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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

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Urban Environ Vision aims to take its readers through offline 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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Section

01

Regional Specialized Training Program on Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 - Transforming Cities with Smart Sanitation Solutions

13th - 14th November 2024
Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Key Highlight

The key highlight of the program was the showcase of smart sanitation solutions, leveraging IoT technology and capacity building to drive sustainable urban sanitation, efficient wastewater management, and garbage-free cities.

BACKGROUND

The Government of India's flagship missions, including Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Smart Cities Mission, Digital India, and Make in India, demonstrate a robust commitment to improving living standards, driving economic growth, and promoting sustainable development. These initiatives address key urban and rural challenges, fostering inclusive and transformative progress nationwide.

The Swachh Bharat Mission, launched in 2014, seeks to eliminate open defecation and improve sanitation practices across India, enhancing public health and hygiene. It emphasizes solid waste management in urban and rural areas,

encouraging community participation and fostering a cleaner environment. On similar lines, AMRUT, initiated in 2015, focuses on urban infrastructure development, particularly in water supply, sewage management, and green spaces, thereby improving the quality of urban living and promoting sustainable city development.

To successfully implement SBM, capacity building for urban local bodies is vital to enhance their technical and managerial skills. This approach effectively integrates SBM goals, ensuring cleanliness and sanitation converge with urban development. Integrated urban planning fosters collaboration among various departments, establishing robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track project progress. Additionally,

leveraging smart technologies and supportive policies is crucial for efficient project execution.

Considering this background, the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai organized a Regional Specialized Training Program on 'Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 - Transforming Cities with Smart Sanitation Solutions' on 13th - 14th November 2024 at Jaipur, Rajasthan. This training program was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of the training program was to empower stakeholders in effective implementation and sustainable management of Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 and AMRUT, fostering cleaner, healthier, and more livable urban environments through enhanced collaboration and community engagement.

PARTICIPATION

In all, 62 participants comprising Executive Officers, Municipal Engineers, MIS Engineers, SBM Engineers, Junior Engineers, and Sanitary Inspectors from Jaipur Municipal Corporation Greater, Jaipur Municipal Corporation Heritage, and Municipal Councils from cities such as Thanagazi, Kishangarh, Chomu, Kotputli, Shahpura, Tijara, Bagru, and other cities of Rajasthan state attended the training program.

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai, welcomed the dignitaries, subject experts, and participants. She emphasized the impactful training programs conducted by RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai, which have supported ULBs across the western and northeast parts of India. She also gave an insightful overview of the training program, outlining its key objectives and anticipated outcomes.



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

INAUGURATION

The training program was inaugurated by Mr. Vinod Purohit, Deputy Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA), Jaipur Region, Government of Rajasthan in the presence of Ms. Nitu Sinha, Dr. Ketna Matkar, Mr. Anuj Asthana and Ms. Maleka Ansari. In the inaugural address, Mr. Purohit provided an in-depth overview of the implementation of the

SBM in the state of Rajasthan, emphasizing its progress, challenges, and achievements. He highlighted the critical role of the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) component in driving behavior change, which he identified as a cornerstone for achieving the mission's long-term success.



Mr. Vinod Purohit, Deputy Director, DMA, Jaipur Region, Government of Rajasthan inaugurated the training programme by lighting the lamp. (L to R) Ms. Nitu Sinha, Project Management Consultant, Mission Karmayogi, MoHUA, Gol, Mr. Anuj Asthana, Centre Manager, AILSG, Kota, Rajasthan, Dr. Ketana Matkar, Resource Person, Maharashtra, and Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai.

He further emphasized the critical need for collaboration and accountability among the mission's functionaries, meticulously outlining their distinct roles and responsibilities in promoting sustainable growth and comprehensive development. He highlighted the imperative for concerted efforts to align mission objectives with innovative community engagement strategies, ensuring that the outcomes of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) are impactful and enduring.

Ultimately, he advocated for the integration of diverse approaches and the strategic utilization of local resources, proposing a model of implementation that could serve as a benchmark for other regions, thereby setting a precedent for future initiatives.



Mr. Vinod Purohit, Deputy Director, DMA, Jaipur Region, Government of Rajasthan addressing the participants.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The session on 'Exploring Urban Waste Management: A Journey to a Garbage-Free City' was delivered by Ms. Nitu Sinha, Project Management Consultant, Mission Karmayogi, MoHUA, Gol. She gave an overview of the state of waste management in India, noting that the country generates approximately 70 Million Tons (MT) of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) annually, a figure projected to rise to 165 MT by 2030 and 436 MT by 2050 as published by Invest India. Despite 80% of MSW being collected, only 28% is processed, and just 6–7%

is recycled through composting, with most waste being dumped on the outskirts of towns due to inadequate availability of sanitary landfill space. She discussed challenges like inefficient waste collection and segregation systems, low public awareness, insufficient recycling infrastructure, and limited funding. Furthermore, she highlighted the environmental and health risks of improper waste management, including air pollution from open burning, toxic heavy metals, plastic litter clogging drainage systems, microplastics harming marine life, and unmanaged waste fostering disease vectors such as flies, mosquitoes, and rats.



Ms. Nitu Sinha, Project Management Consultant, Mission Karmayogi, MoHUA, Gol addressing the participants.

Further, she focused on the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016, and their role in achieving the goals of the SBM U. She explained how these rules provide a comprehensive framework for managing waste effectively in urban areas and align closely with the mission's objectives. Reviewing the achievements of SBM Phases 1 and 2, she highlighted significant improvements in waste management systems, including

better collection, processing, and disposal mechanisms. She emphasized the central goal of SBM-U 2.0, creating GFCs. To support this vision, the GFC rating system was introduced, which evaluates cities on their waste management performance. These ratings not only provide a benchmark for progress but also inspire cities to adopt more efficient and sustainable waste management practices. In the final part of the session, she shared examples of the best practices from cities excelling in waste management. She described the source segregation initiatives in Alappuzha (Kerala), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Panaji (Goa), and Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh), showcasing their decentralized waste processing systems. Ambikapur has innovatively managed non-recyclable waste by compressing it and selling it to cement plants as an alternative fuel, demonstrating an effective and innovative waste-to-energy solution. These examples underscore the potential of localized, systematic approaches to waste management, serving as models for other cities striving for sustainable and environmentally responsible practices.

In the next session, Dr. Ketna Matkar, Founder and Managing Director, Cipher Environmental Solutions, LLP, Thane, Maharashtra discussed 'Leveraging Technology in SBM U 2.0 – Smart Solutions for Clean City'. She began the session by highlighting the role of technology in achieving the objectives of SBM U 2.0 which was a central theme of the discussion, emphasizing how digital innovations have revolutionized mission implementation. She said that technology has been instrumental in enhancing citizen engagement, facilitating data-driven decision-making, and ensuring transparency and efficiency in operations. Key enablers under SBM-U, such as Swachh Survekshan, standardized protocols, digital tools, and behavior change interventions, were highlighted for their

significant impact. Civic technology has emerged as a powerful tool to foster accountability, participation, and improved public service delivery. Further, she focused on the National Performance Monitoring Platform for SBM U 2.0 which was also mentioned as a pivotal initiative to strengthen the mission's outcomes. Further, the swachhata startup challenge, launched by the MoHUA, Gol in collaboration with Agence Française de Développement (AFD), was mentioned for nurturing startups that bridge technology and social innovation. This initiative aimed to support startups addressing challenges like single-use plastic waste and promoting transparency and efficiency in waste management.



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

The discussion also delved into the technological innovations under SBM U 2.0, particularly the launch of the Swachhata technology suite by Navagraha in partnership with MoHUA, Gol. Built on the IChangeMyCity civic tech platform, this suite includes four mobile apps and web portals designed for ease of access and use by citizens and engineers alike. Key tools like the swachhata citizen and engineer app, as well as the

Swachh City and Swachh Munch platforms, were highlighted as transformative digital solutions to ensure seamless citizen participation and real-time monitoring. Themes of social inclusion, zero waste, plastic waste management, and transparency were underscored as guiding principles. These innovations reflect the mission's commitment to leveraging technology for sustainable urban sanitation and waste management practices.

At the end of her session, Dr. Matkar discussed the objectives of Swachhata Survekshan 2024 and outlined its key focus areas for assessing city performance. She emphasized the survey's goal of fostering widespread citizen engagement and raising awareness about the importance of collective efforts in creating cleaner, more livable cities. This initiative also aims to promote healthy competition among towns and cities to enhance urban cleanliness and service delivery. She highlighted innovative digital tools such as the Direct Observation Mobile App, which enables real-time monitoring of public infrastructure, including Bulk Waste Generators, through images and videos. Additionally, she introduced the My Toilet App, developed by the MoHUA, Gol under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban. This app ensures proper maintenance of community and public toilets (CT/PT) by allowing caretakers to log attendance twice daily and collect user feedback every two hours, ensuring timely upkeep and improved service quality.

In the next session, Mr. Shashikant Sharma, Municipal Commissioner of Sikar Municipal Council, Rajasthan, presented a compelling Case Study on the Implementation and Outcomes of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), focusing on its transformative impact on sanitation and hygiene in Sikar City. He detailed the systematic approach adopted to implement

SBM, emphasizing the integration of waste management strategies, improvement of public sanitation facilities, and fostering community participation to drive behavioral change. Mr. Sharma elaborated on key initiatives undertaken in the city, such as the large-scale construction of toilets to eliminate open defecation, robust waste segregation programs to promote effective solid waste management, and targeted awareness campaigns to encourage hygienic practices among citizens. These efforts were designed to create a sustainable framework for sanitation improvement and instill a sense of ownership in the community.

The session also highlighted the tangible outcomes of these initiatives, including significant improvements in public health, enhanced cleanliness in neighbourhoods, and a noticeable uplift in the overall quality of life for residents. Mr. Sharma addressed various challenges encountered during the implementation process, such as resource limitations, resistance to behavioral change, and logistical hurdles. He shared practical solutions that were employed to overcome these challenges, such as capacity-building programs, stakeholder collaboration, and leveraging technology for monitoring progress. By showcasing Sikar City's journey, the case study offered valuable insights and actionable strategies for other cities aiming to replicate its success. The session served as an inspiring example of how focused leadership, community engagement, and innovative solutions under SBM can achieve meaningful and sustainable improvements in urban sanitation and hygiene standards.

In the post-lunch session Dr. Himani Tiwari, Training Coordinator, City Managers' Association Rajasthan (CMAR), Jaipur, Rajasthan discussed 'Community Engagement Techniques - Building Awareness and Mobilizing Communities'. She emphasized

the critical role of community engagement in promoting healthy behaviors, preventing diseases, and addressing key health challenges. Highlighting the importance of people's participation, she advocated community involvement in decision-making processes to ensure that collective actions reflect the needs and priorities of the population. Dr. Tiwari explained how communities, through active participation, can leverage their human and financial resources to enhance healthcare quality and effectively address social determinants of health. This involvement not only bridges the gap between people's needs and healthcare services but also improves health outcomes and increases the utilization of healthcare facilities. She elaborated on various engagement strategies such as problem identification and prioritization, the establishment of forums, capacity building, exposure visits, community mobilization, and awareness initiatives like health campaigns, camps, wall paintings, and street plays.



Dr. Himani Tiwari, Training Coordinator, CMAR, Jaipur, Rajasthan addressing the participants.

Additionally, she highlighted the importance of interpersonal communication (IPC) and behavior change communication

(BCC) as crucial tools for raising awareness and fostering sustainable behavior change within communities. She introduced the Mata Arogya Samiti (MAS) as an important platform for promoting health and addressing critical social determinants such as nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, education, and more. According to her, MAS is formed at community level to undertake collective action on health-related issues while empowering its members to effectively monitor and address local challenges. By performing roles such as tracking health conditions, overseeing water and sanitation facilities, and improving nutrition and housing, MAS serves as a bridge between the community and service providers. During the concluding segment of her session, Dr. Tiwari emphasized the transformative potential of MAS in fostering greater accountability, encouraging active participation, and promoting community-driven solutions aimed at enhancing health and well-being.

In the next session, Adv. Ashwini Borude, President, Shree Aastha Self Help Group (SHG), Mumbai, Maharashtra discussed 'Onsite Wet Waste Processing by Non-Bulk Waste Generators'. Her presentation focused on practical strategies for managing wet waste (such as food scraps, garden waste, etc.) at the source, particularly for non-bulk waste generators – households, small businesses, and local communities. She emphasized the importance of empowering these smaller waste generators to handle their waste, rather than relying solely on municipal systems. Adv. Borude highlighted various methods of onsite wet waste processing, such as composting and vermicomposting, which are sustainable and effective ways of reducing waste while enriching soil. She also discussed biogas production from wet waste as an alternative, eco-friendly solution. The session covered the benefits of such systems, including reducing the burden on waste collection systems, decreasing landfill use,

and promoting a cleaner, more sustainable environment. She shared successful examples from her work with the Shree Aastha SHG, where local communities have been trained to implement these solutions, contributing to cleaner neighborhoods and a more sustainable urban ecosystem.

Additionally, she provided insights on how these initiatives can be scaled, supported by local government policies, and integrated into urban waste management programs, encouraging a collective shift toward decentralized waste management solutions.



Adv. Ashwini Borude, President, Shree Aastha SHG, Mumbai, Maharashtra addressing the participants.

GROUP EXERCISE

As a part of the training program, a group exercise was conducted by the team of RCUES, Mumbai, aimed at fostering a collaborative approach to generating innovative solutions for Sustainable Sanitation and the Journey to a Garbage-Free City.

The participants were divided into seven groups, each assigned a specific theme related to urban waste management. The themes included:

- Implementation of Waste to Wealth initiatives.
- Development of Community Engagement Strategies.
- Promoting Decentralized Waste Management.
- Creating Waste-to-Energy facilities.
- Designing an effective Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Campaign.
- Advancing Smart Waste Management Systems.
- Segregation at Source for Waste Management.



Participants engaged in group exercise.

Each group engaged in in-depth discussions and brainstorming sessions to develop actionable plans aimed at achieving a garbage-free city. They explored various methods, strategies, and technologies that could be implemented to tackle waste management challenges unique to their respective areas.

After the discussions, each group presented its plan of action to the entire assembly. These presentations highlighted the practical steps, timelines, resource requirements, and expected outcomes for their proposed solutions. The ideas

presented were diverse, ranging from innovative waste-to-wealth programs to smart technology solutions for waste tracking and collection.



Presentation of group exercise by participants.

To encourage active participation and recognize the most innovative and practical plans, a token of appreciation was awarded to the group that presented the most comprehensive, feasible, and sustainable plan. This exercise not only allowed participants to collaborate and learn from each other but also provided them with the tools and strategies to implement in their communities for a cleaner, more sustainable urban environment.

SUMMING UP

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

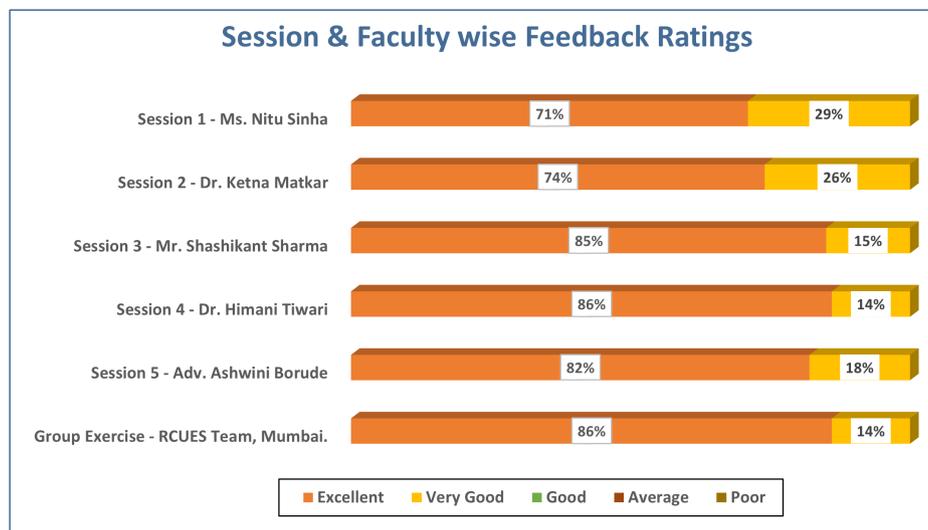
TRAINING EVALUATION

The RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai conducted a feedback survey among participants on the final day of the program. The training program received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with 93% of the sessions rated as excellent and 7% as very good.



Noteworthy sessions that garnered exceptional ratings included Community Engagement Techniques by Dr. Himani Tiwari (86%), and Onsite Wet Waste Processing by Non-Bulk Waste Generators by Adv. Ashwini Borude (82%), and Case Study on SBM Implementation in Sikar City by Mr. Shashikant Sharma (85%). Additionally, the group exercise Towards Sustainable Sanitation, coordinated by Ms. Maleka Ansari, received high praise for its interactive and collaborative approach, achieving an excellent (86%) rating. While sessions such as Exploring Urban Waste Management by Ms. Nitu Sinha (71%) and Leveraging Technology in SBM 2.0 by Dr. Ketna Matkar (74%) were deemed valuable, they garnered constructive feedback for further refinement to enhance clarity and applicability.

Overall, the program effectively equipped participants with practical knowledge and actionable insights to drive improvements in sanitation and waste management.



GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM



Section

02

Regional Specialized Training Program on Women and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

29th - 30th November 2024
Silvassa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli (UT)

Key Highlight

The programme focused on women's role in achieving SDGs, integrating gender equality, emerging technologies, and government schemes. Interactive activities enriched learning and encouraged practical application.

BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outline a global vision to eliminate poverty, protect the planet, and promote peace and prosperity for all. Women's empowerment is essential to achieving these goals, as it plays a critical role in sustainable development. However, women in India face significant challenges in contributing to the SDGs, including socio-economic barriers, discrimination, violence, deep-rooted cultural norms, and limited access to quality education, health services, and adequate nutrition. Overcoming these challenges requires a collaborative, multidimensional effort involving the government, civil society, and the private sector. Together, they must create an enabling environment that fosters women's potential and strengthens their contributions to the SDGs. Addressing these issues through targeted policies, educational programs, and empowerment initiatives is crucial to ensuring

that women in India are active participants and beneficiaries of sustainable development, thereby enriching society. In response to this need, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai, has organized a Regional Specialized Training Program on 'Women and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' on 29th – 30th November 2024 at Silvassa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli (UT). This 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 empower not only women but also engage men in creating a supportive

environment for women's advancement, fostering a collaborative approach to drive progress towards achieving the SDGs. This inclusive effort aims to promote mutual respect, equality, and shared responsibility in sustainable development.

PARTICIPATION

A total of 56 participants attended the training program. The attendees included the elected representatives of the Silvassa Municipal Council, as well as municipal officers such as the account officer, senior clerk, solid waste management (SWM) workers, and supervisors. Additionally, participants from the Urban Mission Department, the DAY-NULM mission, district mission managers, young professionals, and self-help group (SHG) workers were also present.

INTRODUCTION



Ms. Yashashree D. Rane, Junior Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Ms. Yashashree D. Rane, Jr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai, extended a heartfelt welcome to the esteemed dignitaries on the dais and all participants. In her address, she highlighted the well-structured nature of RCUES training programs and their transformative impact on Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across India. She then introduced the training program with clarity, outlining its objectives and scope. Following her remarks, Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai offered valuable insights into the mission of RCUES, Mumbai and elaborated on the key goals of the regional training initiative, setting the stage for an engaging program.

INAUGURATION



Ms. Rajni Shetty, President, Silvassa Municipal Council inaugurated the training programme by lighting the lamp. (L to R) Ms. Yashashree D. Rane, Jr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai, Dr. Mangala Gomare, former Executive Health Officer of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mumbai, Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai, and Dr. Rama Shyam, Director, Sneha Foundation, Mumbai.

The training program was officially inaugurated by Ms. Rajni Shetty, President, Silvassa Municipal Council and Dr. Ajit Salvi,

Director, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai in the presence of Dr. Mangala Gomare, Dr. Rama Shyam and Ms. Yashashree D. Rane. During her inaugural speech, Ms. Shetty emphasized the critical importance of such training programs in empowering women representatives and enhancing their ability to serve their communities effectively.



Ms. Rajni Shetty, President, Silvassa Municipal Council addressing the participants.

Dr. Salvi, in his address, emphasised the pivotal role of AILSG and RCUES, Mumbai in fostering capacity building through specialized training programs. He explained that the program's primary aim is to equip women representatives with the skills and knowledge necessary to lead with confidence and effectiveness. Dr. Salvi also stressed the broader vision of these initiatives, which is to promote sustainable and inclusive urban development. The inspiring inaugural session set a positive tone, encouraging participants to fully engage with the training.



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

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The session on 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Gender Sensitive Governance' was delivered by Dr. Rama Shyam, Director, Sneha Foundation, Mumbai. Dr. Shyam delivered an engaging and impactful session that revolved around SDGs, particularly focusing on Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls. She used the storytelling technique to present 'Asha ki Kahani', a narrative that vividly portrayed the challenges faced by women like Asha. The story shed light on how Asha juggled responsibilities at home and her studies while contending with societal biases that favored her brother. This real-world example resonated with participants and underscored the pervasive gender gaps in education, economic resources, and opportunities.



Dr. Rama Shyam, Director, Sneha Foundation, Mumbai addressing the participants.

The session then transitioned into strategies to bridge these gender gaps, such as ensuring equal representation in decision-making, promoting access to education, and implementing gender-sensitive policies. Dr. Shyam emphasized adopting a gender-transformative approach in urban governance to address these issues effectively. By linking the story to SDG frameworks, she provided a strong foundation for understanding the importance of gender equality in achieving broader developmental goals.

Her session also touched upon community-driven initiatives to empower women, such as improving access to financial resources, fostering inclusive education, and ensuring participation in governance processes. Participants were encouraged to analyze their roles in implementing these measures within their jurisdictions. Dr. Shyam concluded by inspiring attendees to adopt innovative practices and collaborate with diverse stakeholders to create a more inclusive and equitable society. Her expertise and use of relatable storytelling left participants motivated and equipped to integrate gender-sensitive governance into their work.

The session on 'Fostering Gender-Sensitive Workplaces and Leadership' was delivered by Ms. Yashashree D. Rane, Jr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai. The session delved into the critical topic of fostering gender-sensitive workplaces and nurturing leadership roles for women in governance. She began by highlighting the importance of creating inclusive environments in municipal offices, noting that diverse perspectives lead to better decision-making and improved community development. Ms. Rane provided a comprehensive overview of gender-neutral policies, such as paid parental leave, flexible work arrangements, and anti-discrimination measures, as essential components of a gender-sensitive workplace.

Her session emphasized challenges faced by women in leadership, such as societal stereotypes, limited mentorship opportunities, and the struggle for work-life balance. Ms. Rane illustrated these challenges using real-world case studies, including the Kerala Kudumbashree initiative, which empowered women through economic opportunities, skill development, and leadership training. This example underscored the transformative potential of grassroots movements in driving systemic change.

The session on 'Stress Impact and Unhealthy Lifestyles - Physical and Mental Health Well-being' was delivered by Dr. Swati Rane, Founder of Seva Shakti and Public Health Expert, Mumbai. The session explored the profound impact of stress and unhealthy lifestyles on physical and mental health, delivering both theoretical insights and practical interventions. She began by explaining stress as a response to mental or emotional pressure, highlighting its cognitive, emotional, and physical manifestations. Stress, she explained, not only affects personal well-being but also hampers productivity and decision-making capabilities in professional settings.

The session was dynamic and interactive, with Dr. Rane engaging participants in exercises and activities that illustrated how stress accumulates in the body. She introduced meditation

techniques, including the Twin Heart Meditation, emphasizing the healing power of energy (prana) and mindfulness. Participants were guided through relaxation exercises to experience firsthand the benefits of stress management techniques. Dr. Rane also addressed coping mechanisms, distinguishing between healthy and unhealthy responses to stress. She shared actionable strategies, such as adopting positive self-talk, practicing gratitude, engaging in physical activities, and maintaining a balanced diet. Additionally, she highlighted the role of humor and social connections in alleviating stress.



Dr. Swati Rane, Founder of Seva Shakti and Public Health Expert, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Her session stood out for its practical focus, offering participants tools to integrate stress management into their daily lives. Dr. Rane concluded by emphasizing the importance of fostering a supportive work culture that prioritizes mental health and well-being. Participants left with valuable insights and a renewed commitment to managing stress for better health and productivity.

The session on 'Ensuring the Health, Safety, and Well-being of Women and Girls' was delivered by Dr. Mangala Gomare, former Executive Health Officer of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mumbai. Her session provided an in-depth exploration of health, safety, and well-being for women and girls, linking these themes to the SDGs, particularly Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and 5 (Gender Equality). She shared valuable insights into the intersection of women's health and social empowerment.

The session began with an overview of women's roles in traditional and modern contexts, emphasizing their critical contributions as caregivers, educators, and leaders. Dr. Gomare discussed systemic issues like gender-based violence, unequal access to healthcare, and reproductive health challenges. She introduced successful government initiatives such as the Janani Suraksha Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, illustrating their impact on maternal and child health. Participants were engaged in discussions about strategies to improve women's access to healthcare and safety measures.



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

Dr. Gomare emphasized the importance of creating supportive environments through policies that address gender-based violence and provide access to reproductive health services. Her session also highlighted the role of collaboration between local governments and community organizations in implementing effective health programs. Dr. Gomare's expertise and practical recommendations empowered participants to take actionable steps toward enhancing health outcomes for women and girls in their communities.

GROUP EXERCISE (1)

The group exercise on 'Improving Gender Inclusivity in Local Governance' was conducted by the team of RCUES, Mumbai. The participants were tasked with discussing three key issues: increasing women's representation in key committees, allocating budgets for women-focused projects (e.g., healthcare, education, and skill development), and raising community awareness about gender inclusivity.

The participants assumed roles such as council members, municipal officials, and community representatives. Through collaborative discussions, they identified practical solutions. After deliberations, each group presented their proposals, demonstrating innovative and actionable strategies. The facilitators commended the participants' practical approach and encouraged them to implement similar measures in their local governance contexts. This interactive exercise provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of gender inclusivity in governance. It reinforced the importance of collaborative decision-making and proactive measures to ensure equitable representation and resource allocation.



Participants engaged in group exercise.

On the second day, first session was delivered by Dr. Ajit Mokal, Assistant Professor, N. L. Dalmia College and Gender Expert, Mumbai. He delivered an engaging and thought-provoking session on 'Gender Mainstreaming in Governance', emphasizing the integration of gender perspectives into all policies, programs, and decision-making processes. He defined gender mainstreaming as a strategic approach to ensure the needs and aspirations of all genders are equitably considered at every level of governance, moving beyond isolated women-centric initiatives to embed inclusivity into the core of governance systems. Dr. Mokal explored key strategies to address gender disparities, such as enhancing women's access to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities. He highlighted successful initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, and the Skill India Mission, showcasing their impact on women's empowerment. He stressed the importance of addressing intersectionality and tackling patriarchal norms, particularly in rural areas where gender inequalities are often more pronounced.



Dr. Ajit Mokul, Assistant Professor, N. L. Dalmia College and Gender Expert, Mumbai addressing the participants.

The session also underscored the role of vocational training and digital literacy in economic empowerment. Dr. Mokul explained how vocational training equips women with practical skills for employment and entrepreneurship, while digital literacy fosters financial inclusion, e-learning, and access to e-governance. Programs like the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and the National Digital Literacy Mission were presented as pivotal tools in empowering women and bridging the digital divide. Dr. Mokul engaged participants in group exercises to define women's roles in governance and explore the use of digital tools. Discussions highlighted the transformative potential of smartphones in connecting communities and providing access to essential services. The session concluded with a call to action, encouraging participants to advocate for inclusive policies, challenge systemic stereotypes, and foster environments where women can thrive. Dr. Mokul's insights offered a comprehensive understanding of gender mainstreaming's potential to transform governance and society.

GROUP EXERCISE (2)

The group exercise on 'Entrepreneurship in Women – Interlinking Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development' was designed to encourage participants to explore innovative business models aligned with sustainability and government schemes. The team of RCUES, Mumbai facilitated the exercise and introduced ten case studies.

The case studies showcased diverse initiatives, including community gardening, vocational training, eco-friendly product development, water resource management, and organic farming. Examples like women-led fish farming and recycled paper businesses illustrated how small-scale ventures could empower women while promoting environmental sustainability. Participants learned how these initiatives improved financial independence, enhanced community welfare, and contributed to SDGs. Following the case study discussions, participants were divided into groups and tasked with designing their business models. Each group needed to outline how their venture would apply for government schemes like Skill India, Mudra Yojana, or the National Urban and Rural Livelihood Missions, ensuring environmental sustainability. They focused on creating businesses that leveraged local resources, addressed community needs, and promoted eco-friendly practices. During presentations, participants showcased ideas such as organic farming cooperatives, recycled product manufacturing, and women-led vocational training centres. They emphasized aligning their models with government incentives, ensuring financial viability, and addressing challenges like market access and skill gaps. The exercise reinforced the importance of entrepreneurship in driving women's empowerment and sustainable development. By the end of the session, participants

gained practical insights into designing impactful, eco-friendly business models while leveraging government support to foster growth and sustainability.



Presentation of group exercise by participants.

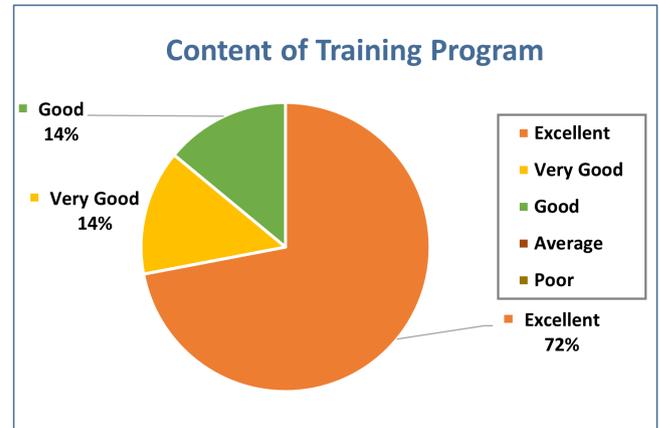
SUMMING UP

The training program came to an end with a vote of thanks from Ms. Yashashree D Rane, Jr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai, following the feedback and Q&A session. She acknowledged the teamwork required to make this program effective and thanked the trainers for their insightful session as well as the participants for their enthusiastic participation.

TRAINING EVALUATION

The training evaluation reflects an overwhelmingly positive response from participants. The overall feedback revealed that 72% of attendees rated the programme as excellent, 14% as very

good, and 14% as good, showcasing the success of the program in achieving its objectives and delivering meaningful sessions.



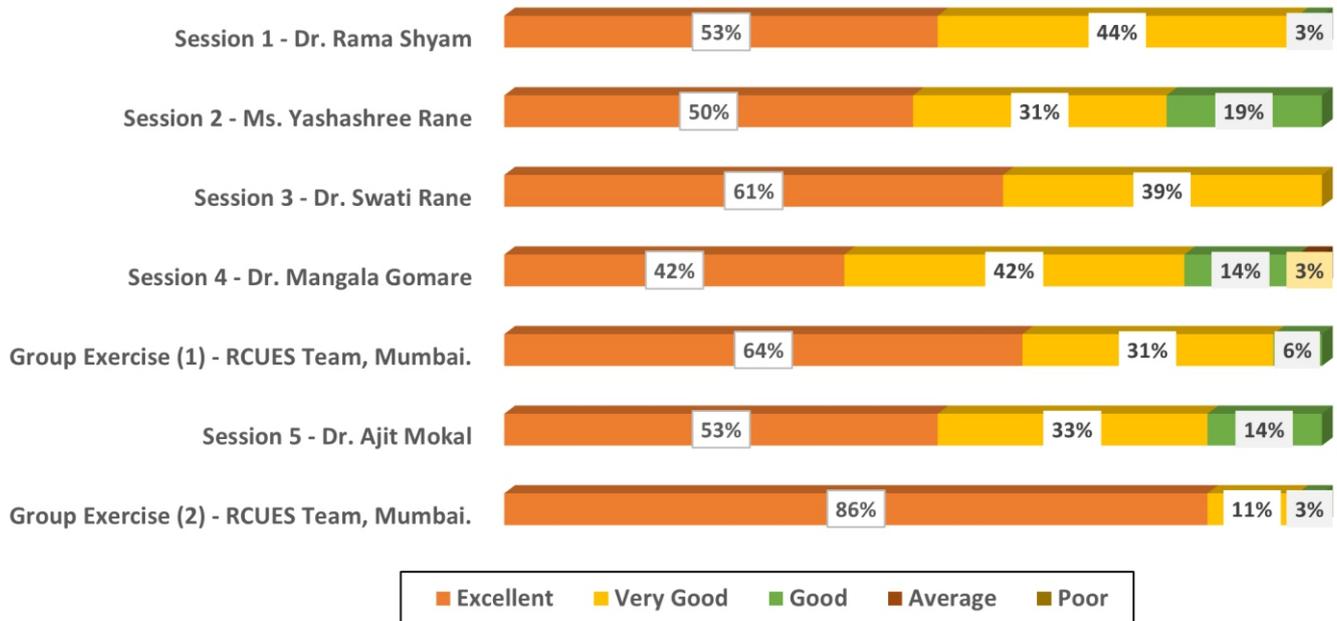
The session-wise feedback highlights participants' varied perspectives. Dr. Rama Shyam's session received 52.78% excellent and 44.44% very good ratings, while Ms. Yashashree D. Rane's session garnered 50% excellent and 30.56% very good ratings, with 19.44% rating it as good. Dr. Swati Rane's session stood out with 61.11% excellent and 38.89% very good ratings. Similarly, Dr. Mangala Gomare's session received 41.67% excellent and very good ratings, with 13.89% rating it as good and 2.78% noting areas for improvement.

Interactive elements like group exercise led by the team of RCUES, Mumbai were especially appreciated, with the first play receiving 63.89% excellent and 30.56% very good ratings. The second group exercise saw an even higher rating of 86.11% excellent and 11.11% very good feedback. Dr. Ajit Mokal's session achieved 52.78% excellent and 33.33% very good ratings, with 13.89% rating it as good.

While the majority of feedback highlighted the program's strengths, constructive inputs from participants also pointed to areas for refinement. The sessions provided valuable insights into emerging technologies, government initiatives,

and collaborative approaches, equipping participants with knowledge and skills to address sustainable development challenges effectively. These learnings will serve as a foundation for enhancing future training programmes.

Session & Faculty wise Feedback Ratings



GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM



Section

03

Regional Specialized Training Program on **Disaster Management & Fire Safety**

30th November 2024
Vadodara, Gujarat.

Key Highlight

The participants gained hands-on experience in using fire extinguishers and learned about the significance of First Aid & cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Additionally, they received insights into key recommendations, which emphasize the need for investing in resilient healthcare systems, promoting collaboration, and leveraging public-private partnerships to improve disaster preparedness.

BACKGROUND

Disaster Management and Fire Safety are integral components of modern emergency response strategies, aimed at safeguarding lives, protecting property, and minimizing the impact of devastating events. Disaster management encompasses the planning, preparation, response, and recovery efforts required to handle a wide range of emergencies, from natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and wildfires, to man-made crises such as industrial accidents and terrorism. Fire safety, as a critical aspect of disaster management, focuses on preventing, detecting, and controlling fires, ensuring effective fire response, and educating communities on fire prevention measures. Together, these two areas form a comprehensive approach to reducing vulnerabilities, enhancing resilience, and promoting public safety in emergencies, ensuring that communities are well equipped to respond to disasters and recover more swiftly.

State-level policies on disaster management and fire safety focus on establishing comprehensive frameworks for risk reduction, response, and recovery, while ensuring that fire safety standards and emergency preparedness plans are enforced across Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). ULBs play a crucial role in disaster management and fire safety by developing city level policies, coordinating response efforts, and ensuring implementation of safety regulations and preparedness plans within urban areas. They are responsible for creating and maintaining infrastructure, conducting training programs, and facilitating public awareness on fire safety and disaster resilience.

Considering above context, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted a Regional Specialized

Training Program on 'Disaster Management & Fire Safety' on 30th November 2024 at Vadodara, Gujarat. 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 strengthen institutional capacities to minimize the impact of disasters and fire incidents and enhance the resilience of communities and infrastructure.

PARTICIPATION

A total of 37 participants including Dy. Municipal Commissioner, Fire Officers, Firemen, Ward Officers from Gujarat state attended this training program.

INTRODUCTION



Mr. Dinesh Patel, Regional Director, AIIILSG, Vadodara addressing the participants.

Mr. Dinesh Patel, Regional Director, AIIILSG, Vadodara, welcomed the dignitaries on the dais as well as the participants. He introduced the dignitaries and then invited them to inaugurate the training program.

INAUGURATION

The training program was inaugurated by Mr. Ranjit Chavan, President, AIIILSG. Ms. Hansa Patel, Sr. Executive Advisor, AIIILSG, Vadodara, Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AIIILSG, Mumbai, Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIIILSG, Mumbai and Guest Faculty graced the event.



Mr. Ranjit Chavan, President, AIIILSG inaugurated the training programme by lighting the lamp. (L to R) Mr. Amit Chaudhary, Station Officer, Fire & Emergency Services, Vadodara Municipal Corporation, Gujarat, Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIIILSG, Mumbai, Ms. Hansa Patel, Sr. Executive Advisor, AIIILSG, Vadodara, Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AIIILSG, Mumbai, and Mr. Hemendra Rawal, Industrial Safety Consultant, Vadodara.

Ms. Hansa Patel, Sr. Executive Advisor, AIIILSG, Vadodara felicitated Mr. Ranjit Chavan, President, AIIILSG by offering a

flower bouquet. Mr. Chandresh Shah, Honorary Executive Director, AIILSG, Vadodara felicitated Ms. Hansa Patel, Sr. Executive Advisor, AIILSG, Vadodara, Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai by offering a flower bouquet.

Mr. Chavan in his welcome address, emphasized the importance of fire services and encouraged the participants to uplift their emergency preparedness skills. He wished a great success to the training program.



Mr. Ranjit Chavan, President, AIILSG addressing the participants.

Dr. Salvi delivered an insightful keynote address emphasizing the importance of preparedness and risk mitigation approaches. He highlighted best practices for effective disaster response and fire prevention measures. The session highlighted the significance of training and awareness in minimizing casualties during emergencies. Dr. Salvi's address emphasized on prioritizing safety and resilience in communities.



Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Ms. Hardikar expressed her gratitude to the dignitaries on the dais during her Vote of Thanks at the end of the inaugural address and outlined the objectives of the training program and then proceeded to initiate the technical sessions.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The first session on 'Role of Fire Service Personnel in Rescue Management' was delivered by Mr. Amit Chaudhary, Station Officer, Fire & Emergency Services, Vadodara Municipal Corporation, Gujarat. Mr. Chaudhary focused on the vital role of fire service personnel in managing rescue operations during emergencies. He provided an overview of the organizational framework within fire departments, detailing essential components like population coverage, communication systems, water facilities, and firefighting equipment. He highlighted the importance of preparedness in addressing

risks associated with fires, accidents, and natural disasters, as well as the legal provisions that ensure fire safety and the protection of life and property.



Mr. Amit Chaudhary, Station Officer, Fire & Emergency Services, Vadodara Municipal Corporation, Gujarat addressing the participants.

He further emphasized the systematic approach fire officers employ in rescue management, which includes assessing situations, planning, and executing operations to save lives and minimize harm during incidents such as fires, natural disasters, and accidents. Key aspects highlighted are effective assessment and resource allocation, leadership in command and coordination, and the execution of critical tasks like search and rescue, evacuation, and safety management. Furthermore, the presentation underlined the importance of collaboration with other emergency services to ensure combined and efficient responses. A strong emphasis is placed on safety protocols to protect both responders and victims, ensuring minimal harm during critical situations.

Mr. Chaudhary emphasized need for addressing post-incident activities and community engagement. Post-operation debriefing, documentation, and training were highlighted as essential to improving future response effectiveness. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of public education on fire safety and emergency preparedness, as well as providing support to affected individuals and communities. This comprehensive approach showcases the multifaceted responsibilities of fire service personnel, positioning them as essential contributors to public safety and disaster resilience.

The next technical session on 'Understanding Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness' was held by Mr. Hemendra Rawal, Industrial Safety Consultant, Vadodara, Gujarat. Mr. Rawal explained how fundamental aspects of mitigating fire risks ensure readiness during emergencies. He emphasized the significance of fire prevention as a proactive measure, highlighting the importance of understanding fire occurrence, developing fire-fighting skills, and applying the right extinguishing methods. He added that key preventive actions include maintaining accessible fire protection equipment, minimizing oxygen availability to interrupt fire proliferation, and educating individuals on appropriate responses before, during, and after fire incidents.

Mr. Rawal explained noteworthy concepts particularly fire triangles, Minimum Oxygen Concentration (MOC), and techniques for reducing oxygen levels to prevent specific types of fires, such as those caused by LPG or methane. The session further addressed emergency preparedness by outlining a structured approach to risk assessment and the roles and responsibilities of involved fire personnel. It introduced the concept of on-site and off-site emergency plans, emphasizing

coordination among emergency organizations, mandatory requirements, and infrastructure readiness such as control rooms, safe assembly points, and occupational health centers. The session also highlighted the critical importance of rehearsals, mock drills, and regular plan updates to ensure effective responses. Examples of real-life incidents, such as fires at industrial and hospital settings, serve to reinforce the practical application of these measures.



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

In conclusion, the session focused on guiding framework of accident prevention and pointed out the principles of safety as foundational to effective emergency management. It elaborated on advanced concepts like the fire tetrahedron, chain reaction inhibition, and the use of clean agents for fire suppression. Mr. Raval emphasized the need for continuous learning, improved technology, and community involvement to build resilience. This holistic approach highlighted the essential role of preparedness in safeguarding lives, property, and the environment.

The next session on 'Public Health & Safety in Disasters' was delivered by Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai. He commenced the session by emphasizing the critical role of health systems in mitigating disaster impacts. The presentation began by defining public health in the context of disasters, as the process of reducing health risks, delivering immediate care, and preventing disease occurrences. It categorized disasters into natural (e.g., earthquakes, pandemics), man-made (e.g., industrial accidents, terrorist attacks), and hybrid (e.g., climate change-induced pandemics). Statistical data highlighted the global impact of disasters, such as over 7,300 major incidents, affecting 4 billion people between 2000-2020, pointing out the urgent need for effective health and safety strategies.

The session explored the public health impacts of disasters, focusing on both immediate and long-term effects. Immediate consequences include injuries, fatalities, and disease occurrences, such as cholera after the Haiti earthquake, while long-term effects involve mental health challenges like Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and aggravation of chronic illnesses due to disrupted healthcare access. Dr. Salvi presented real-world case studies, including the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Hurricane Katrina, and the COVID-19 pandemic, which demonstrated the critical role of timely evacuation, access to healthcare services, and community resilience in disaster response. Safety measures before, during, and after disasters were also discussed, with examples like Cyclone Fani's proactive evacuations saving thousands of lives.

Dr. Salvi highlighted the use of technology, including GIS mapping for risk zones, drones for delivering medical supplies, and mobile apps for real-time alerts. Statistical evidence demonstrated that AI-based systems could reduce response

times by 20%. The session also addressed challenges, such as resource limitations in low-income regions and the need to support vulnerable populations. Dr. Salvi outlined the recommendations, which included investing in resilient healthcare systems, encouraging global collaboration, and leveraging Public Private Partnerships (PPP) to enhance disaster readiness. He concluded the session by emphasizing the importance of taking quick action to ensure a safer and healthier future, as disasters can happen at any time.

The last session on 'Importance of First Aid & CPR during Disaster Management' was delivered by Mr. Vivek Buchkey, Technical Director (Fire), National Fire Academy (NFA), AIILSG, Vadodara, Gujarat. Mr. Buchkey emphasized the critical role these skills play in emergency situations. He pointed out that immediate responses can be vital for saving lives and reducing injuries, especially when professional medical help is not immediately available. Mr. Buchkey illustrated various scenarios where first aid and CPR techniques could be lifesaving, highlighting their significant impact on survival rates in times of crisis.



Mr. Vivek Buchkey, Technical Director (Fire), NFA, AIILSG, Vadodara, Gujarat addressing the participants.

Further, Mr. Buchkey stressed the importance of community preparedness by advocating for widespread first aid and CPR training. He encouraged the participants to learn these essential skills, which not only enhance individual resilience but also improve overall community safety. Through engaging discussions and demonstrations, he motivated participants to realize their potential to make a difference in emergencies, reinforcing the idea that basic first aid and CPR knowledge empowers ordinary individuals to respond effectively in critical situations.

The last session on Hands-on Demonstration on use of fire extinguishers was conducted. Fire officers from the National Fire Academy (NFA) at AIILSG, Vadodara conducted a hands-on demonstration showing how to use fire extinguishers during emergencies. The participants were guided through the key steps of using a fire extinguisher, including the PASS technique (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep) ensuring they understood both the operation of the equipment and the safety measures involved. This engaging demonstration equipped the participants with the skills to respond effectively in case of a fire emergency and raised significant awareness about fire safety and prevention in their communities.



Hands-on demonstration showing how to use fire extinguishers during emergencies.

SUMMING UP

Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai, concluded the training program by delivering a Vote

of Thanks to the Guest Faculty for their insightful contributions and to the participants for their active participation.

GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM



Section

04

Regional Specialized Training Program on Compliance to MIS under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) - Urban

07th December 2024
Pune, Maharashtra.

Key Highlights

The program provided insights on MIS compliance processes, focusing on Utilization Certificate (UC) preparation, PPA demand formats, and milestone-based fund disbursal. It emphasized the importance of accurate data entry and geotagged progress updates on the MIS portal. Participants were encouraged to apply best practices from PMAY 1.0 to PMAY 2.0, with a strong focus on the accountability of City Level Technical Cells (CLTCs) in achieving program objectives on time.

BACKGROUND

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) an initiative by the Government of India aimed at ensuring housing for all has made substantial progress in providing affordable housing across India. The initiative also incorporates technological advancements for project monitoring and efficient fund management to ensure transparency and accountability in achieving its goal of 'Housing for All'.

Implementing PMAY-U with strict adherence to MIS protocols ensures that the mission objectives are met efficiently and transparently, providing sustainable housing solutions to the urban poor. MIS ensures real-time data updates through Aadhar-based beneficiary identification, geotagging of projects,

and online progress reporting by the states and UTs. Fund management is streamlined via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and tracked through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS). Additionally, MIS facilitates grievance redressal through a centralized system, supports data analytics for informed decision-making, and promotes transparency through public disclosure and regular audits, ensuring compliance and accountability in achieving the mission and housing goals.

MIS under PMAY-U is essential to ensure that officials and stakeholders are adept at utilizing this powerful tool for efficient program implementation. Proper MIS training equips users to accurately update and manage data, monitor project

progress through geotagging, and ensure secure and effective fund management via systems like the Public Financial Management System (PFMS). It also empowers them to handle beneficiary data accurately, address grievances through centralized systems, and make informed decisions based on real-time data analytics. Moreover, training enhances transparency and accountability by enabling thorough documentation and compliance with audit requirements. Without such training, the full potential of MIS to streamline processes, improve efficiency, and achieve the mission and housing goals would be compromised.

To upskill the knowledge of mission functionaries on MIS under PMAY-U, the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted a Regional Specialized Training Program on 'Compliance to MIS under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY) - Urban' on 7th December 2024 at Pune, Maharashtra. This training program was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

KEY OBJECTIVE

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

PARTICIPATION

The training program was attended by a total of 135 participants, including CLTC Civil Engineers, MIS Specialist, Section Engineers, Jr. Engineers, Social Development Specialist from Maharashtra and Gujarat states.

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai welcomed the dignitaries on the dais and the participants and provided an insightful introduction about RCUES, Mumbai, highlighting its significant role in advancing urban development and governance. She mentioned that the training program will focus on developing a comprehensive knowledge of MIS processes. Participants will gain insights into the technical aspects of data management and reporting. This knowledge will enable the participants to effectively comply with MIS requirements and enhance performance at city level.



Ms. Neha Hardikar, Senior Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

INAUGURATION

The training program was inaugurated by Mr. Vaibhav Kedare, Executive Engineer, PMAY-U, Maharashtra Housing and Urban Development Authority (MHADA), Mumbai in the presence of Mr. Mahesh Motwani, Ms. Payal Singwi and Ms. Neha Hardikar.



Mr. Vaibhav Kedare, Executive Engineer, PMAY-U, MHADA, Mumbai inaugurated the training programme by lighting the lamp. (L to R) Mr. Mahesh Motwani, Sectional Engineer, PMAY-U, MHADA, Mumbai, Ms. Payal Singwi, Consultant to Government of Maharashtra, and Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai.

Mr. Kedare in his inaugural address stated that this training will provide a comprehensive understanding of MIS compliance requirements under PMAY-U, equipping the City Level Technical Cells (CLTCs) with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively carry out their responsibilities. Moving forward, follow-up sessions will be conducted to address any practical challenges that CLTCs may encounter in MIS reporting. These sessions will focus on resolving issues, enhancing the efficiency of data entry, and providing solutions for any gaps in reporting processes. Additionally, there will be regular monitoring and review of compliance practices at both the Urban Local Body (ULB) and CLTC levels to ensure consistent adherence to guidelines. This proactive approach will help maintain high standards of accountability and ensure that the program remains on track to meet its goals.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The first technical session on 'Implementation Status of PMAY-U in Maharashtra State' was delivered by Mr. Vaibhav Kedare, Executive Engineer, PMAY-U, MHADA, Mumbai. Mr. Kedare provided an in-depth evaluation of the current progress and challenges related to the implementation of the PMAY in Maharashtra's urban areas. He highlighted the state's achievements, including the number of houses sanctioned and constructed under the scheme, as well as the ongoing efforts to address urban housing shortages. He also discussed key factors impacting the timely execution of projects, such as land acquisition, fund allocation, and collaboration between various stakeholders, including local authorities and construction agencies. The session emphasized the importance of aligning state-level strategies with the national goals of affordable housing for all, while also addressing hurdles like administrative delays and resource constraints.



Mr. Vaibhav Kedare, Executive Engineer, PMAY-U, MHADA, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Mr. Kedare's insights provided the participants with a clear understanding of the implementation dynamics in Maharashtra, offering valuable lessons and ensuring effective project completion.

The next session on 'Importance of MIS under PMAY-Urban' was addressed by Mr. Mahesh Motwani, Sectional Engineer, PMAY-U, MHADA, Mumbai, emphasizing its critical role in ensuring the successful implementation of PMAY-U. Mr. Motwani emphasized the critical importance of compliance in the successful implementation of the PMAY-U. He said that adherence to compliance of the guidelines is essential for achieving the program's objectives within the prescribed timelines, ensuring timely delivery of affordable housing to urban poor. Compliance ensures that all stages of the program, from planning to execution are carried out as per the laid-down rules, contributing to the effective utilization of resources and preventing unnecessary delays. By following the guidelines, stakeholders can also align their efforts to the key goals of PMAY-U, ultimately benefiting the urban poor.



Mr. Mahesh Motwani, Sectional Engineer, PMAY-U, MHADA, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Furthermore, Mr. Motwani emphasized that compliance is crucial for retaining transparency and accountability throughout the program's implementation process. Strict adherence to the rules helps mitigate risks such as financial mismanagement, administrative penalties, and project delays, all of which can hamper the progress. He shared real-life examples of how non-compliance has led to serious consequences, such as delayed project completions and withheld funds, which interrupted the housing delivery process. These examples underlined the message that proper compliance is not only a legal obligation but also a cornerstone for the successful realization of the program's vision.

The session on 'Introduction to PMAY 2.0 & Role of MIS' was delivered by Ms. Payal Singwi, Consultant to Government of Maharashtra, who provided an insightful introduction to PMAY 2.0, emphasizing the significant improvements made in the revised housing scheme. The new phase of PMAY has broadened its eligibility criteria, making housing more accessible to the vulnerable groups who were previously excluded. She highlighted the use of innovative construction technologies, such as prefabrication and green building techniques, which will not only speed up the construction process but also ensure sustainability. Additionally, real-time digital tools have been integrated for enhanced monitoring, allowing better tracking of project progress and ensuring that the objectives of the program are met on time. The program has also taken a holistic approach by integrating urban and rural housing strategies, ensuring that both areas benefit from the same level of focus and resources.

The MIS Portal plays a central role in ensuring the success of PMAY 2.0. Ms. Singwi emphasized the need for timely and accurate data entry, which will help track the progress of projects

and ensure that resources are being utilized efficiently. The integration of geotagged progress updates allows for real-time monitoring, which enhances transparency and accountability. The portal serves as a crucial tool for ensuring that project deadlines are met and that the correct information is available to all stakeholders involved in the implementation of PMAY 2.0. This digital tool will ensure that data is up-to-date and easily accessible, thus preventing delays and promoting effective decision making.



Ms. Payal Singwi, Consultant to Government of Maharashtra addressing the participants.

Ms. Singwi also stressed the importance of learning from best practices established under PMAY 1.0. Participants were encouraged to take valuable lessons from the previous phase and apply them to streamline processes under PMAY 2.0. She highlighted the role of CLTCs in maintaining accountability, which is crucial for achieving the mission's ambitious targets. CLTCs, being responsible for the on-ground implementation of housing projects, must ensure that all tasks are completed within the set timelines and that quality standards are adhered

to. This focus on accountability, along with the integration of new technologies and improved systems, aims to make PMAY 2.0 more effective in providing affordable housing for all.

Ms. Singwi started her next session on 'Compliance and Fund Release Process'. She elucidated on MIS Compliance and the fund release process, beginning with an explanation of Utilization Certificates (UCs). She explained the format prescribed by the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017, emphasizing the significance of precisely reporting the funds received, utilized, and the balance remained. Emphasis was placed on the mandatory attachments required, such as geotagged photos, beneficiary details, and progress reports. She also elaborated on the certification procedures by ULBs and state authorities, ensuring that the participants understood the necessary steps for compliance and documentation.

The session continued with an in-depth discussion of the PPA Demand Format, where Ms. Singwi presented a detailed summary of phase-wise fund requirements, including foundation, structure, and finishing stages. Participants were taught how to map physical progress of financial disbursement and align fund requests with the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and beneficiary lists. The fund disbursement process was explained step-by-step, including momentous-based releases such as the second instalment after foundation completion and the third instalment following roof and superstructure completion. She also outlined the procedures for ULB verification, including site inspections and MIS updates, and highlighted the use of the PMAY-MIS portal for data entry and document uploads. At the end, she discussed the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism, emphasizing its role in ensuring transparency and minimizing delays in the release of funds.

At the last session, the role of the State Level Technical Cell (SLTC) was explained along with the strategies for closing PMAY U 1.0 by addressing pending tasks such as completing incomplete houses, beneficiary verification, and financial reconciliation. The participants were introduced to tools and techniques for impact assessment to identify gaps and successes. Furthermore, knowledge sharing practices were discussed to compile lessons learned from PMAY 1.0 for application in PMAY 2.0.

Bank representatives were present during the session to address participants' queries regarding the fund release process under PMAY-U. They provided detailed explanations about the necessary documentation, timelines, and procedures involved in the disbursement of funds. Their presence helped clarify any concerns and ensured a clear understanding of the financial aspects of the housing projects.

Q & A SESSION

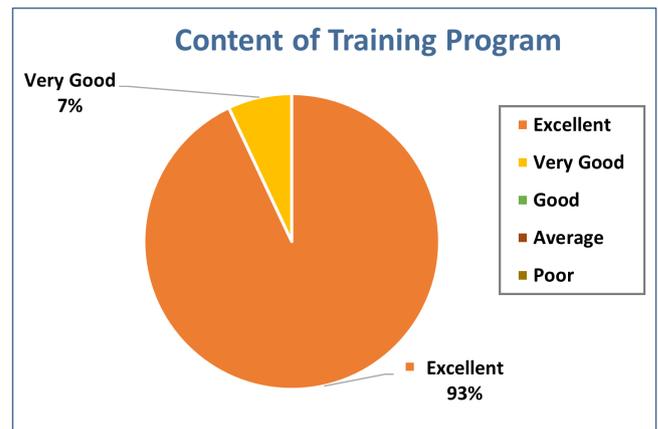
During the Question & Answer Session, the participants raised queries to MHADA Authorities, SLTCs, and Bank Representatives regarding various aspects of the MIS portal. Questions focused on issues like updating the portal with accurate data, handling cases of deceased beneficiaries, and the process of Aadhar updating to ensure smooth operations. The discussion aimed at resolving challenges faced at the city level, helping participants enhance their performance on the MIS portal for more efficient project management.

SUMMING UP

The training program was concluded by Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai, who delivered the Vote of Thanks after collecting feedback from the participants. Her concluding remarks acknowledged the contributions of all Guest Faculty and emphasized to the participants the importance of applying the knowledge gained during the sessions in their working.

TRAINING EVALUATION

Feedback evaluation of compliance to MIS under PMAY Urban ensures adherence to data accuracy, timely reporting, and efficient monitoring of progress. It identifies gaps in implementation and provides actionable insights for improvement.



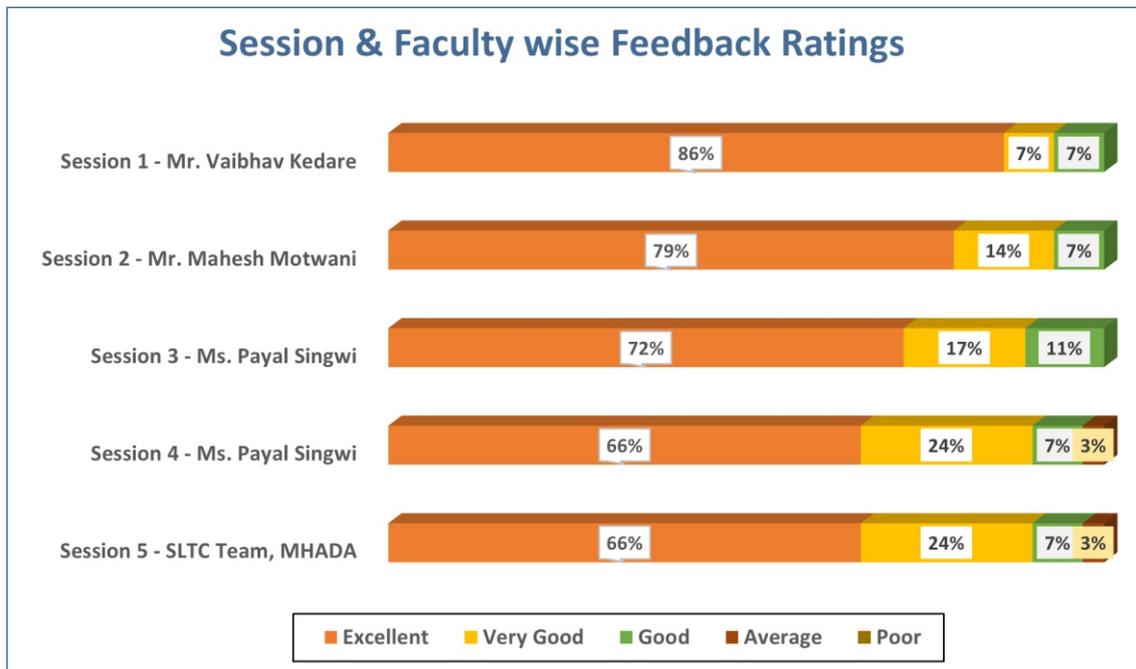
The feedback from this training program reflects highly positive outcomes, with 93% of participants rating the content

as excellent and 7% as very good. These results demonstrate that the training content was substantially applicable and greatly acknowledged by the participants. Notably, none of the participants rated the content as poor or average, indicating that the program's structure and design effectively met participant expectations. This overwhelmingly positive response emphasizes the overall success and effectiveness of the program's content.

The participant feedback for the training program highlighted outstanding outcomes, showcasing the Guest faculty's impactful delivery. The session on 'Implementation Status of PMAY-Urban in Maharashtra State' by Mr. Vaibhav Kedare was highly appreciated, with 86% of participants rating it as excellent and 7% as very good and good. Mr. Mahesh Motwani's session on 'Importance of MIS under PMAY-Urban'

received remarkable ratings, with 79% marking it as excellent, 14% as very good, and only 7% as good. Ms. Payal Singwi's session on 'Introduction to PMAY 2.0 & Role of MIS' was equally impactful, achieving 72% excellent and 17% very good and 11% as good ratings. Likewise, her session on 'Compliance & Fund Release Process' was well-received, with 66% of participants rating it as excellent and 24% as very good, 7% as good and minimal 3% as average. The session on 'Issues & Challenges in Handling MIS in Cities' by SLTC members was also received positive feedback, with 66% rating it as excellent, 24% as very good, and only 7% and 3% rating it as good and average, respectively.

This constantly positive feedback highlights the faculty's expertise and the program's success in delivering meaningful and effective training content.



GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM



Section

05

No Dig India Show 2024 14th International Conference & Exhibition on Trenchless Technology

02nd - 03rd December 2024
Hyderabad, Telangana.

As urban India continues to expand, the integrity and efficiency of subsurface utility networks are paramount. The 'No Dig India Show 2024' was organized by the Indian Society for Trenchless Technology (Ind STT). The Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai has supported the event as Knowledge Partner. The event held on 2nd - 3rd December 2024 at Hyderabad emphasizes the urgent need for adopting trenchless rehabilitation methods with a high priority. This approach ensures minimal disruption to the urban environment while enhancing the longevity and reliability of the infrastructure.

Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the 'Rehabilitation of Sewer Lines by Trenchless Technology'. He began by outlining Mumbai's demographic and infrastructure data, emphasizing the challenges posed by its dense population and extensive sewerage network. The presentation highlighted the city's sewerage zones and current system capabilities, including GIS-digitized sewer lines and the number of manholes and pumping stations. Dr. Salvi detailed the condition assessment of sewers, focusing on common defects, indicators, and the urgent need for rehabilitation of sewer lines. He showcased

various innovative trenchless rehabilitation technologies such as Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) lining, Geo-Polymer Spray Lining, Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP), Machine Wound Spiral Lining (MWSL), and Fold and Form Lining, illustrating their applications with examples from past projects. Dr. Salvi concluded the presentation with an evaluation matrix for selecting appropriate technologies, challenges in maintaining rehabilitated sewers, and recommendations for cleaning equipment to ensure sustainability and efficiency.



Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Dr. Salvi also engaged in Panel discussion on Last Mile Connectivity, exploring innovative solutions for connecting utilities in challenging urban set up and Application of

Rehabilitation Technology in the Oil & Gas sector for improving efficiency & reducing environmental footprints.

GLIMPSES OF THE CONFERENCE



Section

06

Water Resource Management Summit

04th December 2024
Hyderabad, Telangana.

Water Resource Management Summit was organised by GeoSmart India 2024 on 4th December 2024 at Hyderabad. The theme of the Summit was Resilient Water Systems for National Water Challenges of water pollution, wastewater management, and the need for efficient and sustainable water resource use, a range of cutting-edge technologies are being employed. These technologies enhance the ability to monitor, treat, recycle, and manage water resources effectively, ensuring both high-quality water and sustainable wastewater management. Water quality and wastewater management are fundamental to ensuring sustainable water resources for future generations. With increasing pressures from urbanization, industrialization, and climate change, advanced technologies like geospatial tools, AI, and remote sensing are playing an increasingly important role in managing water systems effectively.

With this background, Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai delivered the presentation on 'Water Quality & Wastewater Management'. The presentation highlighted the advancements and integration of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology within the Sewerage Department of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mumbai. The

focus was on leveraging GIS to streamline operations, improve asset management, and enhance decision-making capabilities through an integrated digital platform.



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

He further said that the GIS-based workflow implemented by Mumbai's Sewerage Department offers a transformative approach to managing urban sewerage systems. A key feature of GIS integration is its impact on asset management and maintenance. The system facilitates detailed tracking of sewerage assets and maintains records during the Defect

Liability Period (DLP), ensuring accountability and timely interventions. Furthermore, he said that the integration of the Remedial Work Tracking System (RWTS) and Management Information System (MIS) enhances transparency, supports effective monitoring of remedial tasks, and provides robust data visualization for better resource allocation and decision-making.

At the end, Dr. Salvi emphasized the transformative potential of GIS integration for urban sewerage management, showcasing its ability to enhance efficiency, accountability, and service quality. The innovative system positions Mumbai's Sewerage Department as a leader in adopting smart urban solutions.

GLIMPSES OF THE SUMMIT



Section

07

Plastic Recycling Show India

04th - 06th December 2024
Mumbai, Maharashtra.

At the Plastic Recycling Show India, held from 4th to 6th December 2024 in Mumbai, Dr. Ajit Salvi Director, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai participated in a panel discussion on 6th December 2024 on the 'Role of Community Engagement in Plastic Waste Management.' He emphasized the importance of community participation in addressing the challenges of plastic waste.

Dr. Salvi highlighted how raising awareness, promoting behavioral change, and implementing localized solutions can significantly reduce plastic pollution. He shared insights into successful initiatives like waste segregation, recycling programs, and clean-up drives, emphasizing the benefits of collective action in leading sustainable waste management. Dr. Salvi also stressed the need for robust policy support, infrastructure development, and collaboration among stakeholders to enhance community led efforts. By showcasing real-world examples and discussing challenges such as inadequate resources and behavioral resistance, he encouraged for an inclusive, multi stakeholder approach to plastic waste management during the panel discussion.

Additionally, Dr. Salvi discussed the significant role of spiritual organizations in promoting awareness and inspiring behavior change in communities.



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

GLIMPSES OF THE PROGRAM



Section

08

Workshop on Advanced Case Writing & Teaching

09th - 13th December 2024
New Delhi.

The workshop on 'Advanced Case Writing & Teaching' was organized by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), New Delhi, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and the Stanford Leadership Academy for Development (LAD) on 9th - 13th December 2024 at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi.



Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of India, launched Amrit Gyan Kosh portal (L to R) Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Member (HR), CBC, Dr. Alka Mittal, Member (Administration), CBC, New Delhi.

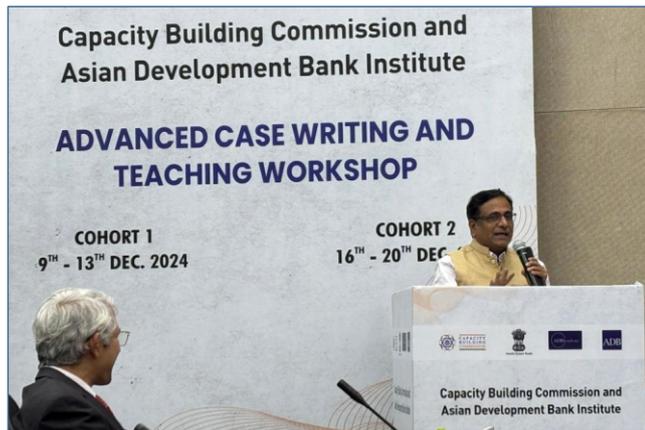
Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of India, launched Amrit Gyan Kosh

portal in the presence of Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Member (HR), CBC, Dr. Alka Mittal, Member (Administration), CBC, Mr. S. P. Roy, Joint Secretary, CBC, New Delhi. His inaugural address highlighted its pivotal role in enhancing knowledge sharing and promoting lifelong learning. His address also emphasized the significance of this initiative in promoting intellectual growth and empowering participants with valuable resources for future development.

This workshop brought together an esteemed group of faculty members, including Prof. R. Kent Weaver, Professor Emeritus of Public Policy at Georgetown University, Mr. Blair Cameron, Consultant, World Bank, and Dr. Dinsha Mistree, Research fellow at the Hoover Institution. These experts provided invaluable insights into the skill of developing case studies, emphasizing the importance of creating narratives that convey critical information and adopt learning skills. Their guidance helped participants enhance their skills in case writing, focusing on clear structure, effective storytelling, and the integration of real-world difficulties to ensure the cases were both impactful and educational. The participants presented synopsis of their case studies.

Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, and Ms. Neha Hardikar, Senior Research Officer at RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai, are honoured to have

participated in this prestigious 'Advanced Case Writing & Teaching' workshop. The participants were glad to receive guidance from Dr. K. E. Sitharam, Sr. Consulting Specialist, ADBI & Ms. Shobhana Rana, Advisor, Mission Karmayogi during the workshop, provided insights on structure, key objectives and its narrative in developing case study.



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

The workshop concluded with a certification ceremony, marking the successful completion of an intensive and enriching experience. During the event, Dr. Alka Mittal, Member (Administration), CBC, praised the participants for their dedication and the facilitators for their expert guidance throughout the process. Each participant was recognized for their hard work and awarded a certificate for their well-researched and expertly presented case studies by Dr. Mittal in the presence of Mr. S. P. Roy, Joint Secretary, CBC, Ms. Lalitha Lakshmi, IAS, CEO, Karmayogi Bharat, Dr. K. E. Sitharam, Sr. Consulting Specialist, ADBI and renowned faculty.

GLIMPSES OF THE CERTIFICATION CEREMONY



GLIMPSES OF THE WORKSHOP



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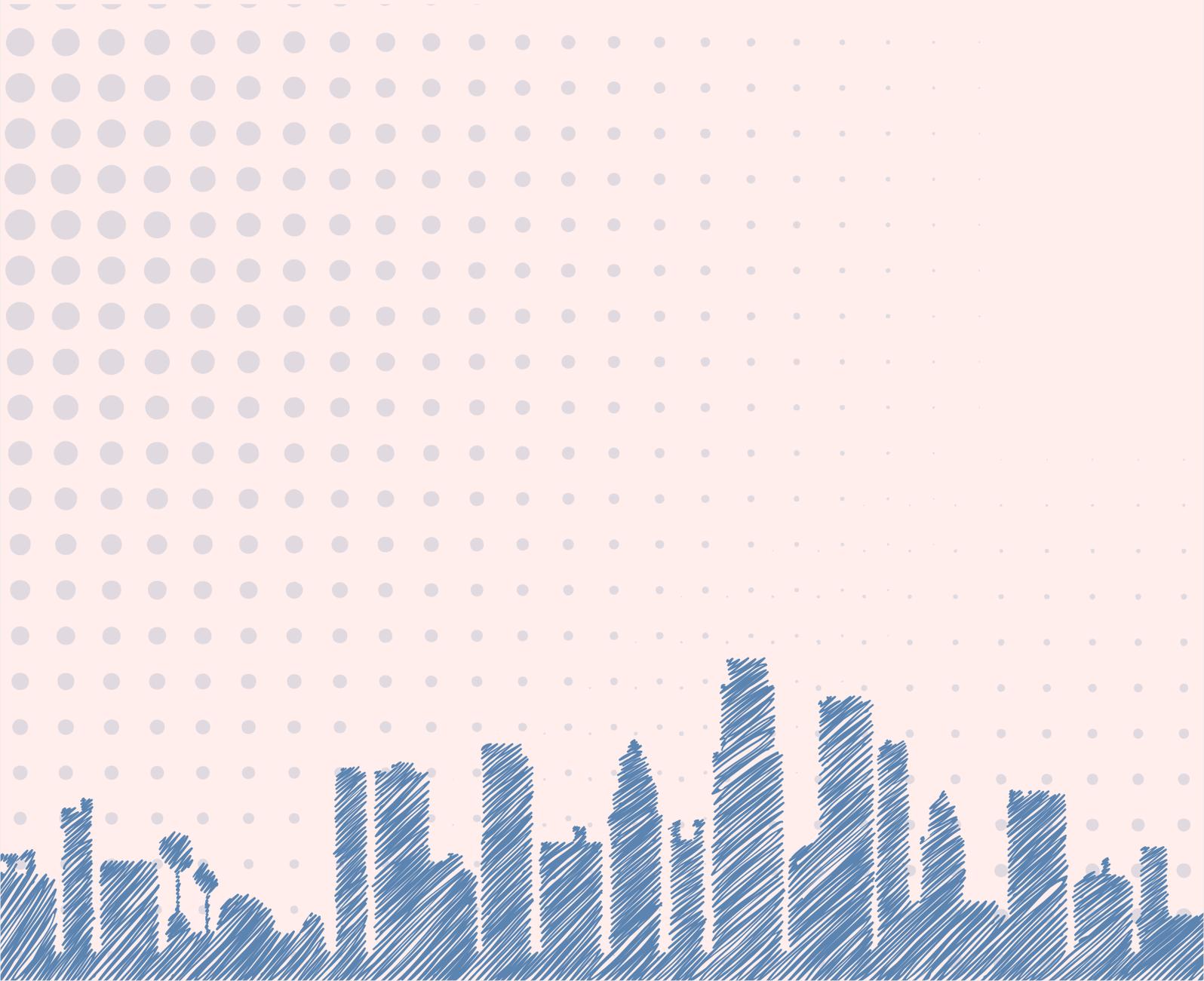
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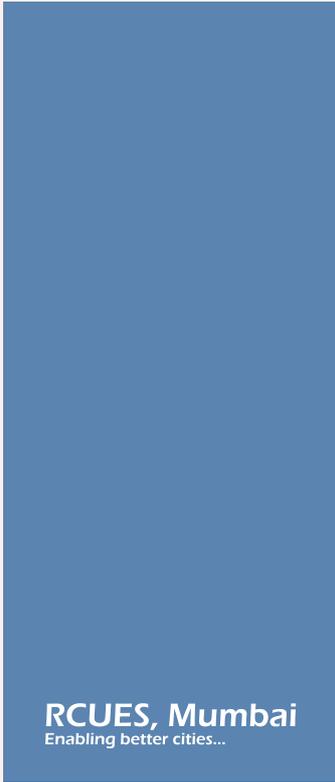
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