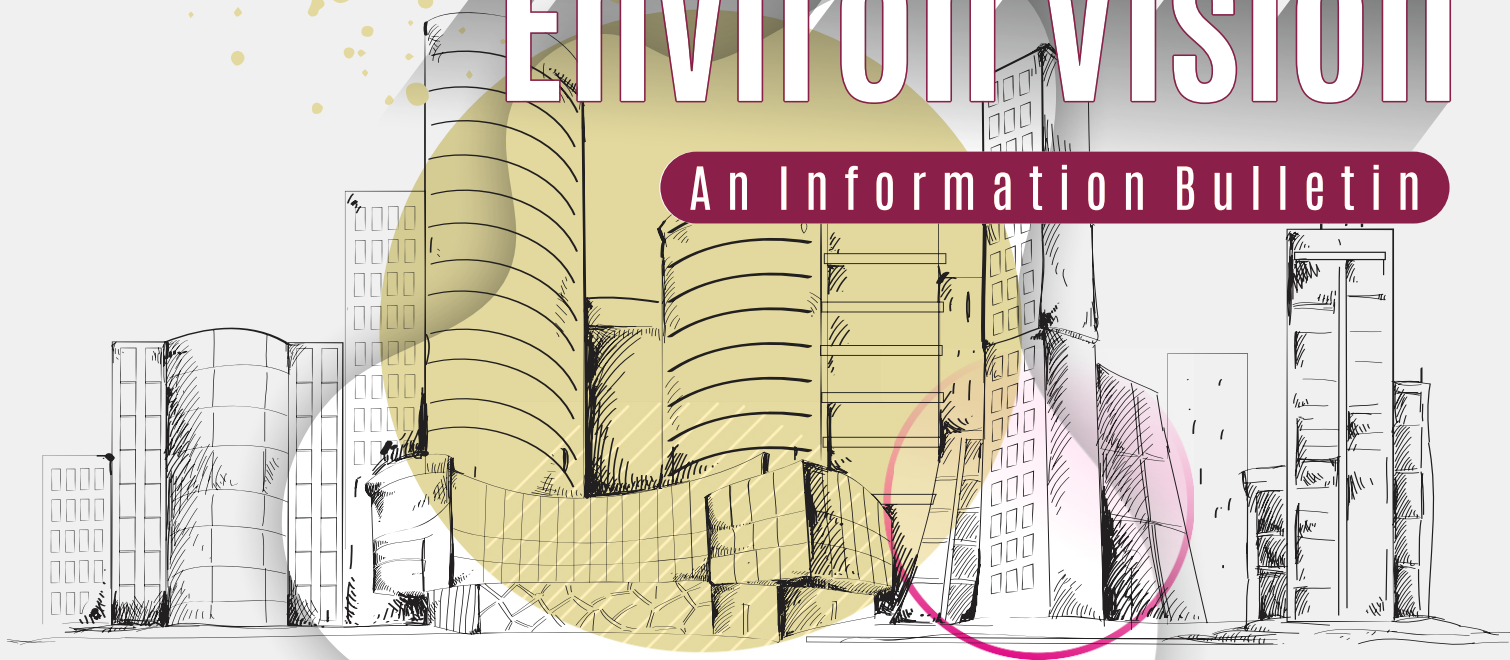


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RCUES, Mumbai
Enabling better cities...

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 Tackling Monsoon Emergencies for Resilient Cities

04th July 2025
Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Key Highlights

The participants recognized rain as a valuable resource and explored Rainwater Harvesting as a practical, sustainable solution for strengthening urban water management and enhancing city resilience.

BACKGROUND

Urban areas across India are increasingly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of the monsoon season, including flooding, infrastructure damage, and disruptions to essential services. Rapid urbanization, unplanned development, and the growing impacts of climate change have worsened these challenges, particularly in densely populated cities. Monsoon emergencies not only strain municipal systems but also pose serious risks to public health, safety, and livelihoods, especially for vulnerable communities. In this context, building resilient cities is a necessity, which can anticipate, absorb, and recover from monsoon related shocks through robust infrastructure, effective governance, and community preparedness.

As climate change intensifies rainfall patterns, the frequency and severity of such emergencies are increasing, making it critical for cities to enhance preparedness and build resilience. To effectively address the complexities of monsoon emergencies, there is a pressing need to equip urban planners, municipal officials, disaster management professionals, and frontline workers with practical knowledge and tools. Cities can enhance their readiness, minimize disruption, and safeguard both lives and assets during the monsoon season.

With this background, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AII LSG), Mumbai conducted a Regional Specialized Training Program on 'Tackling Monsoon Emergencies for Resilient

Cities' on 4th July 2025 at Nagpur, Maharashtra. This training program was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of this training program was to equip city officials and communities with the knowledge and tools to reduce risks, improve emergency response, and build sustainable resilience against monsoon impacts.

PARTICIPATION

In all, 28 participants, comprising District Disaster Management Officer, Fire Officers, Sanitary Officers, Sanitary Inspectors & Aapda Mitra from Nagpur Division of Maharashtra attended the training program.

INTRODUCTION

The training program began with a warm welcome by Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIIISG, Mumbai. She gave the background of RCUES, Mumbai and its functioning, and greeted the Chief Guest, distinguished speakers and the participants. She introduced the program's key objectives. Emphasizing the growing threat of monsoon emergencies like urban flooding and waterlogging, and the related problems, she highlighted the importance of proactive planning and timely response to safeguard urban infrastructure, minimise disruptions and ensure public well-being.



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

INAUGURATION



Mr. Ravi Ranjan Guru, Director General, AIIISG inaugurated the training program by lighting the lamp. (L to R) Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIIISG, Mumbai, Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AIIISG, Mumbai, and Mr. Jayant Pathak, Regional Director, AIIISG, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Mr. Ravi Ranjan Guru, Director General, AILSG inaugurated this training program in the presence of Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, Mr. Jayant Pathak, Regional Director, AILSG, Nagpur, Ms. Hardikar and other dignitaries.

Mr. Guru, in his inaugural address, highlighted the growing threat of extreme monsoon events in urban India, leading to frequent flooding, disruptions of transport and major economic losses. He emphasized the urgent need for area-specific water management, upgraded urban drainage infrastructure, and climate-resilient planning, especially as India's urban population continues to rise. Mr. Guru concluded his inaugural address by appreciating RCUES, Mumbai for organizing the initiative. He urged the participants to translate learning into local action, focusing on nature-based solutions, early warning systems, and integrated governance to build resilient, future ready cities.



Mr. Ravi Ranjan Guru, Director General, AILSG addressing the participants.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS



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

The first session was on 'Stormwater Management & Urban Flood Mitigation Strategies', delivered by Dr. Salvi. The session provided a comprehensive overview of stormwater management and urban flood mitigation, with a focus on challenges and responses in Indian cities like Nagpur, Mumbai, Gandhinagar, and flood-prone regions like the Kosi Basin in Bihar. He highlighted how urban flooding is intensifying due to outdated drainage systems, climate induced heavy rainfall and rampant urbanization. The case of Nagpur illustrates how even short bursts of rain can lead to severe waterlogging, especially in subways and low-lying areas due to blocked drains and inadequate infrastructure maintenance. Climate change has also expanded flood prone areas to locations previously considered safe, emphasizing the need for better preparedness and urban planning.

The presentation emphasized both structural and non-structural strategies for flood mitigation. Structural measures include upgrading drainage systems, constructing detention basins, promoting rainwater harvesting, and integrating blue-green infrastructure. Non-structural approaches focus on flood risk zoning, early warning systems using IoT and GIS, citizen engagement, and improved planning tools. Case studies such as those in Gandhinagar demonstrate effective interventions like sediment control, stormwater reuse, and permeable paving, while in Mumbai, the use of IoT-driven pumps and real-time monitoring shows how smart technology can enhance flood preparedness. Dr. Salvi concluded by highlighting that the focus must remain on encouraging collaboration across sectors to ensure cities are not only better prepared for monsoon-related challenges but are also more inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient in the long run.

The second session on 'Role of Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) in Monsoon Risk Reduction' was delivered by Mr. Sandeep Adhyapak, Chief Managing Director, Water Field Technologies Pvt. Ltd., and specialized in Rainwater Harvesting & Ground Water Management, Mumbai. Mr. Adhyapak in an insightful session, emphasized the growing urgency of managing water resources in urban India. He highlighted how rapid urbanization, climate variability, and rising water demand are putting immense pressure on both surface and groundwater resources. Mentioning rain as the prime source of all water on Earth, he introduced RWH as a sustainable and cost-effective strategy to bridge urban water demand gaps, especially during dry spells and peak usage periods. The session explained how rainwater, when harvested and managed correctly, can not only supplement municipal supply but also help recharge depleted aquifers and reduce urban flooding.



Mr. Sandeep Adhyapak, Chief Managing Director, Water Field Technologies Pvt. Ltd., and specialized in Rainwater Harvesting & Ground Water Management, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Mr. Adhyapak elaborated on the methods, components, and benefits of rooftop and surface runoff harvesting, supported by practical illustrations and case studies including cost-benefit and payback analyses from residential projects. He also discussed national and state-level policies mandating RWH, along with the role of ecological understanding in effective system design. The session connected the practice of rainwater harvesting to larger national goals, such as the 'Catch the Rain' campaign under the Ministry of Jal Shakti and AMRUT 2.0, where emphasis is on water sustainability and circular water economy. In conclusion, he encouraged the participants to take responsibility for changing urban water practices by adopting decentralized RWH systems at the City / Urban Local Body (ULB) level.

The third session was on 'Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Urban Monsoon Contexts', delivered by Dr. Aprup Adawadkar, Consultant, Trainer & Auditor, Disaster Risk

Management, Nagpur, Maharashtra. He commenced the session by emphasizing the urgent need for ULBs to maintain disaster preparedness and resilience planning in their developmental frameworks. The presentation highlighted how densely populated urban areas are especially vulnerable during monsoons and stressed the need for proactive steps. These include involving the community, mapping local risks, using GIS to identify key emergency assets, and building local capacity through training and awareness. Dr. Adawadkar emphasized that DRR must be closely linked with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework, with a strong focus on preparedness, mitigation, and inclusive governance as the foundation for building resilient urban communities. He added that a significant takeaway is the shift from a reactive, relief-based approach to a proactive strategy that integrates climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk mitigation at all stages, such as planning, implementation, and response. Special attention is drawn to the socio-economically marginalized groups, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and the urban poor, who are disproportionately affected by monsoon-related disasters due to inadequate infrastructure and systemic inequalities. The presentation underlined the importance of inclusive, integrated governance, and community-based strategies that leverage traditional knowledge, modern tools, and multi-stakeholder partnerships to build safer, more resilient urban futures.

The presentation also stressed the importance of embedding DRR into ULB structures, advocating for stronger coordination between District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), community organizations, and government agencies. It highlighted that good governance, which includes transparency,

accountability, participation and equity, is key to achieving sustainable development and effective disaster response.

In conclusion, Dr. Adawadkar highlighted that building resilient communities requires inclusive planning, active local participation, and a strong commitment to long-term risk reduction and sustainable development.



Dr. Aprup Adawadkar, Consultant, Trainer & Auditor, Disaster Risk Management, Nagpur, Maharashtra addressing the participants.

The fourth session on 'Role of ULBs in Emergency Response' was held by Mr. Rajesh Choudhari, former Dy. Director, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) & former Director, National Fire Service College (NFSC), Nagpur, Maharashtra. Mr. Choudhari underlined India's vulnerability to multiple natural hazards, including floods, cyclones, earthquakes, and landslides. Since 2022, 32 out of 36 states and union territories in India are prone to multiple disasters, and the role of ULBs in managing and responding to such emergencies is extremely important. Under Section 41 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, local authorities are mandated to train

personnel, maintain resources, ensure disaster-resilient infrastructure, and carry out relief and rehabilitation in alignment with state and district plans.



Mr. Rajesh Choudhari, former Dy. Director, NDRF & former Director, NFSC, Nagpur, Maharashtra addressing the participants.

The presentation focused on the critical importance of timely, coordinated, and resource-efficient emergency response measures to save lives and reduce damage. Mr. Choudhari emphasized that an effective response hinges on preparedness, planning, and training, especially in chaotic conditions. Key response actions include search and rescue, evacuations, medical aid, shelter setup, and damage assessment. However, poor coordination, outdated plans, communication gaps, and a lack of public awareness often hinder efficiency. He stressed the need to limit the duration of response efforts to prevent over dependence on aid and promote recovery, highlighting the role of information management, inter-agency coordination, and community participation. The DDMA plays a vital role in overseeing emergency actions, setting priorities, and ensuring resource efficiency. Ultimately, a robust response system

depends not only on legal and institutional mechanisms but also on strong collaboration among government bodies, ULBs, NGOs, and communities at large, ensuring a unified and resilient approach to disaster management.

GROUP EXERCISE



Participants engaged in group exercise.

As part of the training program, an interactive group exercise titled 'Collaborative Strategies for Monsoon Risk Management in Strengthening Urban Systems' was led to encourage collaborative problem-solving and practical application of key concepts related to urban monsoon risk management. Participants were divided into four groups, with each group assigned a specific theme to explore and discuss, given below:

- Redesigning Stormwater Management for a Flood-Prone Locality.
- Developing a Community-Led Early Warning and Evacuation Strategy.

- Formulating Public Awareness & IEC Campaign on Monsoon Preparedness.
- Assessing Monsoon Preparedness of Critical Infrastructure through City Audit.

Each group engaged in internal discussions to develop a plan or line of action, which they then presented, focusing on practical steps to enhance urban resilience and better prepare cities for monsoon-related risks. This group exercise served as an effective tool to confirm that all the participants had a clear understanding of the topics covered during the technical sessions.



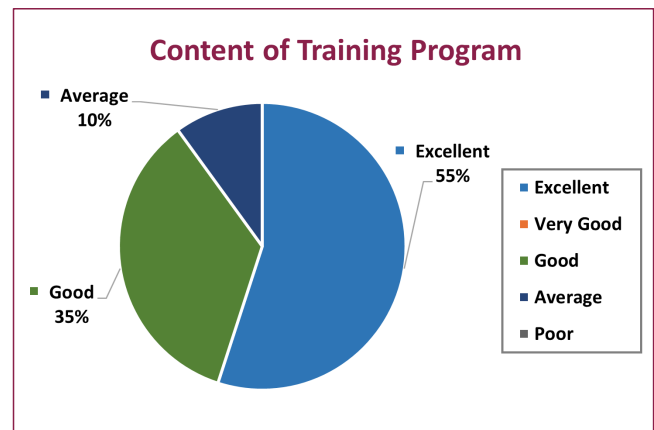
Presentation of group exercise by participants.

SUMMING UP

In the concluding session, participants shared their feedback, after which Dr. Salvi distributed the certificates. Ms. Hardikar wrapped up the training program with a Vote of Thanks, expressing appreciation to the trainers and participants for their valuable contributions.

TRAINING EVALUATION

To assess the effectiveness of the training program, the RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai conducted a feedback survey with participants at the end of the session. Such evaluations are crucial for measuring learning outcomes, identifying improvement areas, and ensuring that the program objectives are achieved.



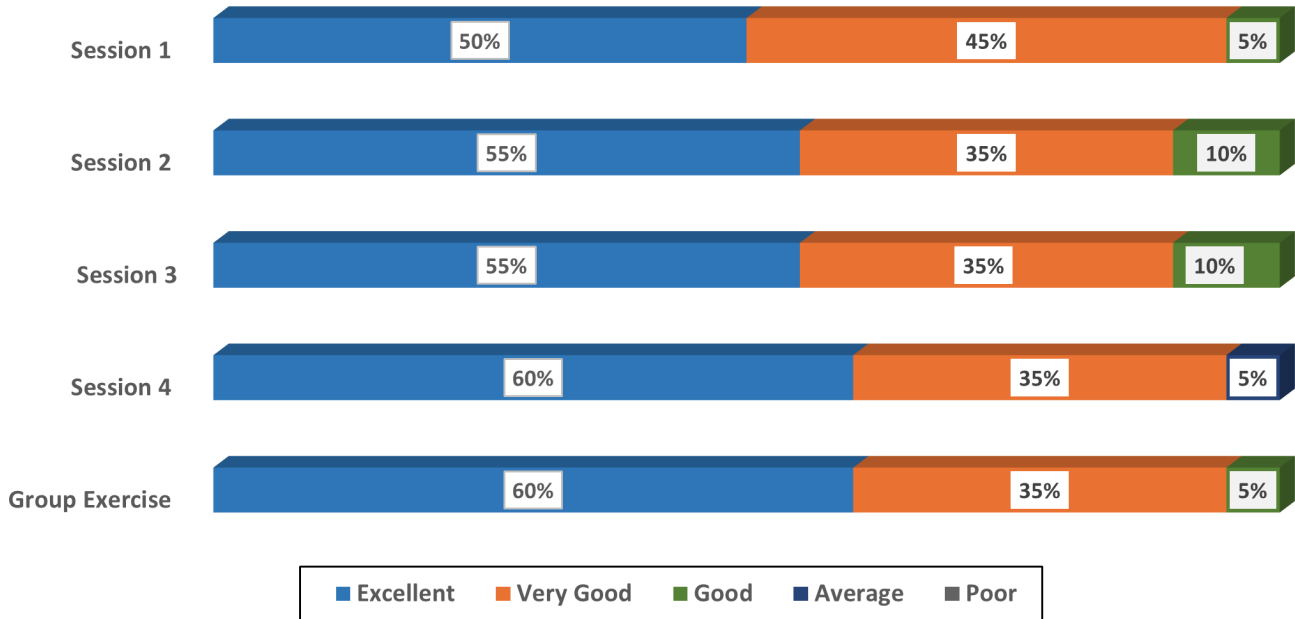
The feedback chart on the Content of the Training Program shows that most participants rated the content as 'Excellent' (55%), indicating strong relevance and clarity. Additionally, 35% rated it as 'Good', reflecting overall satisfaction with the material delivered. Only 10% rated it as 'Average'. This suggests that the training content was well-structured and achieved objectives as specified.

The session wise feedback indicates consistently positive responses across all sessions and the group exercise. Session 1 had ratings as 50% 'Excellent' and 45% 'Very Good', reflecting

overall high satisfaction. Minimal responses were in the 'Average' category. Sessions 2 and 3 followed closely with 55% 'Excellent' ratings and 35% 'Very Good'. Session 4 and the Group Exercise received the highest ratings, with 60% of

participants rating them as 'Excellent'. These ratings demonstrate strong content delivery and participant engagement throughout the training program.

Session wise Feedback Ratings



GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM



02

Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Program on Monsoon Preparedness and Response - Mitigating Health Hazards

08th July 2025

Key Highlight

The training program's key highlight was its focus on proactive, health-centric strategies to address monsoon-related risks such as vector- and water-borne diseases.

BACKGROUND

Urban areas across India face recurring challenges during the monsoon season, such as flooding, waterlogging, vector-borne diseases, and disruption of essential urban services. These seasonal occurrences disproportionately impact vulnerable urban populations, strain public health infrastructure, and compromise sanitation and service delivery systems.

Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) must undertake proactive planning, inter-departmental coordination, and robust community outreach measures before and during the monsoon to reduce these risks. Equally important is the role of health and sanitation departments in monitoring disease outbreaks and ensuring effective public response. Capacity building of municipal and health personnel is essential to implement resilient, health-oriented monsoon preparedness strategies that safeguard cities and towns.

To strengthen the impact of these initiatives, the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai, organized a Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Program on 'Monsoon Preparedness and Response – Mitigating Health Hazards' on 8th July 2025. This training program was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of this training program was to enhance the capacity of urban stakeholders in planning and executing integrated monsoon preparedness and response strategies with a strong focus on public health risk mitigation.

PARTICIPATION

In all, 38 participants, including Health Officers, Sanitary Inspectors, Engineers, and officials from departments such as Sanitation, Public Health, and Solid Waste Management. Also, mission functionaries from Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), National Health Mission (NHM), representatives from ULBs, parastatal agencies, ASHA workers, and NGOs involved in urban health, sanitation, and emergency preparedness actively participated in the training program.

Mumbai highlighting its role and ongoing efforts in the field of urban governance, public health, and capacity building. She then explained the program structure and objectives, emphasizing how it was strategically designed to focus on the intersection of health and monsoon preparedness. She also highlighted the rationale behind organizing the training, noting that with the onset of the monsoon season, special attention is required to address health-related emergencies and urban vulnerabilities.

INTRODUCTION



Ms. Yashashree Rane, Jr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

The introduction to the training program was delivered by Ms. Yashashree Rane, Jr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai. She began by warmly welcoming all participants and faculty members and provided a brief overview of the RCUES,

INAUGURATION

The training program was inaugurated by Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai. In his opening address, Dr. Salvi emphasized the growing need for strategic, health-focused, and citizen-centric planning to effectively respond to the increasing monsoon-related challenges in urban areas. He drew attention to the impact of climate change and how it has intensified extreme weather events such as urban flooding, waterlogging, and the spread of vector and waterborne diseases. Highlighting these concerns, he stressed the importance of shifting from reactive to proactive governance, with a strong focus on public health preparedness.

Dr. Salvi underlined the critical role of urban communities as first responders and the necessity for health departments to work in close coordination with emergency services, sanitation departments, and citizens to ensure a timely and effective response. He spoke about the importance of integrated planning that goes beyond routine pre-monsoon activities, calling for smarter surveillance systems, behavior change communication, and inclusive urban health strategies.

Concluding his address, Dr. Salvi encouraged all participants to use the platform to reflect on local challenges and explore practical, community-driven solutions.

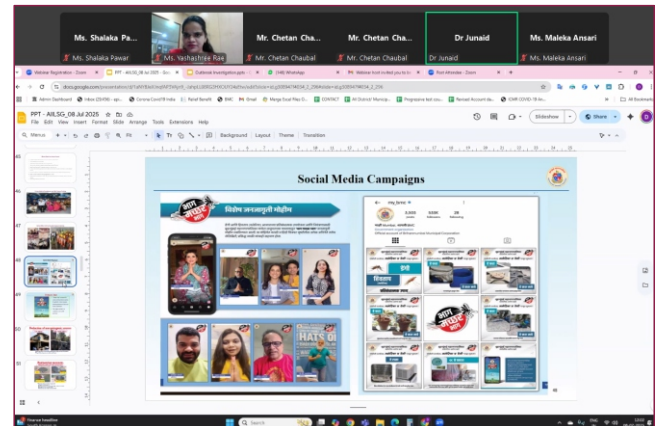


Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The first session on 'Urban Disease Surveillance and Emergency Outbreak Management' was delivered by Dr. Junaid Shaikh, Executive Health Officer, Epidemiology Cell, Public Health Department, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Maharashtra. He provided a comprehensive overview of the principles and importance of epidemiology in urban public health, particularly during the monsoon season. Dr. Shaikh emphasized the role of disease surveillance in early detection, monitoring trends, and guiding public health responses to emerging outbreaks. Using the classic Five W's (Who is affected? What is the health event? Where did it occur? When did it happen? and Why did it occur?) of the Epidemiology framework, he explained how

data-driven decisions can help prevent and contain outbreaks. The session covered both waterborne and vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria, and leptospirosis, detailing their transmission dynamics, clinical symptoms, and treatment protocols in line with national guidelines. A significant focus was placed on the preparedness activities of the Public Health Department, including case notification, use of rapid diagnostic kits, and preventive vector control measures. He also highlighted the importance of interdepartmental coordination, mass awareness, and capacity building of health workers. With practical examples like pre-monsoon inspection drives, drone-based fogging, and campaigns like the 'Dengue App,' the session underscored the value of smart surveillance and community-focused interventions to mitigate health hazards during monsoon emergencies.

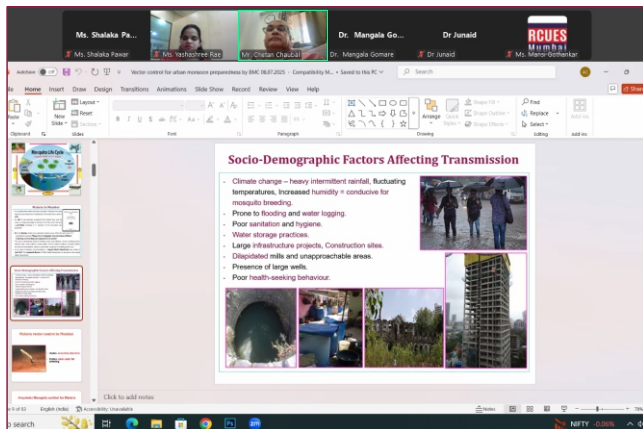


Dr. Junaid Shaikh, Executive Health Officer, Epidemiology Cell, Public Health Department, BMC, Maharashtra addressing the participants.

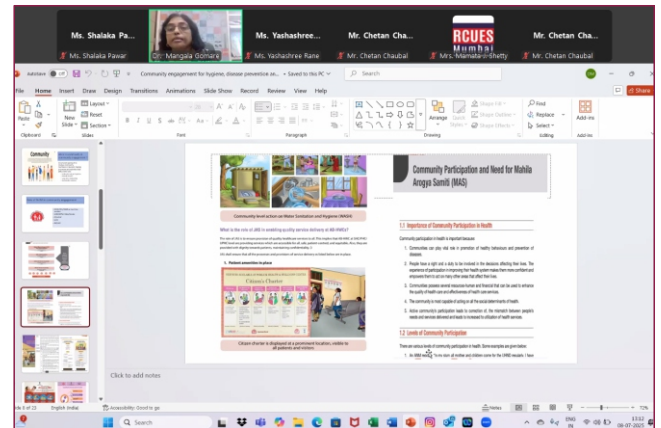
The second session on 'Integrated Sanitation & Vector Control for Urban Monsoon Preparedness', delivered by Mr. Chetan Chaubal, Deputy Insecticide Officer, BMC, Mumbai, focused on

BMC's comprehensive strategy for vector control during the monsoon season, especially targeting dengue and malaria outbreaks. He outlined practical interventions such as weekly antilarval treatment, fogging, and use of Temephos in water storage containers. The session detailed ward-wise microplanning, inspection of high-risk areas like construction sites, slums, and commercial zones, and legal enforcement under sections 381A and 381B for non-compliance. Mr. Chaubal highlighted several innovative practices adopted by BMC to enhance vector control during the monsoon season. He shared how the use of drones for fogging inaccessible areas and the deployment of eco-friendly mosquito traps have strengthened on-ground response. The Public Awareness initiatives, including targeted IEC exhibitions, school campaigns, and the widely recognized 'Bhag Macchar Bhag' campaign, were showcased as impactful models for community engagement. The session also emphasized the importance of inter-departmental and inter-sectoral coordination, involving a diverse range of stakeholders from residential societies to defense establishments.

Also, Special focus was given to source reduction through regular inspections of water storage tanks, improved housekeeping, and proactive legal enforcement. Through detailed case examples, Mr. Chaubal illustrated BMC's comprehensive surveillance and vector control strategy, offering participants practical, scalable, and adaptable insights across different urban settings.



Mr. Chetan Chaubal, Deputy Insecticide Officer, BMC, Mumbai addressing the participants.



Dr. Mangala Gomare, former Executive Health Officer, BMC, Mumbai addressing the participants.

The third session on 'Community Engagement for Hygiene, Disease Prevention and First Response' was delivered by Dr. Mangala Gomare, former Executive Health Officer, BMC, Mumbai. She highlighted the vulnerability of urban populations to monsoon-related health hazards such as waterborne and vector-borne diseases, including leptospirosis, dengue, malaria, typhoid, and gastroenteritis. On emphasizing a holistic approach to public health, she outlined the preventive, promotive, and curative roles of urban health systems, particularly during the monsoon season. Dr. Gomare stressed

that sustainable public health outcomes rely on effective community engagement, with active participation from frontline workers such as Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), Mahila Aarogya Samiti (MAS) groups, and NGOs under the National Health Mission. She demonstrated how structured community involvement leads to better disease prevention and improved access to health services. The session also showcased a range of IEC materials like posters, social media creatives, and awareness visuals used in health campaigns on National Dengue Day, National Malaria Day, and Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF). She reinforced the importance of health education on handwashing, cough etiquette, ORS-Zinc use, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including balanced diets, physical activity, stress management, and mental well-being. Dr. Gomare's session provided practical insights into mobilizing communities and using behavior change strategies during the monsoon.

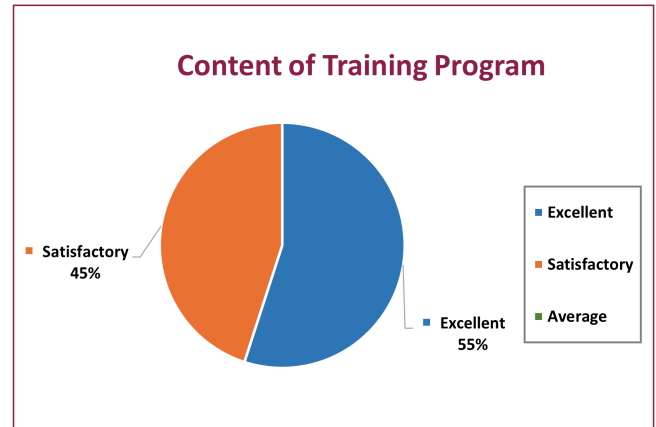
SUMMING UP

The training program concluded with a vote of thanks from Ms. Rane, following the feedback and Q&A session. She acknowledged the collaborative efforts that made the training program a success, expressing gratitude to the trainers for their insightful sessions and to the participants for their engagement.

TRAINING EVALUATION

As part of the training program evaluation, participants were asked to share their feedback on the quality and relevance of the

program content. The pie chart below summarizes their responses and highlights how well the sessions were received.



The chart shows that most participants, 55%, rated the content as 'Excellent', reflecting that they found the topics timely, practical, and useful for their work. Another 45% rated it as 'Satisfactory', indicating that while the content met their expectations, there may be opportunities to make future sessions even more engaging or tailored to specific local needs. Importantly, there were no ratings of 'Average'. This balanced feedback suggests the training program was well-received overall, but also highlights an opportunity to make future sessions even more engaging and tailored to participants' needs.

GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED WEB-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM

03

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

30th July 2025
Diu, U.T.

Key Highlight

The key highlight of the training program was its focus on SBM-U 2.0 implementation, emphasizing Swachh Survekshan preparedness, Circular Economy approaches, and alignment with the updated Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 continues to play a transformative role in advancing urban sanitation and solid waste management across India. In alignment with the SWM Rules, 2024, the mission emphasizes sustainable and decentralized waste processing, integration of circular economy principles, and inclusive service delivery. While infrastructure development and technical enhancements remain important, SBM-U 2.0 places equal focus on people-centric approaches. Through robust Information, Education & Communication (IEC) and Behavior Change Communication (BCC) frameworks, the mission seeks to foster citizen participation and drive sustained behavioral change at the grassroots level, ensuring that sanitation goals are not only achieved but also maintained over time. Complementing these efforts is Swachh Survekshan 2024, the Government of India's

nationwide cleanliness assessment that fosters competitive urban reform through performance-based evaluation. It promotes 100% source segregation, scientific waste processing, visible cleanliness, and robust citizen participation, encouraging cities to adopt innovative, inclusive, and technology-driven practices to improve urban service delivery and rankings.

In response to this evolving landscape, 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 Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 on 30th July 2025 in Diu, U. T. The training program was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI), and the

training program aims to strengthen the capacity of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), mission functionaries, and key stakeholders for effective implementation of SBM-U 2.0 objectives.

KEY OBJECTIVE

This training program aims to build the capacity of ULBs and stakeholders for effective implementation of SBM-U 2.0 through sustainable waste management, institutional strengthening, technology integration, and community participation.

PARTICIPATION

A total of 47 participants attended the training program, representing a diverse group of stakeholders. The attendees included the President and Vice President of Diu Municipal Council, Councillors, Sarpanch, and Panchayat Secretaries, along with key municipal officials such as the Administrative Officer, Municipal Engineer, Senior Engineer, and Junior Engineer. Additionally, members from the Program Management Unit under SBM-U were present, including the Supervisor, Divisional Clerk, Sanitary Inspector, Finance Officer, and Engineer (SWM), ensuring comprehensive representation from both technical and administrative officials.

INTRODUCTION

The training program commenced with a warm welcome to the dignitaries and participants, setting an engaging tone for the sessions. In her opening remarks, Ms. Yashashree Rane, Jr.

Research Officer, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, highlighted the structured and outcome-driven nature of RCUES's Mumbai training programs and their role in strengthening ULBs. She outlined the objectives of the training, focusing on its relevance to SBM-U 2.0, Swachh Survekshan, and the updated SWM Guidelines. She also shared that RCUES, Mumbai has been recognized as an "अति उत्तम" Centre by the Capacity Building Commission National Standards, and briefly presented the Centre's key areas of work, including capacity building, technical consultancy, IEC/BCC training, and third-party audit.



Ms. Yashashree Rane, Jr. Research Officer, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

INAUGURATION

The training program was inaugurated by Mr. Haresh Kapadia, President, Diu Municipal Council (DMC), in the presence of Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, Mr. Ramji

Bamania, President, District Panchayat, Diu, along with Panchayat Secretaries and Sarpanchs. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Salvi, who spoke about Diu's potential to become a model city due to its ecological advantages and environmentally conscious outlook. He emphasized that sanitation practices in tourist destinations like Diu must be citizen-centric, sustainable, and tailored to seasonal demands. Highlighting the scope of the SBM-U 2.0, Dr. Salvi explained how its successful implementation in Diu could set a benchmark for similar regions, particularly through the adoption of smart solutions, community engagement, and integrated urban sanitation planning.

He provided a comprehensive overview of the SWM Rules, 2016 and highlighted the new provisions under the SWM Rules 2024, set to come into effect from October 2025. Emphasizing the idea that "waste is a resource in the wrong place", he explained the duties of waste generators and local authorities, the need for segregation at source, and user fee enforcement. He stressed the integration of informal waste pickers, improved landfill design, and buffer zones. Dr. Salvi also presented special provisions for tourist areas like Diu, such as seasonal waste management arrangements and strict enforcement against littering. He underlined the importance of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and on-site processing for bulk waste generators. Using case studies of Indore, Surat, and Navi Mumbai, he showcased successful models of decentralized waste management, bio-CNG production, smart monitoring, and citizen engagement. The session laid a strong foundation for understanding the policy landscape, operational challenges, and innovations in sustainable urban waste practices under SBM-U 2.0.



Mr. Hareesh Kapadia, President, Diu Municipal Council inaugurated the training program by lighting the lamp. (L to R) Ms. Yashashree Rane, Jr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIIILSG, Mumbai, Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AIIILSG, Mumbai, Mr. Ramji Bamania, President, District Panchayat, Diu, & other dignitaries.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The first session on 'Sustainable Urban Waste Management: Aligning with SBM-U 2.0 Guidelines' was delivered by Dr. Salvi.



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

The second session, 'Driving Behavior Change: IEC & BCC Strategies in Action', was delivered by Ms. Rane. She emphasized that IEC and BCC are not just supportive tools, but central pillars in achieving the goals of SBM-U 2.0. The session explored the role of well-planned campaigns in influencing sanitation behavior, such as daily waste segregation, responsible toilet usage, and composting. Ms. Rane highlighted national campaigns like "Banega Swachh India", "Har Din Do Bin", and "Compost Banao, Compost Apnao", showcasing their impact through celebrity endorsements and digital outreach. She illustrated how Indore's cultural anthem approach, like "Ho Halla," connected emotionally with citizens and drove mass participation. The role of NGOs, CSR partners, and local influencers in amplifying message delivery was also emphasized. She explained how a blend of digital tools, like social media, user-generated content, and WhatsApp outreach, with traditional methods such as street plays and wall paintings, creates lasting behavioral impact. Practical steps for campaign planning, execution, and stakeholder engagement were shared. The session encouraged ULBs to adopt locally tailored, continuous, and creative IEC-BCC strategies.

Ms. Rane also delivered the third session on 'One Stop Centre – A Single Window for Women's Support'. This session was included in the training curriculum as per the directives of the MoHUA, GoI, under its focus on making urban spaces safer and more inclusive for women. Ms. Rane introduced the One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme, launched in 2015 under the Nirbhaya Fund, based on the recommendations of the Usha Mehra Commission following the 2012 Delhi incident. She outlined the core objective of OSCs to provide integrated services such as medical aid, police assistance, legal support, and counseling to women affected by violence, all under one roof.

By March 2025, over 802 OSCs have been established across India, assisting more than 9.19 lakh women. She highlighted the integration of OSCs with the 24x7 Women Helpline (181), ensuring immediate response and access. The session also emphasized the need for ULBs to proactively identify gaps and facilitate the setup of OSCs within their jurisdictions. Recent policy upgrades under Mission Shakti, such as digital dashboards and the possibility of multiple centres per city, were also discussed. Ms. Rane shared best practices and implementation steps that cities can adopt. The session reinforced the significance of institutional support systems for women.



Dr. Anil Roy, Sr. Professor, Faculty of Planning, CEPT University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat addressing the participants.

Dr. Anil Roy, Sr. Professor, Faculty of Planning, CEPT University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, delivered the fourth session on 'Implementing Circular Economy in Urban Sanitation'. He began by contextualizing the shift from a linear "take-make-dispose" waste model to a circular economy approach that emphasizes reuse, recycling, and resource

recovery. Dr. Roy explained how urban sanitation systems can be reimagined to close the loop by recovering water, nutrients, and energy from waste streams. He showcased successful models such as bio-methanation for wet waste, co-treatment of septage at STPs, and decentralized composting units. Emphasis was placed on the role of data and spatial planning in optimizing infrastructure for circular outcomes. He also highlighted opportunities for livelihood creation through micro-enterprises and the integration of informal waste workers. Special focus was given to financing mechanisms, PPP models, and performance-based incentives that cities can leverage to operationalize circular systems. The session included case studies from cities like Pune, Tiruchirappalli, and Bhubaneswar to demonstrate practical innovations. He concluded by urging ULBs to prioritize circular thinking as an essential component of sustainable urban sanitation and long-term resilience.

The fifth session on 'Swachh Survekshan 2024 & Data-Driven Urban Governance' was delivered by Dr. Ketna Matkar, Founder and Managing Director, Cipher Environmental Solutions LLP, Thane, Maharashtra. She began by outlining the revised framework of Swachh Survekshan 2024, which places greater emphasis on data accuracy, citizen participation, and sustainability outcomes. Dr. Matkar highlighted the increasing weightage for source segregation, scientific waste processing, and visible cleanliness in public spaces. She explained how ULBs can improve performance by leveraging digital tools such as Management Information Systems (MIS), QR codes, and geotagged photographs. The session focused on integrating data analytics with field-level implementation to ensure evidence-based planning and monitoring. She discussed the role of the SBM portal, third-party verification,

and citizen validation processes in enhancing transparency and accountability. Practical strategies for improving citizen feedback scores and preparing for field assessments were shared. Dr. Matkar also encouraged ULBs to conduct regular mock drills and real-time data updates. The session provided a roadmap for aligning governance practices with Survekshan expectations and building competitive, data-driven ecosystems.



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

GROUP EXERCISE

To strengthen the training outcomes and assess participant learning, a group exercise on 'Local Action Planning & Waste Innovation Mapping' was conducted. The activity encouraged participants to apply key learnings from the sessions to address real-world urban sanitation challenges under SBM-U 2.0. Participants were divided into five groups, each assigned a thematic focus such as "Trash to Treasure: Building Circular

Cities”, “Think Clean, Act Smart”, “From Bins to Brilliance”, “Ward-Level SWM Action Plans”, and “IEC & BCC Strategies for Citizen Behavior Change”. Each group developed actionable strategies that integrated innovation, circular economy practices, IEC/BCC tools, and smart sanitation solutions. Group 1, which focused on designing a comprehensive SWM Action Plan, and Group 2, which focused on IEC & BCC Strategies, were declared winners for effectively presenting their solutions. Both groups demonstrated a clear understanding of SBM-U objectives, stakeholder roles, and local implementation frameworks. The exercise promoted teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving while aligning local action with mission goals. It served as a platform for peer learning and practical planning, making the training more participatory and outcome-oriented.



Participants engaged in group exercise.

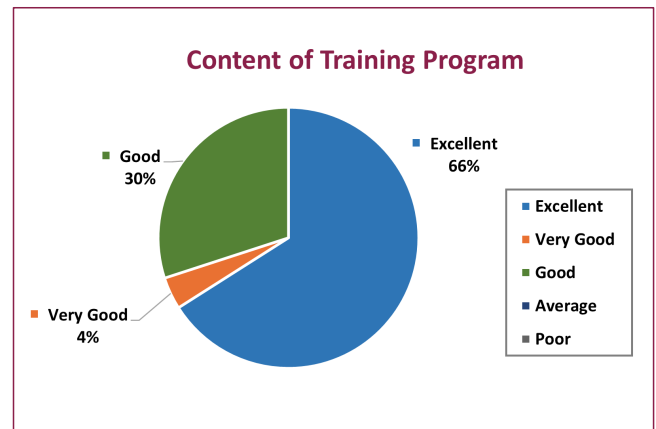
SUMMING UP

The training program concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Ms. Rane. She extended sincere gratitude to the

Diu Municipal Council and the District Collectorate for their invaluable support and seamless coordination in ensuring the successful execution of the training program. She expressed special thanks to Dr. Vivek Kumar, Additional District Magistrate, and Mr. Rahul Dev Boora, IAS, Collector of Diu, for their continued support and encouragement. Ms. Rane also acknowledged the contributions of the expert trainers for their enriching sessions and appreciated the participants for their enthusiastic and active involvement throughout the training.

TRAINING EVALUATION

The training program held in Diu received positive feedback from participants, indicating its strong relevance, structured content, and effective delivery. As per the training content evaluation, 66% of participants rated the overall program as ‘Excellent’ and 30% as ‘Good’ reflecting a high degree of satisfaction and alignment with participant expectations. The attendees actively engaged with the thematic sessions and activities.

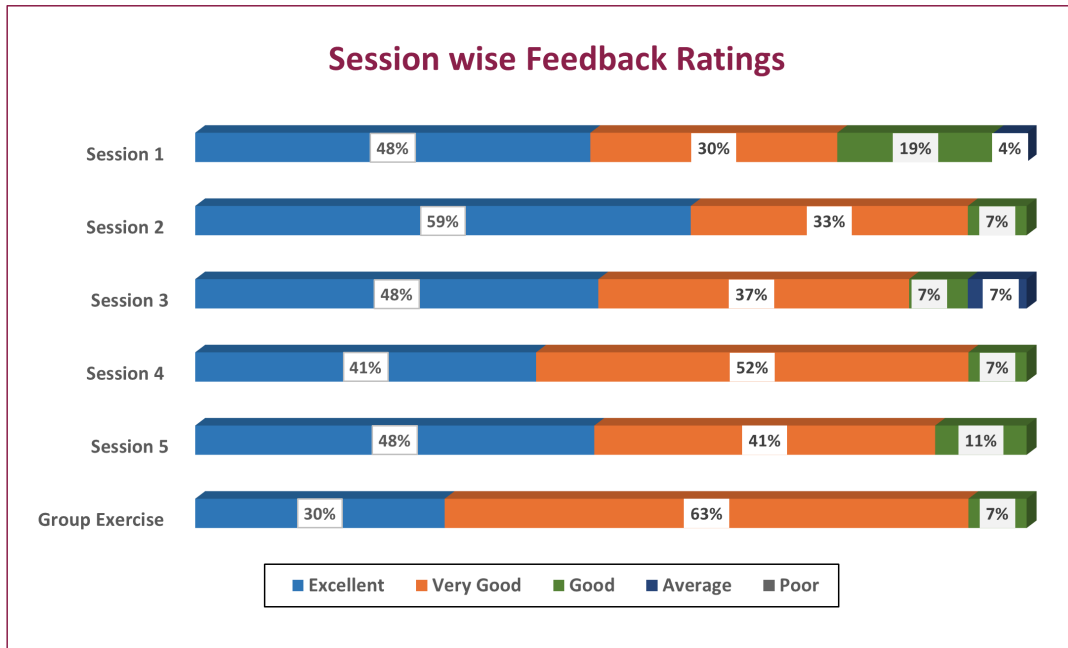


Session-wise feedback revealed that the first session on 'Sustainable Urban Waste Management: Aligning with SBM-U 2.0 Guidelines' and the second session on 'Driving Behavior Change: IEC & BCC Strategies in Action' received the highest 'Excellent' ratings. These sessions were appreciated for their practical orientation, contextual relevance, and actionable strategies that participants could directly relate to their field realities. The session on 'One Stop Centre - A Single Window for Women's Support' was well received for sensitizing urban stakeholders on integrated women's support services within the SBM framework.

Furthermore, the sessions on 'Implementing Circular Economy in Urban Sanitation' and 'Swachh Survekshan 2024 & Data-Driven

Urban Governance' were acknowledged for their insight into innovative models, use of technology, and emphasis on performance-linked urban reforms. Also, the group exercise on 'Local Action Planning and Waste Innovation Mapping' emerged as a key highlight, with 63% of participants rating it as 'Very Good'. It provided a platform for collaborative problem-solving and encouraged participants to develop locally relevant strategies on themes such as zero-waste cities, circular economy, and citizen engagement.

Overall, the training program strengthened participants' understanding of SBM-U 2.0, solid waste management reforms, and participatory planning. The expert-led sessions, combined with interactive group work, contributed to a comprehensive and impactful learning experience.



GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM



04

Convocation Ceremony for Sanitary Health Inspectors, NIPHTR, Mumbai

24th July 2025
Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The National Institute of Public Health Training and Research (NIPHTR), Mumbai, organized the Convocation Ceremony for the 8th Batch (2024–25) and the Inauguration of the 9th Batch (2025–26) of the Sanitary Health Inspector (SHI) program on 24th July 2025 in Mumbai. The event celebrated the graduation of a new cohort of trained public health professionals who play a pivotal role in advancing sanitation, hygiene, and community health outcomes across India.

Graduation certificates and medals were distributed by Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, who served as Chief Guest, and Mr. Yusuf Kabir, WASH Consultant with UNICEF, as Guest of Honor. In his special address, Dr. Salvi provided an overview of RCUES Mumbai's long-standing role as a premier institution dedicated to capacity building, policy support, and research in urban governance, sanitation, and related sectors. He outlined how the Centre works extensively with Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across India to strengthen institutional capacity, implement national flagship programs, and promote sustainable urban development practices. He also underlined the importance of continuous professional development for municipal health and sanitation personnel, ensuring they are equipped to meet evolving challenges in urban service delivery.

Building on this, Dr. Salvi spoke passionately about the critical role of Sanitary Health Inspectors as the operational link between public health policy and its execution at the community level. He stressed that while technical expertise forms the foundation of their work, it must be complemented by strong soft skills such as effective communication, community engagement, and conflict resolution. He highlighted that ethical service delivery, proactive field engagement, and empathy towards community needs are equally vital for achieving sustainable health and sanitation outcomes. By integrating these competencies into their professional practice, Sanitary Health Inspectors can not only improve service quality but also inspire greater public trust and participation in sanitation initiatives.

His participation in the convocation held special importance for RCUES Mumbai, as the Centre is deeply involved in the training and capacity-building of municipal functionaries, including Sanitary Inspectors, under national flagship programs like Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), AMRUT, and the National Health Mission. RCUES, Mumbai works closely with ULBs to strengthen urban health and sanitation systems. By attending the convocation, RCUES, Mumbai not only

celebrated the achievements of the graduating SHIs but also reinforced its commitment to supporting their professional growth, engaging them in future capacity-building programs, and fostering collaboration with institutions like NIPHTR. This

engagement helps shape a skilled, responsive, and community-focused urban health workforce capable of meeting the evolving challenges of sanitation and public health in India's cities.

GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT



05

Framing the Future



Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director presented RCUES Mumbai's Annual Report to Mr. Satinder Pal Singh, Additional Secretary, MoHUA, Gol during a meeting on 7th July at New Delhi.

Courtesy meeting with Dr. Debolina Kundu, Director, NIUA, along with Dr. Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG Mumbai, Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AILSG Mumbai and Dr. Debjani Ghosh, Associate Professor, NIUA, New Delhi on 8th July at New Delhi. Discussions focused on exploring sustainable collaboration. The interaction set the tone for future joint initiatives in urban development.



Courtesy Meeting with Dr. Nupur Bahadur, Director, Circular Economy and Waste Management, TERI, New Delhi & Dr. Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG Mumbai & Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AILSG Mumbai on 8th July at New Delhi. Discussions focused on waste management and circular economy, paved the way for future partnerships towards sustainable urban solutions.

Framing the Future



The RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai team on 28th July 2025 had a productive meeting with Mr. Rahul Dev Boora, IAS, Collector of Diu, and Dr. Vivek Kumar, Additional District Magistrate. We discussed Diu's SBM 2.0 initiatives and explored ways RCUES can support the district in implementing various activities.

Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director RCUES, shared valuable insights and identified new strategic opportunities for collaboration between RCUES and Diu Municipal Council. We're looking forward to working together to drive positive change.



Advisory Committee, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai

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Guwahati, Assam.

Dr. Liyaqat Ayub Khan,
Member

Professor & Head,
Department of Civics & Politics,
University of Mumbai, Vidyanagari,
Mumbai.

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

M. N. Roy Human Development Campus, Plot No.6, 'F' Block,
Opp. Bandra Colony Metro Station (Aqua Line 3, Gate No. A2), Near Uttar Bhartiya Sangh,
Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400051.

Tel. No. : 8657622550 / 51 / 52 / 54

Email.: dir.rcues@aiilsg.org ; rcuestraining@aiilsg.org

Website: www.aiilsg.org/rcues