actionable projects. They utilize their expertise in project management, resource allocation, and operations to deliver initiatives efficiently and on time. Their collaboration with the elected representatives promotes accountability, transparency, and citizen participation, ultimately leading to more effective and impactful urban development.

To further strengthen this crucial partnership, 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 'Role of Elected Representatives and Mission Functionaries in Implementing National Missions' on 29th January 2025 at Jodhpur, Rajasthan. This training program was supported by the MoHUA, GoI.

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of this training program was to explore the vital collaboration between elected representatives and urban local bodies in implementing national missions, focusing on how this partnership can improve urban governance and promote sustainable city development.

PARTICIPATION

A group of 33 participants attended the training program. The gathering included esteemed elected representatives from Jodhpur Municipal Corporation (North), as well as key municipal officers, such as Project Officers and Chief Sanitary Inspectors. Additionally, distinguished participants from Assam state, including Chairpersons and Chief Executive Officers, were also in attendance.

INTRODUCTION



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

Ms. Maleka Ansari, Senior Research Officer (SRO), RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai, welcomed the dignitaries, subject experts, and participants. She referred to the impactful training programs conducted by RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai, which have supported ULBs across the western and north-east areas of India. She also gave an insightful overview of the training program, outlining its key objectives and anticipated outcomes.

INAUGURATION



Mr. J. S. Saharia, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary and State Election Commissioner of GoM inaugurated the training program by lighting the lamp.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Mr. J. S. Saharia, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary and State Election Commissioner of the Government of Maharashtra (GoM), alongside Mr. Vinod Paliwal, Regional Director, AIILSG, Jodhpur, Rajasthan and Ms. Maleka Ansari and a distinguished gathering of elected representatives and

officials from ULBs of the Jodhpur Region and Assam state. Drawing from his vast experience in public administration, Mr. Saharia provided profound insights into the complexities of urban governance, emphasizing both its challenges and opportunities.

In his address, Mr. Saharia underscored the significance of this specialized training program in enhancing governance effectiveness and ensuring the seamless execution of national initiatives. He highlighted the indispensable role of elected representatives and mission functionaries in bridging policy frameworks with grassroots implementation, asserting that their collaboration, expertise, and commitment are pivotal in transforming policies into meaningful progress. Encouraging active participation, he urged the attendees to exchange best practices and devise innovative strategies to navigate implementation challenges.



Mr. J. S. Saharia, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary and State Election Commissioner of GoM addressing the participants.

He further stressed that national missions, spanning sustainable development, digital transformation, and social welfare demand a synergized approach reinforced by visionary leadership and robust administrative mechanisms. Concluding his speech, Mr. Saharia reaffirmed that capacity-building and continuous skill enhancement will empower the stakeholders to make well-informed decisions, fostering long-term, sustainable impact.

In the keynote address, Mr. Kishan Lal Ladha, Deputy Mayor of Jodhpur Municipal Corporation, stressed the critical role of collaboration and effective communication among officials and functionaries in advancing national missions. He underscored the necessity of comprehending local contexts, actively engaging with citizens, and leveraging technology to realize the mission objectives. Mr. Ladha also highlighted the importance of ongoing capacity building and the adoption of best practices to navigate challenges and ensure successful implementation of national missions.



Mr. Kishan Lal Ladha, Deputy Mayor, Jodhpur Municipal Corporation, Rajasthan addressing the participants.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Ms. Maleka Ansari, SRO, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, delivered an insightful session titled 'Overview of National Missions and its Significance'. Her presentation provided a deep analysis into the Government of India's strategic initiatives, demonstrating how these missions serve as transformative frameworks that go well beyond traditional policy directives. By addressing both urban and rural challenges, Ms. Ansari illustrated how these initiatives are pivotal in reshaping the nation's developmental landscape, driving socio-economic progress, and ensuring sustainable growth across multiple sectors.

In her detailed discourse, Ms. Ansari meticulously explored several flagship programs, including the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). She underscored SBM's transformative impact on public health through enhanced sanitation, highlighted PMAY's role in promoting affordable housing, showcased DAY-NULM's empowerment of urban livelihoods, and emphasized AMRUT's contribution to revamping urban infrastructure by analysing the implementation strategies and elucidating the far-reaching benefits of these initiatives. At the end of the session Ms. Ansari comprehensively demonstrated their integral role in building a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready society.

Mr. J. S. Saharia, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary & State Election Commissioner, GoM delivered an insightful session on 'Urban Development Missions: Paving the Path to Sustainable Futures'. Drawing on his extensive experience in public

administration, he outlined how the contemporary urban development initiatives are transforming cities by integrating sustainable practices with rapid growth, ultimately reshaping the urban landscapes.

Mr. Saharia emphasized the importance of visionary policy-making and strategic implementation in achieving long-term sustainability. He highlighted successful case studies and practical examples that demonstrate how coordinated efforts between government entities and private stakeholders can foster resilient, eco-friendly urban environments, paving the way for a future where development and sustainability go hand in hand.

Mr. Anil Kumar Jain, Additional Chief Engineer (Retd.), Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Government of Rajasthan, delivered an insightful session titled 'Exploring Urban Waste Management: A Journey to a Garbage-Free City.' With extensive experience in urban and rural water supply projects, including collaborations with organizations such as UNICEF and the Asian Development Bank, Mr. Jain emphasized the critical role of technology in advancing the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0). He highlighted the deployment of smart solutions for efficient waste collection, real-time monitoring systems, and mobile applications to enhance public engagement and accelerate progress toward cleaner cities.

Mr. Jain also underscored the importance of community engagement in sustainable waste management. He discussed techniques for building awareness and mobilizing communities, such as appointing master trainers to educate residents on waste segregation and forming Community

Management Committees to oversee local sanitation initiatives. By integrating technological advancements with robust community involvement, Mr. Jain outlined a comprehensive approach to urban waste management that not only addresses immediate waste disposal challenges but also contributes to creating garbage-free cities through sustained public participation and innovative solutions.



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

Ms. Vibha Upadhyay, former Team Leader of the State Level Technical Cell (SLTC), PMAY-U, Government of Rajasthan presented an insightful session on the 'PMAY Mission's Progress and Ongoing Challenges'. She began by highlighting the launch of PMAY-U in June 2015, which aims to provide affordable housing for all urban residents by 2022. She noted that the mission has sanctioned approximately 118.64 lakh houses, with 112.46 lakh grounded and 90.5 lakh completed. To ensure the completion of all sanctioned houses, the mission period has been extended until December 31, 2024.



Ms. Vibha Upadhyay, former Team Leader of the SLTC, PMAY-U, Government of Rajasthan addressing the participants.

Additionally, Ms. Upadhyay addressed several issues related to the Management Information System (MIS) portal of PMAY-U, a centralized repository and monitoring tool. She discussed challenges such as data discrepancies, delays in data entry, and technical glitches that have hindered real-time monitoring and effective decision-making, emphasizing the need for data accuracy and timely updates for the mission's success.

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Upadhyay underscored the pivotal role of elected representatives in the successful implementation of PMAY-U. Their responsibilities include advocating for beneficiary interests, facilitating community engagement, and ensuring transparency in the allocation and construction processes. Active involvement of these representatives fosters trust and accelerates the mission's objectives, ensuring that affordable housing reaches the intended beneficiaries. Ms. Upadhyay's session provided a comprehensive overview of PMAY-U's achievements, and the

collaborative efforts required to overcome existing challenges, underscoring the mission's unwavering commitment to housing for all.

Mr. Kapil Dev Sharma, a former Member and Technical Expert of the Planning Commission, Government of India discussed 'Strategies for Enhancing Collaboration between Elected Representatives and Mission Functionaries'. He emphasized the importance of capacity-building initiatives, suggesting comprehensive training programs to equip both the elected officials and the mission staff with the necessary skills and knowledge. Further, he advocated for the establishment of clear communication channels to ensure regular and transparent dialogue, fostering alignment and mutual understanding.



Mr. Kapil Dev Sharma, a former Member and Technical Expert of the Planning Commission, Government of India addressing the participants.

Mr. Sharma also addressed challenges in implementing national missions in India, such as resource constraints, coordination issues, and capacity gaps. He noted that many missions face financial and human resource limitations, hindering their ability

to achieve set targets. The absence of clear strategies and mechanisms for synergy often leads to fragmented efforts and inefficiencies. Moreover, inadequate training and capacity-building efforts for both the elected representatives and the mission staff can impede effective implementation. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach, including robust training programs, incentivization, and the establishment of clear communication channels.

The training program concluded with an engaging question-and-answer session centered on the theme: 'Designing a Holistic Urban Development Strategy: Elected Representatives as Leaders in Mission Convergence.'

Chaired by Mr. Vinod Paliwal, Regional Director, AIILSG, Jodhpur, the session explored critical dimensions of urban transformation. Discussions encompassed sustainable waste management, advocating for garbage-free cities through circular economy principles, emphasizing waste reduction, recycling, and resource recovery.



Mr. Vinod Paliwal, Regional Director, AIILSG, Jodhpur, Rajasthan addressing the participants.

The dialogue also addressed inclusive housing solutions, underscoring the need for equitable, affordable, and accessible housing for diverse urban populations. Key insights extended to urban resilience, strengthening cities against environmental and socio-economic challenges, while healthcare access and sustainable livelihoods were highlighted as pivotal factors in fostering holistic urban growth. The session reinforced the indispensable role of elected representatives in driving mission convergence and ensuring integrated people-centric urban development.

Mr. Paliwal and Mr. Sharma congratulated all participants on completing the training program and awarded certificates in recognition of their achievements.



Certificate Distribution to the participants at Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

SUMMING UP

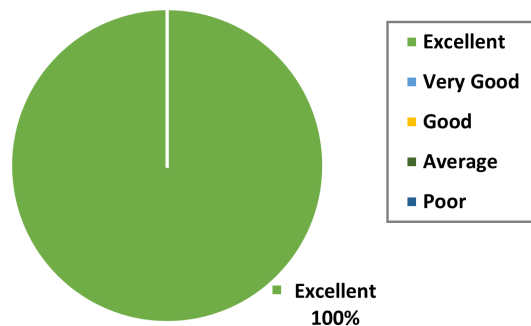
At the end of the training program, participant feedback was collected. Ms. Maleka Ansari, SRO, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai

concluded the session by expressing sincere gratitude and offering a heartfelt Vote of Thanks to the resource persons, trainers, and participants, acknowledging their valuable contributions in making the program a success.

TRAINING EVALUATION

The feedback analysis of the training program revealed an overwhelmingly positive response, with the participants expressing high levels of satisfaction. Nearly all the sessions received exceptional ratings, with close to 100% of the sessions being rated as excellent.

Content of Training Program



Among these, Mr. Anil Kumar Jain's session on 'Exploring Urban Waste Management: A Journey to a Garbage-Free City' stood out as the top performer, receiving a remarkable 95% super excellent rating. This session resonated strongly with the attendees, reflecting the growing importance of sustainable waste management practices in urban areas. Additionally, four other

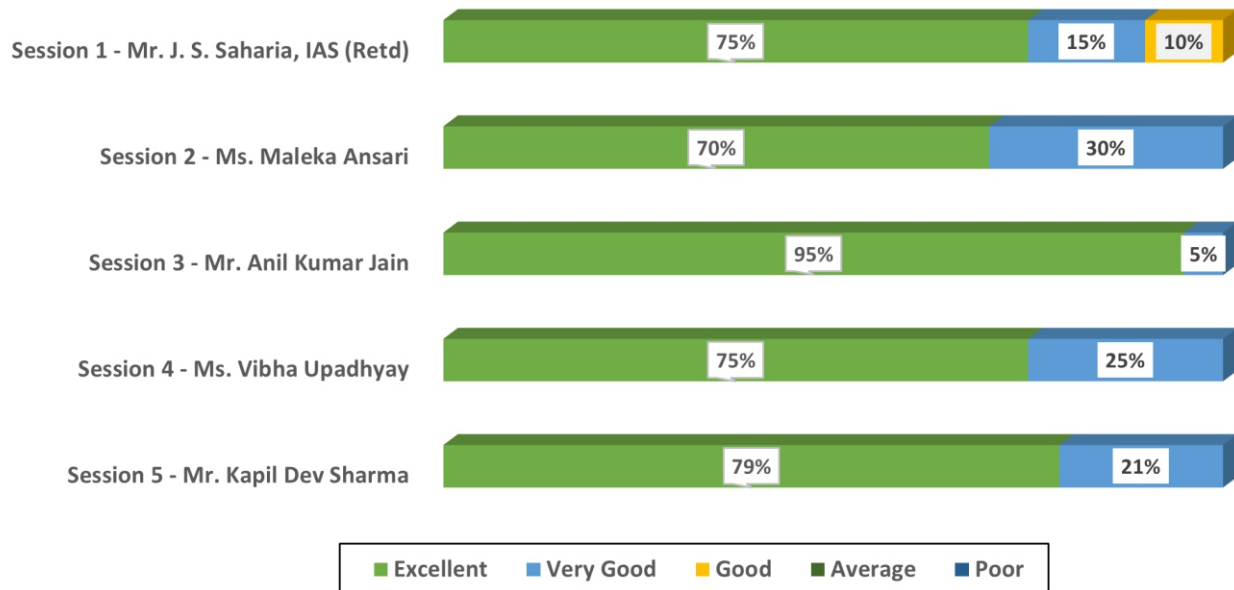
sessions emerged as particularly impactful. The session on 'Strategies for Enhancing Collaboration between Elected Representatives and Mission Functionaries', conducted by Mr. Kapil Dev Sharma, garnered a commendable 79% excellent rating, highlighting its relevance in fostering effective governance and teamwork.

Other key sessions that left a significant impact included 'Urban Development Missions: Paving the Path to Sustainable Futures' by Mr. J. S. Saharia, IAS (Retd.) and 'PMAY Mission's Progress and Ongoing Challenges' by Ms. Vibha Upadhyay, both of which received an excellent rating of 75%. These sessions provided

valuable insights into sustainable urban planning and affordable housing initiatives, reinforcing their critical role in shaping India's urban future. Additionally, Ms. Maleka Ansari's session on the 'Overview of National Missions and its Significance' secured a 70% excellent rating, demonstrating the participants' appreciation for a comprehensive understanding of national development initiatives.

Overall, the training program was a resounding success, with insightful discussions and expert-led sessions that enriched the participants' knowledge and perspectives.

Session & Faculty wise Feedback Ratings



GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM





Prakruti Annual Conference 2025: A Step Towards Sustainable Cities

10th January 2025
Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The Prakruti Annual Conference 2025, organized on 10th January 2025 in Mumbai by the Prakruti Education and Research Foundation's Prakruti Research Institute in collaboration with organizations like Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES), All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), focused on Green Buildings, Green Companies, and Sustainable Cities. The event brought together thought leaders, industry experts, and key stakeholders to discuss the future of sustainable urban development.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Inaugural Session:

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Jairaj Phatak, Director General, AIILSG, with the presence of Dr. Milind Kulkarni, Director, Prakruti Education and Research Foundation, Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai, Dr. Mala Singh, Chairperson, CII, IGBC, and Rtn. Alpa Shah, President, Rotary Club of Mumbai.

Panel Discussions:

- Environmental Issues of Mumbai & Solutions: Moderated by Dr. Ajit Salvi, this session featured Prof. Prashant Bhawe, Dr. Sunita Purushottam, and other experts who addressed Mumbai's environmental challenges and solutions for a sustainable future.
- Green Building Movement – Benefits & Challenges: Moderated by Dr. Milind Kulkarni, this panel included insights from Mr. Pramod Daspute, Dr. C. J. Rao, and Mr. Harwinder Matharoo, exploring the potential and challenges of green building practices.

Key Presentations:

- Sustainable Urbanization & Carbon Neutral Strategies
- Green Energy Solutions for Sustainable Cities
- The Evolution of the Green Building Movement in India

Special Contributions:

Mr. Mayank Soni (Reciclar Technologies) and Mr. Sunil Doshi (Industrial Specialist) provided valuable insights into cutting-edge green building technologies, further advancing the conversation on sustainable infrastructure.

Valedictory Session:

The conference concluded with a thought-provoking session by Mr. Avinash Kate (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) highlighting Mumbai's Climate Budget and its importance in creating a greener, more sustainable city.

The Prakruti Annual Conference 2025 was an enriching event that marked a significant milestone in the journey towards sustainable urban development and green building practices. Let's continue to build on these insightful dialogues and work towards a more eco-friendly, resilient future.

GLIMPSES OF THE CONFERENCE





Mastering Storm Sewer Flood Management in India

23rd January 2025

On 23rd January 2025, India Infrastructure, in association with Autodesk, organized the event "Mastering Storm Sewer Flood Management in India," bringing together key industry experts to discuss pressing challenges and innovative solutions in stormwater management. Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai was a keynote speaker alongside an esteemed panel, including Mr. Chris Ryan, Mr. Vineet Deshmukh, Mr. Snehalkumar Bokar, and Mr. Janu Anbu.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

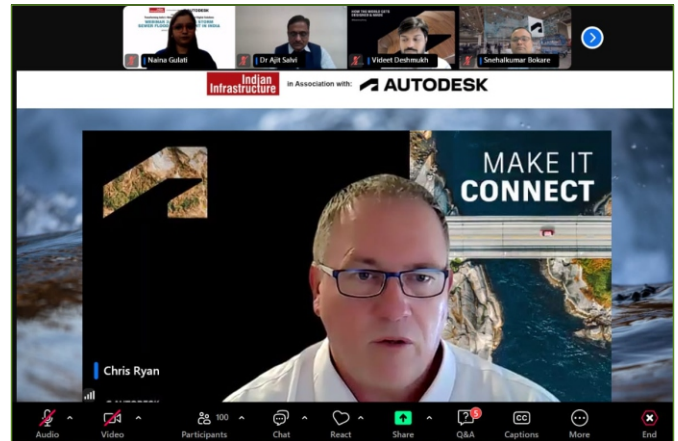
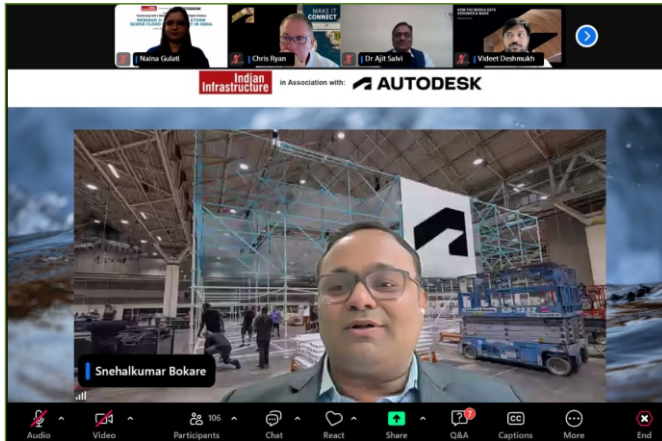
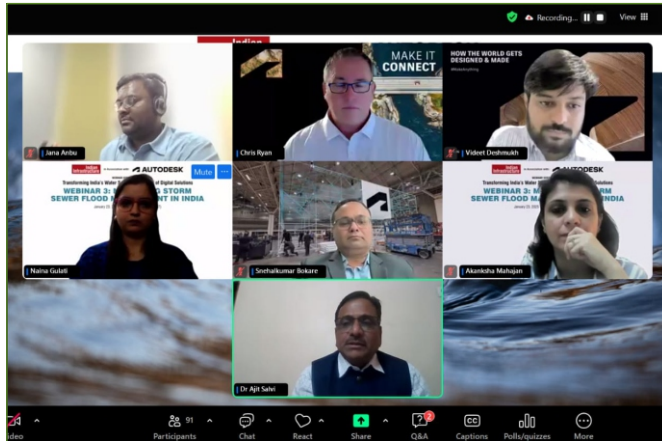
The discussions highlighted that India's rapid urbanization has outpaced the development of stormwater infrastructure, leading to frequent urban flooding. Existing drainage networks are often outdated and unable to handle extreme weather events caused by climate change. Several challenges were identified, including insufficient funding, lack of integrated data-driven decision-making processes, and fragmented coordination among government agencies, municipal bodies, and private stakeholders. Additionally, encroachments and poor maintenance of drainage systems further aggravate flooding issues. The panel emphasized the critical role of

digital technologies in stormwater management, with GIS mapping and digital twins facilitating accurate infrastructure planning and real-time monitoring. IoT sensors and AI analytics enable predictive maintenance and proactive flood mitigation strategies, while automated drainage systems enhance operational efficiency and responsiveness to extreme weather events.

The event emphasized the urgent need for collaborative efforts between policymakers, urban planners, technology providers, and municipal authorities to develop resilient and sustainable stormwater management solutions. Investment in digital technologies, capacity building, and improved governance will be key to mitigating the impact of urban flooding in India.

Effective storm sewer flood management requires a holistic approach that integrates advanced technologies with strategic policy reforms. The discussions at the event highlighted the importance of leveraging digital innovations, improving inter-agency coordination, and prioritizing infrastructure investments to build flood-resilient cities in India.

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