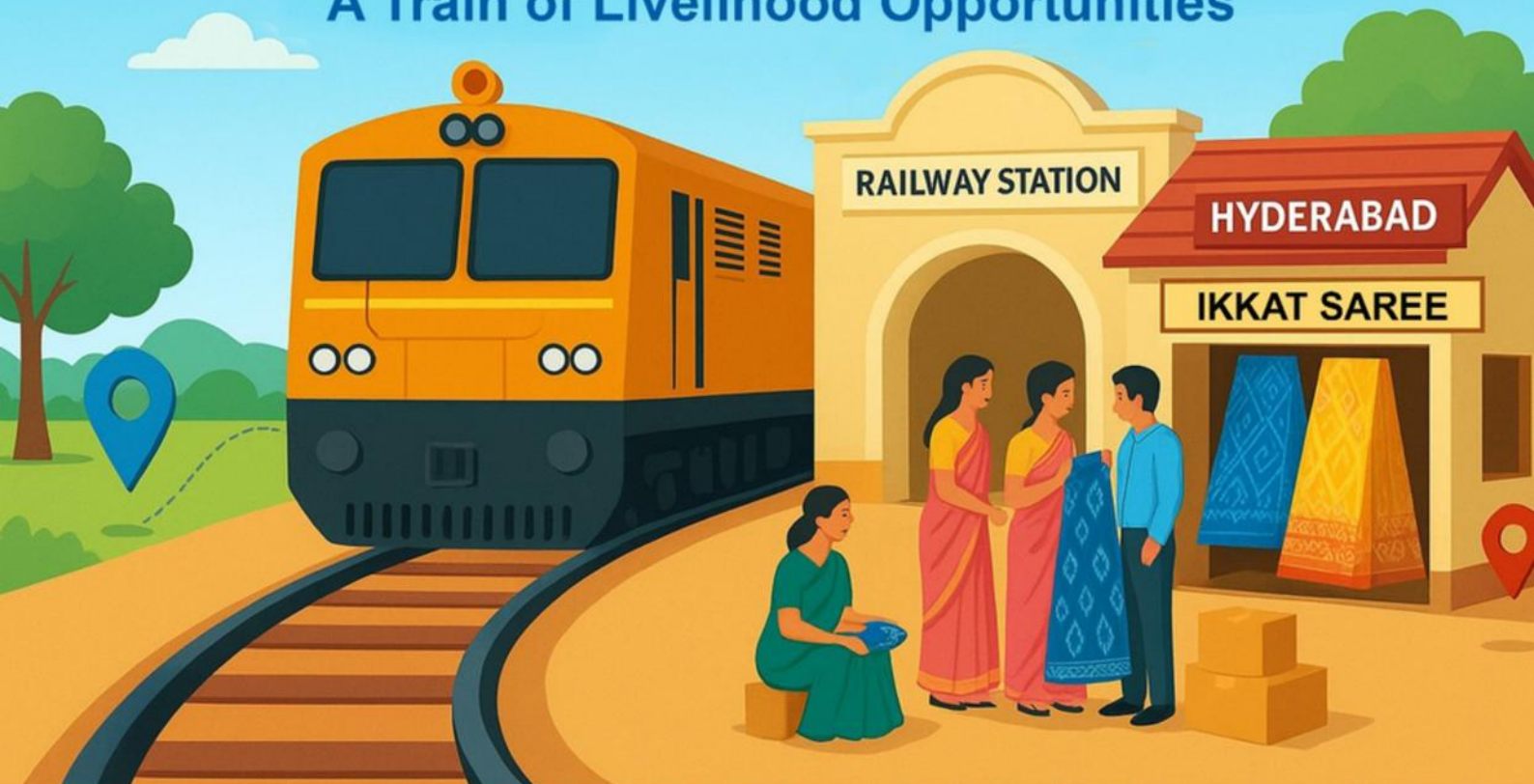


PRAGATI NEWS LETTER

One Station One Product

A Train of Livelihood Opportunities



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One Station One Product: A Train of Livelihood Opportunities

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Photo credit: Image by Ministry of Railways

In the quiet, dusty lane of Bhusaval, Maharashtra, a group of women once limited to household chores now run bustling kiosks, their sarees as colourful as their aspirations. They greet passengers, sell pickles, handwoven sarees, and bamboo crafts, and redefine what it means to earn with dignity. This isn't just another government program; it's the heartbeat of One Station One Product (OSOP), an ambitious initiative launched in the Union Budget of 2022 by Indian Railways. OSOP transforms India's railway stations into platforms not just for boarding trains, but for boarding dreams. Inspired by the One District One Product (ODOP) model, the scheme was designed to promote local crafts, empower rural entrepreneurs, and link India's diverse local economies to its massive railway network, which sees over 23 million passengers daily. Picture every station as a window into India's soul, its traditions, skills, and community

spirit, all accessible in a five-minute stop.

The journey began with just 19 stations in March 2022. By November 2023, the initiative had expanded to over 1,854 outlets across 1,083 stations, benefitting more than 41,000 artisans. One of the most compelling success stories comes from the Bhusaval Division under Central Railway, where 25 OSOP stalls, all led by women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), showcase Paithani sarees, bamboo crafts, pickles, and roasted snacks. Backed by the Maharashtra Bamboo Development Board, MSRLM, and KVIC, these women turned modest kiosks into sustainable micro-businesses. Bhusaval alone is estimated to have recorded ₹70-80 lakh in 2023. Zooming out, Central Railway, with 157 outlets, clocked ₹2.46 crore in total sales (The Times of India).

Railway Zone	Outlets (Approx.)	Sales (₹ Crore)
Southern Railway (SR)	160	₹ 12.03
Central Railway (CR)	157	₹ 2.46
Northern Railway (NR)	112	₹ 1.74
North Eastern Railway (NER)	73	Not published
West Bengal (ER / SER / NFR)	123	Not published
Uttar Pradesh (NR / NER)	112	Not published
Gujarat (WR)	21	Not published
Karnataka (SWR / SR)	21	Not published
All India Total	1,854	₹ 49.58

If OSOP were a train journey, Southern Railway would be riding in premium class, far ahead of its peers. With ₹12.03 crore in sales from 160 stalls, SR isn't just leading—it's setting the benchmark. The secret? Smart execution. In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, OSOP stalls are strategically placed in high-footfall, tourist-heavy stations like Madurai, Rameswaram, and Ernakulam. The product mix is unbeatable: Kanchipuram silk sarees, banana chips, coir products, handicrafts, and Ayurvedic wellness items offered by skilled vendors supported by strong SHG, MSME, and cooperative networks. Here, OSOP is not merely a livelihood scheme—it's a cultural showcase and a retail success story.

In contrast, Central and Northern Railways, with ₹2.46 crore and ₹1.74 crore in sales respectively, are still catching their breath. While Bhusaval shines, many other divisions within Central Railway suffer from a lack of unified branding, training, and market strategy. Zones like North Eastern Railway, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Karnataka haven't even published sales figures—perhaps

pointing to slower implementation, weak vendor mobilisation, or inadequate data tracking.

Yet, OSOP's track is not without speed bumps. One major issue is the short tenure of stall allotments. Initially capped at 15 days and in some locations extended up to 3 months, these timeframes, though meant to promote fairness and rotation, often hinder artisans from building loyal customer bases or recovering basic investments. In low-footfall stations, visibility becomes a serious barrier, and without a logistics backbone, artisans cannot replenish inventory easily. The model also remains supply-driven, with artisans offering what they produce, rather than what passengers actually want. Even finely crafted goods struggle to sell when they don't align with commuter preferences.

Another structural issue lies in where the scheme is housed. While the Ministry of Railways offers unmatched

infrastructure, it lacks the capacity for training, branding, and rural entrepreneurship development. Ministries like MSME or Rural Development are better equipped to provide artisan support, skill enhancement, and market linkage. OSOP's current placement restricts its developmental reach. Moreover, concerns have been raised around transparency in stall allotments, particularly in high-footfall zones where demand is intense. Reports of favouritism or non-transparent processes undercut the scheme's inclusive intent.

Bhusaval represents the gold standard of gender-inclusive success, but the broader picture is uneven. Issues like logistical delays, lack of quality control, and corruption risks are real and must be addressed.

Despite these shortcomings, OSOP has shown remarkable promise. It has demonstrated that railway stations often seen merely as transit points can be transformed into economic launchpads and cultural hubs. With strategic improvements, the initiative can leap from promising to transformative.

What's needed?

First, extend stall tenures in high-performing stations to 3–6 months to allow business stability.

Second, create a digital dashboard for transparent allotment and performance tracking.

Third, integrate logistics through Indian Railways' parcel service to support stall owners with inventory movement. Most importantly, co-anchor the scheme with MSME or Rural Development Ministries, so that artisans can receive holistic training, branding, and sustainability support. Partnerships with KVIC, SRLMs, and state handicrafts boards should be standardised across all zones, not remain scattered success stories.

In essence, OSOP is more than a scheme; it is a narrative of India's grassroots innovation. From Bhusaval's women entrepreneurs to Kerala's spice vendors, each stall tells a story of dignity, revival, and possibility. Stations are no longer just junctions; they're becoming bridges between rural economies and urban consumers.

So, is OSOP a success or a failure?

The answer is not binary. It's a dynamic train still in motion. In pockets like Bhusaval and Southern Railway, it's a roaring success—a story of courage, inclusion, and economic dignity. Nationally, it remains a work in progress, with some wagons ahead, others needing a push. What's undeniable is the scheme's transformative potential. With longer leases, demand-driven strategies, robust institutional support, and transparency, OSOP can redefine how India markets its soul—one station at a time.

Tamil Nadu Panchayat Raj Officials Engage in Learning Programme at NIRDPR's Rural Technology Park



Officers and elected representatives from the Government of Tamil Nadu with Dr. C. Kathiresan, Head, CIAT&SJ, and Mr. M. D. Khan, Senior Consultant, CIAT&SJ

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad welcomed a delegation of officers and elected representatives from the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, on July 2, 2025 (Wednesday) for an interactive and informative session at its Rural Technology Park (RTP).

As part of the visit, Dr. C. Kathiresan, Associate Professor and Head, Centre for Innovation and Appropriate Technology for Skills and Jobs (CIAT&SJ), delivered an engaging lecture on "Sustainable Technologies and Entrepreneurship Development." His talk focused on the potential of appropriate, eco-friendly technologies to empower rural communities and promote entrepreneurship, especially among youth and women.



Dr. C. Kathiresan, Head, CIAT&SJ, addressing the Tamil Nadu delegation on sustainable technologies and rural entrepreneurship



Tamil Nadu delegation exploring various technology units at RTP, NIRDPR.

Dr. Kathiresan showcased successful initiatives implemented at RTP, emphasising the importance of innovation, skill development, and sustainability in strengthening rural livelihoods. He also highlighted how traditional practices can be blended with modern technology to create scalable, income-generating opportunities at the grassroots level.

The programme was organised by the Centre for Good Governance (CGG), Hyderabad, as part of a capacity-building initiative to expose officials from Tamil Nadu to best practices in rural development.

The session facilitated valuable knowledge exchange and inspired the delegation to explore the adoption of similar models in their own regions. It reaffirmed NIRDPR's role as a national hub for rural innovation, training, and development.

NIRDPR Observes World Rural Development Day with International Webinar on Integrated Rural Development



Webinar session in progress

On the occasion of World Rural Development Day 2025, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, organised a thought-provoking webinar on “Integrated Rural Development – International Experiences.” The event brought together distinguished experts from India and abroad who shared diverse strategies, innovative practices, and inspiring case studies from rural regions across the globe.

The webinar began with a welcome address by Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Dhaka. He highlighted impactful rural development experiences from countries including Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Iran, and Thailand, focusing on the transformative role of digital technologies and grassroots innovations in improving rural livelihoods.

Dr. Partha Pratim Sahu, Associate Professor at NIRDPR, delivered a compelling presentation titled “Rural India as the Engine of Growth.” He underlined the importance of entrepreneurship, decentralised governance, and inclusive development in accelerating rural progress.

From NIRDPR’s Delhi Branch, Dr. Ruchira Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor, spoke on “Centring Inclusion in the Economic Agenda for Rural Development Policy in India.” Her address emphasised the need for equity, representation, and inclusive policymaking to ensure rural communities are not left behind in the development process.

Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, Director General of NIRDPR, delivered the keynote remarks, commending several global rural development models and their potential relevance to India’s rural transformation journey. He cited international examples such as:

- Township and Village Enterprises (TVEs) of China played a key role in the country’s rise as a manufacturing hub.
- Rural Meta Cooperatives from the USA, UK, and Italy.
- ‘One Village One Product’ movements from Japan and Thailand.
- Repair Cafés in the Netherlands and Germany.
- Carbon Farming and Green Credit programmes from Australia and Kenya
- The Smart Villages Project of Finland.

Dr. Kumar emphasised that these transformative global initiatives serve as benchmarks and learning opportunities for India. He noted that recognising and adapting such innovations can significantly strengthen India’s integrated rural development strategies.

The webinar concluded by underscoring the growing importance of digital platforms, climate-smart agriculture, inclusive governance, and global collaboration in reshaping rural landscapes for a sustainable and equitable future.

Workshop on DPR Preparation for Integrated Farming Clusters



*Workshop on DPR Preparation for Integrated Farming Clusters
seen with Programme Coordinator Dr Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor, CNRM, CC & DM*

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, successfully conducted a three-day workshop on “DPR Preparation for Integrated Farming Clusters (IFCs)” from 30th June to 2nd July 2025. The training programme was organised under the aegis of the DAY-NRLM Resource Cell and witnessed active participation from officials and development professionals working in the area of rural livelihoods and farming systems.

The workshop was designed to enhance the technical capabilities of participants in preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) with a focus on Integrated Farming Clusters, a key approach under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). Through structured sessions and hands-on exercises, the participants were exposed to the comprehensive process of DPR formulation to support livelihood-based planning and implementation.

Key areas of focus during the workshop included:

- Understanding the framework and guidelines for DPR development.

- Assessing the technical and financial feasibility of integrated farming models
- Ensuring convergence of schemes and institutional resources for greater impact
- Strengthening market linkages and sustainability components within project planning

The resource persons shared practical insights and best practices for preparing actionable and outcome-oriented DPRs tailored to the local needs of farming communities. The sessions also encouraged participants to think critically about climate-resilient practices, value chain integration, and the long-term viability of integrated farming clusters.

By the end of the workshop, participants were better equipped to support effective livelihood planning and implementation through robust project documentation, contributing to the broader goal of sustainable rural development.

The event reaffirmed NIRDPR’s commitment to capacity building and knowledge dissemination in support of transformative rural initiatives under DAY-NRLM.

Orientation-cum-Exposure Visit on Financial Inclusion for Bank Officials



Bank officials participating in the Orientation-cum-Exposure Visit on Financial Inclusion are seen with Programme Coordinator Dr. Vanishree Joseph, Assistant Professor & Head (i/c), CGSD, and Director, NRLM.

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Hyderabad, conducted a five-day Orientation-cum-Exposure Visit on Financial Inclusion under DAY-NRLM for bank officials from 1st to 5th July 2025. The programme was organised as part of the institute's continued efforts to strengthen institutional collaboration for inclusive rural development.

This specially curated programme aimed to build synergy between the formal banking system and Self-Help Group (SHG)-based community institutions, thereby facilitating greater financial inclusion at the grassroots level. By fostering mutual understanding and dialogue between banking professionals and community-based organisations, the programme sought to improve access to financial services for rural poor, particularly women-led SHGs.

Key highlights of the programme included:

- Comprehensive sessions on the structure, functioning, and governance of SHGs and their federations
- Discussions on financial access models, including credit linkage mechanisms and banking best practices

- Exposure visits to observe SHG-led initiatives and community-level financial management practices
- Deliberations on policy frameworks and institutional support promoting inclusive and responsible banking

The training provided bank officials with firsthand insights into the transformative impact of SHGs in enhancing financial literacy, promoting savings, and improving credit accessibility in rural areas. Through field interactions, participants gained a deeper appreciation of how SHGs contribute to women's empowerment and economic resilience in low-income communities.

The programme also emphasised the critical role of banks in supporting the mission of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) by facilitating credit flow, providing handholding support, and adopting flexible and inclusive banking practices.

By the end of the programme, participants were sensitised to the opportunities and challenges in deepening financial inclusion, and were encouraged to implement enabling strategies in their respective institutions.

Orientation Programme on Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for Faculty Members Concludes at NIRDPR



Group photo of participants of the Orientation Training Programme on Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, along with Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR, faculty members, and resource persons.

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad conducted a five-day Orientation Training Programme on the Act and Implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) from May 5 to 9, 2025. The programme, organised by the Centre for Wage Employment and Livelihoods (CWEL), was designed to strengthen the conceptual and practical understanding of faculty members on the planning, implementation, and monitoring of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.



A session in progress

During the first two days, sessions covered a wide array of topics, including an overview of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Act and Schedules by Dr. Jyothis Satyapalan, along with insights on best practices from Telangana by Mr. Laxmi Narayana, CRD Telangana. Dr. V. Suresh Babu elaborated on case studies and field experiences from the Northeastern states, while Dr. Anuradha Palla introduced participants to the SECURE software, a key tool for preparing cost estimates. Discussions also included topics on rights, entitlements, convergence strategies, and planning works in collaboration with line departments. Dr. G.V. Krishna Lohidas, Dr. D.A. Chimankar, and Mr. V. Naresh Kumar contributed sessions on project execution, evaluation studies, and MIS applications, respectively, while Mr. Uday Veer Singh from NIC Delhi provided an online session on financial flows and payment systems under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.



Dr. V. Suresh Babu speaking at the Inaugural session

The programme began with opening remarks by Dr. V. Suresh Babu, Head, CWEL, who welcomed the participants and outlined the objectives of the training. The inaugural session set the tone for a series of engaging lectures and discussions by eminent experts and practitioners in the field of wage employment.

A notable highlight was the discussion on Project Unnati, an initiative aimed at skilling and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the children of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS households. Additionally, Dr. C. Dheeraja addressed the crucial role of social audits and grievance redressal mechanisms in ensuring transparency and accountability at the field level.

On the third day, Mr. Uday Veer Singh from NIC Delhi delivered an online session on financial management under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, including monitoring workflows, DBT mechanisms, and PFMS-related challenges in wage payments.



Dr. C. Dheeraja speaking on the significance of social audits and grievance redressal

Dr. C. Dheeraja addressed the importance of social audits and grievance redressal mechanisms, emphasising their role in ensuring transparency, reducing irregularities, and enhancing accountability.

Dr. G.V. Krishna Lohidas conducted a session on Project Unnati, an initiative aimed at skilling the youth from Mahatma Gandhi NREGS households to create sustainable livelihood opportunities. He also shared the findings from a research study conducted by the CWEL team on Unnati's impact.

Dr. N.S.R. Prasad introduced the participants to the Geo Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Through a live demonstration, he illustrated how GIS tools are used for monitoring and planning works under the scheme, highlighting their relevance in real-time tracking and geo-tagging of assets.

Fourth day, as part of the practical component of the training, participants were taken on a field visit to Mogaligidda Village, Farooq Nagar Mandal, Mahbubnagar District, Telangana, approximately 60 km from NIRDPR.

Facilitated by the CRD Telangana Team, the visit allowed participants to observe the on-ground implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS works across different categories. The exposure provided faculty members with an opportunity to engage with local officials, SHG members, and wage seekers, gaining firsthand insights into field-level planning, execution, and community involvement.



Field visit

On the final day, Dr. M.V. Ravi Babu conducted a session on the use of the Yukthadhara App and Bhuvan Portal, explaining their role in GIS-based planning and how they contribute to improved decision-making and spatial mapping under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Following this, participants made group presentations based on their field visit observations. The session was chaired by Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR, who appreciated the analytical insights and practical suggestions shared by the participants.

The programme concluded with a valedictory session chaired by Professor Ravindra Gavali, Head of School, who lauded the CWEL team for their efforts in organising a structured and impactful orientation programme. Certificates were distributed to all participants in recognition of their successful completion of the training.

Training Programme on Business Diversification and Best Practices of PACCS & LAMPCSs



Participants of the PACCS & LAMPCSs Training Programme seen with the programme coordinator, Dr. Aryashree Debapriya, Associate Professor, CPGS & DE

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj hosted a five-day Training Programme on “Business Diversification Opportunities and Best Practices of PACCS & LAMPCSs” from 30th June to 4th July 2025. The programme was organised by the Centre for Post Graduate Studies & Distance Education (CPGS & DE) and sponsored by the Department of Co-operation, Government of Odisha.

The training brought together participants from Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS) and Large Area Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPCS) to explore emerging opportunities for business diversification and to discuss innovations in cooperative governance and sustainability.

Key objectives of the programme included building an understanding of models for expanding cooperative business activities, examining structural challenges and recent reforms, and sharing best

practices in the functioning of PACCS and LAMPCSs. The sessions were enriched with case studies, interactive discussions, and practical insights from sector experts.

Participants engaged in meaningful dialogue on how cooperative institutions can adopt professional management practices, leverage community-led initiatives, and promote inclusive rural economic development. The training also highlighted the critical role of cooperatives in enhancing local livelihoods and contributing to a more resilient rural economy.

The programme concluded with a call for strengthening institutional capacities and embracing innovative strategies to transform PACCS and LAMPCSs into vibrant and self-sustaining pillars of rural progress.

NIRDPR Hosts Orientation-cum-Exposure Visit on Financial Inclusion for Bank Officials under DAY-NRLM



Dr. Jyoti Prakash Mohanty, Deputy Director, NRLM Resource Cell, NIRDPR

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, through its DAY-NRLM Resource Cell, conducted a five-day Orientation-cum-Exposure Visit on Financial Inclusion for bank officials from across India. Held from 7th to 11th July 2025, the programme aimed to deepen the understanding of the Self-Help Group (SHG)-Bank Linkage model and strengthen collaboration between the formal banking system and SHG-based community institutions under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

The training provided a comprehensive overview of the financial ecosystem in rural India, focusing on the pivotal role of Village Organisations (VOs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) in enabling grassroots-level financial empowerment. Participants were introduced to successful models of SHG-bank linkage and exposed to best practices adopted by states to promote inclusive financial services

for underserved rural populations. Through interactive sessions, field exposure, and experience sharing, the programme highlighted key strategies for bridging the gap between financial institutions and rural communities, improving last-mile service delivery, and ensuring timely credit access for SHG members.

The training also facilitated dialogue on institutional challenges, policy frameworks, and innovations in the sector. Participants gained insights into how banking services can be made more accessible, flexible, and responsive to the evolving needs of SHGs and their federations.

By fostering a spirit of cooperation and understanding between the banking sector and rural institutions, the programme reinforced the mission of DAY-NRLM to empower rural India through financial inclusion, economic opportunity, and institutional development. The event received positive feedback.

NAP Stakeholders Consultation: A Pivotal Step towards Climate-Resilient Rural India



Participants from MoEF&CC, MoRD, BRLF, UNDP, GCF, and NIRDPR posing together for a group photo

The Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF), in collaboration with Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of Rural Development, Green Climate Fund, UNDP – India, and National Institute of Rural development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), organised a landmark Stakeholder Consultation on India's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) at the Ambassador Hotel, New Delhi, on 30th June 2025. Dr Jyothis Sathyapalan, Prof. & Head, CPGS&DE, represented NIRDPR at the event.

The consultation, which focused on the sectoral chapter on Poverty Alleviation and Livelihoods, forms a crucial component of India's NAP. Over 60 stakeholders, including government officials, women farmers, community leaders, civil society representatives, philanthropies, and private sector members, came together to deliberate on challenges, solutions, and pathways for building resilience in rural India.

In his address, Shri Kuldip Singh, CEO, BRLF, called for collective action to tackle climate vulnerabilities impacting marginalised communities. Dr. Mihir Shah, Founding President, BRLF, emphasised the need for a systems-based approach to climate action rooted in agroecology and indigenous wisdom, cautioning against fragmented or siloed interventions.

The urgency of the issue was echoed by key speakers. Ms. Ruchika Drall, Deputy Secretary, MoEF&CC, underscored the socio-economic impacts of climate change on India's poorest and emphasised the strategic, inclusive, and forward-looking nature of the NAP, which integrates cross-cutting themes like gender equality, innovation, social justice, and decentralised planning.

Representing the Ministry of Rural Development, Dr. Monika Bhutunguru shared impactful initiatives such as



Dr. Jyothis Sathyapalan, Professor & Head, CPGS&DE, NIRDPR, speaking at the Stakeholder Consultation on India's National Adaptation Plan.

community seed banks, climate-based insurance, mangrove restoration, and agroecological farming by 4.5 crore Mahila Kisans. She stressed the need to move beyond reactive relief to systemic transformation backed by climate vulnerability mapping, inter-departmental convergence, and community-led adaptation.

Mr. Dharmendra Kumar, Director (IES), Ministry of Finance, raised the need for balancing mitigation and adaptation finance and introduced the proposed National Finance Taxonomy to channel investments into climate-resilient technologies and community-based models.

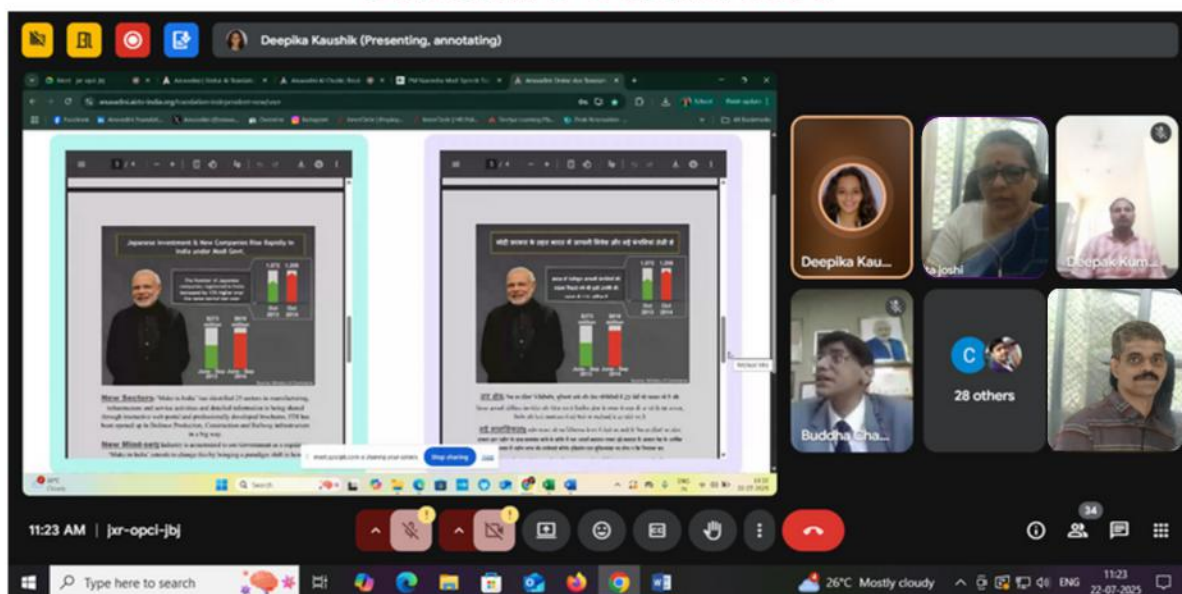
Speaking for NIRDPR, Prof. Jyothis Sathyapalan highlighted the need for a task force under MoEF&CC to assess capacity-building requirements, integrate indigenous knowledge, and support data-driven, decentralised planning at the panchayat level. He reiterated NIRDPR's commitment to advancing

locally grounded adaptation through skilling, research, and evidence-based policy support.

The consultation provided a vibrant space for dialogue among grassroots practitioners, policymakers, and technical experts, contributing directly to the framing of the NAP's Poverty Alleviation and Livelihoods chapter. As India prepares to present its updated NAP at COP30 in Brazil (November 2025), the consultation marked a significant step toward creating an inclusive and resilient adaptation agenda.

NIRDPR remains committed to enabling climate-resilient rural development by strengthening partnerships and promoting scalable, community-driven adaptation strategies that align with national priorities and global sustainability goals.

Online Training Session on Anuvadini Translation Software Conducted



Training session on Anuvadini in progress

An online training session on Anuvadini, an AI-powered real-time translation tool developed by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, was held at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR). The session was aimed at showcasing how Anuvadini can enhance multilingual communication, particularly in rural and development contexts. It also focussed on highlighting the capabilities of Anuvadini in promoting multilingual communication, especially in rural development and governance.

Smt. Anita Pandey, Assistant Director (OL), NIRDPR and Programme Coordinator, welcomed the speakers and participants. Dr. Buddha Chandrasekhar, Chief Coordinating Officer, AICTE, delivered a detailed presentation, emphasizing how the tool can bridge language gaps and enhance inclusivity in education, training, and outreach programs.

A live demonstration was led by Ms. Deepika Kaushik, who showcased Anuvadini's key features, including instant speech-to-text and text translation across 22 Indian languages.

The tool's ability to facilitate seamless communication makes it especially valuable for field-level personnel and institutions working in linguistically diverse settings. The demonstration also included modules like Chutkki, Bhujji, and others, designed to simplify communication across languages.

Dr. Buddha Chandrasekhar, Chief Coordinating Officer, AICTE, addressed the participants and highlighted the importance of Anuvadini in promoting inclusive governance, educational outreach, and capacity-building in rural areas. He emphasised the software's potential to bridge language barriers and facilitate seamless communication in training and development initiatives.

The session coordinated by Smt. Anita Pandey, AD(OL), NIRDPR, witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members and staff. The interactive session concluded with a Q&A, where participants explored the possibilities of integrating Anuvadini into their professional work, leaving attendees well-informed and appreciative of Anuvadini's practical applications.

NIRDPR Library Organizes User Orientation Workshop on ONOS Platform

The NIRDPR Library organized a user orientation workshop titled “From Search to Access: A Step-by-Step Orientation on ONOS” on Thursday, 10th July 2025 at 11:00 AM in the Conference Hall. The workshop aimed to familiarise faculty members, researchers, and staff with The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) platform – a Government of India initiative designed to Democratise access to international scholarly content.



- User registration and login process
- Navigating subject-wise and publisher-wise collections
- Using advanced search features and keyword filters
- Accessing full-text PDFs and citation formats

- Setting up alerts and creating personal reading lists

Participants were also introduced to time-saving features such as exportable bibliographies, remote access options, and integration with reference management tools.

The ONOS platform provides centralised access to thousands of high-quality international journals, e-books, and databases from reputed publishers, including Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, Taylor & Francis, Nature, and more. It is a key step toward democratizing knowledge and empowering the academic community, particularly in public institutions like NIRDPR.

In his presentation, Dr. Umesh emphasised the ONOS platform’s potential to bridge the digital divide in academia by making high-cost journals freely accessible, especially to institutions involved in rural development and social research. He pointed out how this initiative supports India's broader goals of promoting open knowledge, innovation, and research excellence, especially in underserved sectors.

The resource person for the session, Dr. Umesh, Assistant Librarian, NIRDPR, led a comprehensive demonstration of the ONOS interface. He explained how the platform can be used effectively for academic and applied research, journal article retrieval, project planning, and literature review. His live demonstration covered important aspects such as:

The workshop was well-attended by NIRDPR’s faculty members, researchers, scholars, and administrative staff, who expressed great interest in the platform. The session provided them with a clear understanding of how to leverage ONOS in their own work – whether for policy research, academic writing, extension services, or program evaluation.

Gendered Impact of Climate Change in Rural Areas



Photo credit: ChatGPT

Gendered Impact of Climate Change in Rural Areas

In rural areas across the world, climate change is not a distant phenomenon measured in parts per million of carbon dioxide – it is an everyday reality. Rainfall patterns have shifted, heatwaves have become harsher, and extreme weather events arrive with less warning. While these changes affect entire communities, their burden is not evenly shared. Women, particularly in rural areas, find themselves on the invisible frontline of climate change.

Unequal Roles, Unequal Risks

In most rural economies, gender roles are deeply rooted. Women are often primary collectors of water, firewood, and fodder, and they contribute significantly to smallholder agriculture

planting, weeding, harvesting, and post-harvest processing. Men may migrate seasonally for wage labour, leaving women to shoulder farming and household responsibilities.

When drought strikes, it is women who walk farther to find water. When crops fail, women are the first to cut down on their own meals to feed children. When cyclones or floods destroy homes, women face the double trauma of displacement and the care of dependents in unsafe shelters. These roles place them in direct and sustained contact with the stresses and shocks of a changing climate.

Climate Change and Time Poverty

One of the most immediate gendered impacts is the increase in time poverty. For example, in semi-arid districts of Rajasthan and Telangana, declining groundwater levels mean women spend up to two extra hours a

whose livelihoods depend on forests, experience severe livelihood loss when climate change disrupts traditional resource cycles.

Women as Agents of Climate Resilience

Framing rural women only as victims of climate change misses a critical part of the picture. Women are also powerful agents of adaptation and resilience. Across India, there are inspiring examples:

- **Self-Help Groups in Odisha** are leading mangrove restoration projects that act as natural barriers against cyclones.
- **Women farmers in Andhra Pradesh** are adopting community-managed natural farming practices to improve soil health and reduce input costs.
- **Rural women entrepreneurs in Rajasthan** are running solar-powered water pumps and cold storage units.

These efforts demonstrate that when women have access to resources, knowledge, and decision-making spaces, they can lead effective climate action.

Policy Gaps and the Way Forward

Most climate policies and rural development programs still operate with a “gender-neutral” lens – assuming that interventions will benefit everyone equally. This approach fails to account for existing inequalities. A truly gender-responsive climate strategy should:

1. **Recognise unpaid care work** – Incorporate time-use surveys into climate impact assessments and design interventions that reduce women’s workload.
2. **Secure women’s rights to land and resources** – Ensure women have titles, access to irrigation, credit, and extension services.
3. **Strengthen women’s participation** – Include women meaningfully in local climate action committees, disaster preparedness planning, and water user associations.
4. **Integrate safety and health into climate planning** – Provide safe shelters, gender-sensitive WASH facilities, and targeted health services in climate-affected areas.
5. **Invest in skills and technology** – Train women in sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and digital tools for climate-smart farming.

Conclusion: Climate Justice is Gender Justice

Climate change is not only an environmental crisis; it is also a social and economic justice issue. For rural women, it deepens pre-existing inequalities and creates new barriers to wellbeing. At the same time, they hold unique knowledge and capabilities essential for building resilience.

The path forward lies in recognising both these realities: that women are disproportionately impacted and that they are indispensable to the solutions. Climate policies that ignore gender risk being ineffective; those that centre women’s voices can create sustainable, inclusive resilience.

In the words of a woman farmer from Kutch, Gujarat, after a drought-resilient farming workshop:

“We do not just adapt to the climate – we adapt the climate to our future.”

National-Level Training cum Exposure Visit Programme on Best Practices of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS Held in Himachal Pradesh



Group photo of participants of the National-Level Mahatma Gandhi NREGS Exposure Visit with Course Director Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Coordinator Dr. Pravesh Kumar, and other resource persons.



Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Programme Director, addressing the participants. Also seen in photo from left, Shri. Raghav Sharma, IAS, Commissioner- Mahatma Gandhi NREGS & Director, SIRDPR, HP, Smt. Niraj Chanla, HPAS, Joint Secretary, RDPR, HP and Dr. Pravesh Kumar, Core Faculty, SIRDPR, HP

The Centre for Natural Resource Management, Climate Change and Disaster Mitigation (CNRM, CC & DM), NIRDPR organised a three-day national-level Training cum Exposure Visit Programme on Best Practices of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS Works in collaboration with the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Mashobra. The programme, conducted from 8th to 10th July 2025, was sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government

of India, under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS Annual Action Plan (AAP).

A total of 32 officials from nine states –Assam, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana– participated in the programme. The participants included Assistant Commissioners, State Programme Officers, BDOs, APOs, Executive Engineers, DRDOs, and other Mahatma Gandhi NREGS functionaries.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Course Director and Assistant Professor, CNRM, CC & DM, and a briefing by Dr. Pravesh Kumar, Core Faculty, SIRDPR. The event was inaugurated by Shri Raghav Sharma, IAS, Commissioner, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS and Director, SIRDPR, Himachal Pradesh. He emphasised the critical role of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in hilly regions. Other dignitaries present included Smt. Niraj Chandla, HPAS, Joint Secretary, RDPR, and Shri Rakesh Kalra, State Consultant, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.



Field cum Exposure Visit to PMAY-G House

The exposure visit featured best practices across categories A, B, C, and D of NREGS, with field visits to Mashobra and Narkanda blocks. Facilitated by Mr. Ankit Kotia, BDO Mashobra, the visits showcased cement concrete roads, PMAY-G houses, pond renovations, Amrit Sarovars, rainwater harvesting structures, protection walls, cattle sheds, and plantations. Participants also interacted with beneficiaries to understand grassroots-level implementation and challenges.



State wise Presentations by the participants



Amrit Sarovar near Temple at Mashobra Gram Panchayat

The programme concluded with state-wise presentations by participants and a valedictory session marked by positive feedback. Certificates were distributed by Dr. Pammi and Dr. Pravesh Kumar, and a formal vote of thanks marked the close of the successful event.



Presentation of Certificates to the participants

ToT on Gender Resource Centres Strengthens Grassroots Gender Inclusion



Participants of the three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on the Establishment and Functioning of Gender Resource Centres (GRCs), seen posing for photo with the Programme Coordinator, Dr. Vanishree Joseph, Asst. Professor & Head i/c, CGSD, and Director, NRLM.

A Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on the Establishment and Functioning of Gender Resource Centres (GRCs) was conducted from 16th to 18th June 2025 at NIRDPR, Hyderabad, under the ambit of the Aajeevika – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). The training was organised by the NRLM Resource Cell, NIRDPR, with the objective of building the capacities of mission staff and stakeholders to operationalise GRCs as vibrant platforms for promoting gender equity and social inclusion at the grassroots.

The three-day programme brought together participants from various State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs), who engaged in discussions around institutional approaches to mainstream gender within rural development frameworks. As NRLM continues to prioritise inclusive growth, the establishment of functional and community-driven GRCs has become critical to ensuring that rural women have access to support systems, services, and leadership opportunities.

Key Areas of Learning:

- Understanding gender dynamics and their implications for rural development

- Designing and managing Gender Resource Centres as support hubs for women
- Promoting SHG-led women's empowerment and leadership development
- Building inclusive and participatory institutions to address gender-based disparities

The sessions included a mix of expert presentations, case studies, group exercises, and peer learning. Participants explored how GRCs can act as bridges between women's collectives and access to entitlements, legal awareness, financial services, and livelihood opportunities. Discussions also focused on overcoming socio-cultural barriers and creating safe, enabling spaces for women within their communities.

The programme emphasised that gender-responsive planning must go beyond token representation—it must be embedded in the very fabric of community institutions and decision-making. Participants left with a deeper understanding of how to integrate gender perspectives into policy, programme design, and field implementation.

Orientation cum Exposure Visit on Financial Inclusion under DAY-NRLM for Bank Officials



Participants of the Orientation cum Exposure Visit on Financial Inclusion under DAY-NRLM pose with Programme Coordinator Dr. Vanishree Joseph, Assistant Professor & Head (i/c), CGSD, and Director, NRLM, NIRDPR

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, through its DAY-NRLM Resource Cell, organised an Orientation cum Exposure Visit on Financial Inclusion under DAY-NRLM for Bank Officials from 14th to 18th July 2025. The programme aimed at sensitising and equipping bank officials with key strategies and best practices to promote financial inclusion for the rural poor under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

The five-day training programme brought together a group of bank officers from various regions. The sessions covered topics such as Self-Help Group (SHG) financing, digital banking services in rural areas, financial literacy, credit linkages, and risk mitigation strategies. Participants were also exposed to field-level realities and success stories through structured exposure

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Vanishree Joseph, Assistant Professor & Head (i/c), Centre for Gender Studies and Development, and Director, NRLM. The training was conducted through a combination of classroom sessions, group discussions, and field visits, with active participation from subject matter experts, practitioners, and faculty members. The participants appreciated the practical insights and interactive learning opportunities provided during the programme.

The valedictory session highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts between financial institutions and community-based organisations to achieve inclusive rural development. The officials expressed confidence that the knowledge and exposure gained during the programme would enable them to extend better banking services to the rural poor and contribute meaningfully to the goals of DAY-NRLM.

International Training Programme on Urban Governance for Mayors and Chairpersons from Nepal



Delegates of the International Training Programme on Urban Governance with Dr. Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor & Head, CPRDPS; Dr. Pranab Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Registrar (E) and (T) i/c; and Dr. Ravindra S. Gavali, Professor & Head, CNRM-CCDM, NIRDPR

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) conducted a 10-day International Training Programme on Urban Governance for a 27-member delegation from Sudurpaschim Province, Nepal, from 14th to 23rd July 2025. The delegation included elected Mayors, Chairpersons, and Chief Administrative Officers from the districts of Darchula, Baitadi, and Dadeldhura.

Sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the programme aimed to build the capacity of Nepalese urban governance officials through a blend of expert-led sessions and practical exposure visits. Key focus areas included sustainable development goals (SDGs), eco-tourism, agri-tech, waste management, and technology-based municipal services.

In the inaugural session, Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, Director General, NIRDPR, welcomed the participants

and reflected on the long-standing ties between India and Nepal. Saketa Raja Musinipalli, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, delivered the inaugural address, highlighting India's commitment to regional development cooperation.

During the programme, participants visited urban local bodies and institutions in Hyderabad, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu, where they observed best practices in governance, service delivery, and citizen engagement.

The training concluded with positive feedback from the delegates, who appreciated the interactive format, field exposure, and the opportunity for cross-border learning. The programme reaffirmed NIRDPR's role as a regional hub for capacity building and knowledge exchange in governance and development.

Training cum Exposure Visit for Elected Representatives and Zilla Parishad Officials from Tripura



Participants of the Training cum Exposure Visit for Elected Representatives and Zilla Parishad Officials from Tripura posing for a photo with Programme Coordinator Dr. Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor & Head, CPRDP & SSD, NIRDPR

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, organised a Training cum Exposure Visit for Elected Representatives and Zilla Parishad Officials from Tripura from 21st to 23rd July 2025. The programme aimed at strengthening the capacities of local governance leaders by familiarizing them with best practices, participatory models, and innovative approaches to rural administration.

Over the course of three days, the participants engaged in sessions covering a range of topics, including participatory planning, decentralised administration, innovations in service delivery, and effective sanitation management. The training was delivered through a balanced mix of expert lectures, interactive discussions, and field exposure visits, ensuring a strong connection between theoretical learning and practical applications.

The exposure visits provided participants with an opportunity to observe first-hand the functioning of successful rural governance initiatives. These experiences encouraged dialogue and exchange of ideas, enabling participants to identify replicable models that could be adapted to the unique needs of their local communities in Tripura.

The programme also served as a platform for mutual learning, where elected representatives and officials reflected on governance strategies that promote transparency, community participation, and sustainable rural development. Participants expressed appreciation for the comprehensive approach and practical insights gained during the training, noting their commitment to applying the learnings to improve governance outcomes at the grassroots level.

Workshop for Transgender People on Handicrafts from Coconut Shells held in Pollachi



Participants actively crafting jewellery and artefacts from coconut shells during the skill development workshop in Pollachi

A three-day workshop was conducted in Pollachi for transgender community from July 28 to 30, aimed at empowering members of the transgender community by equipping them with the skills to create handicrafts from coconut shells. The training programme was jointly organised by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, and the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), in collaboration with the Sahodari Foundation, a prominent organisation working for the rights and welfare of transgender people.

The workshop was hosted at the Lions Club, Pollachi, and trained participants in crafting a variety of products such as kitchen tools, jewellery, decorative items, and artefacts from discarded coconut shells. The initiative aimed to promote self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods through eco-friendly craft techniques.

On the concluding day, Ms. Ambika, District Social Welfare Officer, attended the event as the special guest. She praised the creativity and dedication of the participants and assured them of continued government support to take such livelihood initiatives forward.

Mr. C. Thirumala Rao, District Development Manager, NABARD, was also present and distributed certificates to the trainees, acknowledging their efforts and encouraging them to pursue entrepreneurship through their newly acquired skills.

Ms. Sandhya Gopakumaran, Director, Training and Development, NIRDPR, highlighted that the workshop marked a significant step in promoting social inclusion and economic independence for the transgender community. She emphasised the importance of such skill-building programmes in enabling marginalised groups to lead dignified lives through self-employment.

Ms. Kalki Subramaniam, Founder and Director of the Sahodari Foundation, expressed gratitude to the collaborating institutions for supporting the cause of transgender empowerment. She reiterated the foundation's commitment to helping the community through training, advocacy, and awareness.

The workshop concluded with positive feedback from the participants, many of whom expressed interest in taking up handicrafts as a source of income. The event stood as a testament to the power of inclusive development and capacity building at the grassroots level.

Training of Trainers Programme on SECURE Held at NIRDPR



Participants of the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on SECURE with Dr. Anuradha Palla, Course Coordinator

The Centre for Wage Employment and Livelihoods (CWEL), NIRDPR, organized a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on “Software for Estimate Calculation Using Rural Rates for Employment (SECURE)” from April 23-25, 2025.

Dr. V. Suresh Babu, Head of CWEL, inaugurated the programme and welcomed the officials of the National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi, along with 31 officials from the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS departments representing 10 states.



Mr. Selveswaran, Director, NIC, and Ms. Susy M., NIC Kerala, addressed the participants online.

The programme aimed at nurturing the potential of officials as Master Trainers to train block-level technical assistants for improving work productivity. Mr. Selveswaran, Director, NIC, and Ms. Susy M., NIC Kerala, addressed the participants online.

The technical sessions were coordinated by Dr. Anuradha Palla,

Course Coordinator, with the support of Master Resource Persons Mr. Gowri Shankar and Mr. P. Venkata Madhu Krishna. The training involved hands-on exercises on estimate preparation, administrative and technical sanctions, as well as group activities. Participants also exchanged experiences on implementation strategies adopted across states.



Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS Division, MoRD, interacting with participants

During the programme, Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS Division, MoRD, interacted with the participants, provided updates on SECURE 2.0, and reviewed state-level progress.

As an outcome, 29 Master Trainers were selected and certified to conduct training sessions in their respective states. The programme concluded with a valedictory session, jointly presided over by Mr. Selveswaran (NIC Delhi), Dr. V. Suresh Babu and Dr. Anuradha Palla. Certificates were presented to participants, and Dr. G. V. Krishna Lohi Das delivered the Vote of Thanks.

UBA Unit of St. Francis College Performs Awareness Skits & Plantation Drive in Tribal Hamlets

Ms. D. Rupali, UBA Coordinator,
St. Francis College for Women,
Begumpet, Telangana

St. Francis College for Women, Hyderabad, is an Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) Institution working with NIRDPR, Hyderabad, with the visionary leadership and unwavering support of Prof. Uma Joseph, Principal of St. Francis College for Women, and the headship and ideation of Ms. D. Rupali, UBA Coordinator and Head, Department of Public Administration.

On 9th July 2025, 62 spirited students and five dedicated faculty members journeyed to four tribal hamlets of Vaddenaguda Thanda, Ippalagadda Thanda, Kandi Thanda and Laxmi Nagar, in Sangareddy district, Telangana, to sow the seeds of awareness, inclusion and empowerment through creativity and compassion. The following are the activities carried out.

Activity 1: Skit on Balika Samridhi Yojana – Planting Dreams, One Girl at a Time



The day opened with a soul-stirring skit in the local dialect showcasing Balika Samridhi Yojana, a government scheme for uplifting the girl child. The message was simple but powerful—education is not a luxury for girls; it is their right.

The performance broke barriers of silence. Women, often unaware of the scheme, sought details, eager to secure a better future for their daughters. The

skit did not just inform—it inspired. It planted the first seed of transformation, straight into the hearts of rural mothers.

Activity 2: Dance Skit on Mental Health – When Silence Speaks Loudest



The students used the universal language of dance to depict the emotional toll of alcohol abuse on families. Through the story of a struggling couple and a concerned friend, the skit painted the silent agony of mental disorders caused by alcoholism and drug abuse.

The conversation around mental well-being began in teashops and homes. Thus, the dance skit of the students opened the door to agonising dialogues that were long overdue.

Activity 3: Skit on Domestic Violence – Breaking Chains, Reclaiming Voices



Backed by the anthem “Bekhauff Azad Hai Rehna Mujhe,” a skit on domestic violence echoed the pain and courage

of victims and encouraged community solidarity. The Telugu translation added depth, making the message hit home. Women clapped not just with hands, but with the strength of long-suppressed voices finding release. For the first time, many spoke. Some cried.

Activity 4: Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana – Savings for Her, Security for all

A crisp, informative skit on the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana bridged the gap between financial planning and girl child security. Villagers learned how a small saving today could build a fortress of opportunity tomorrow. Parents asked how to open accounts. Names and contact numbers were taken. The skit did not just explain a scheme—it initiated a cycle of financial inclusion with real follow-up action.

Activity 5: Plantation Drive – Growing Trees, Growing Tomorrow

The day culminated with a tree plantation drive in Kandi Thanda, where villagers, teachers, and students planted saplings in the village. With hands in the soil and hearts in the right place, this activity signified a community's shared responsibility towards Mother Earth. The message was clear—climate change solutions begin at the roots.

It was complete people's involvement, powered by college students who listened, performed, taught and connected. Every skit, every song, every flashcard became a brush stroke painting a larger picture of inclusive rural development. Through participatory approaches, cultural sensitivity and emotional intelligence, the initiative did not impose change—it invited villagers to become co-creators of their own development.

Social development is not just a component of national progress but the foundation upon which true development stands. It nourishes both the mind and the heart, fostering values such as empathy, dignity, inclusion, and collective responsibility. While economic growth builds structures, it is social development that builds people.

As seen during initiatives like COVID relief, it was not just roads or GDP that saved lives but community trust, compassion, and social cohesion. Thus, the worth of social development far exceeds that of physical or economic infrastructure in shaping a resilient and inclusive nation.



Activity on the Importance of Waste Management and Benefits of Wheatgrass



Session On Nutritional Diet

UBA Story-Lab: Workshop on Case Documentation and Video Storytelling

Dr R Ramesh,

Associate Professor, CRI & UBA SEG Coordinator, NIRDPR, Hyderabad



Participants of the UBA Story-Lab Workshop pose for a group photo with Dr. R. Ramesh, Associate Professor, Centre for Rural Infrastructure (CRI), NIRDPR, Hyderabad

The Centre for Rural Infrastructure, (CRI), NIRDPR, Hyderabad, conducted a two-day workshop titled UBA Story-Lab: Workshop on Case Documentation and Video Storytelling on 3rd and 4th July 2025. The workshop was organised exclusively for faculty members and institutional representatives of UBA-participating institutions from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. In order to ensure focused and practical engagement, the number of participants was limited to 20.

The workshop was structured in two distinct parts:

- Part I focused on case documentation in written form, and
- Part II focused on video-based storytelling.

Part I: Case Documentation

Participants were asked to bring stories or field experiences from their UBA activities as raw data for further development. The case writing session introduced them to ten distinct documentation frameworks, allowing participants to choose formats most

appropriate for their respective narratives. This variety of structures facilitated the development of well-organised case studies and success stories based on transformative actions in their UBA service villages.

The session aimed to build documentation capacity among UBA participants, enabling them to effectively communicate rural interventions and innovations. A total of ten case narratives were shortlisted for further editorial refinement and potential publication. The case documentation sessions were facilitated by Dr R. Ramesh, Associate Professor at NIRDPR, and Prof. K. Ravichandran, from Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed University.



Session in progress

Part II: Video Storytelling

The second component of the workshop focused on audio-visual documentation. Participants who had captured field-based video footage during their UBA work were guided in basic video editing and storytelling techniques by the Audio-Visual Team of NIRDPR comprising Mr. Kaushick and Mr. Shakthi. A short in-house session was followed by a hands-on demonstration, enabling participants to edit and structure their video stories.

In cases where participants had not brought pre-recorded footage, they created short interview-based videos during the workshop using peer interactions and supplementary visuals. This exercise demonstrated that field documentation can be both systematic and engaging, and need not be a cumbersome process.

Outcomes and Way Forward

The workshop concluded with a shared understanding that documentation—both written and video-based—is a powerful tool for knowledge dissemination and peer learning within the UBA ecosystem. As a follow-up, NIRDPR intends to collect, curate, and publish stories from a

a wider set of UBA-participating institutions in appropriate formats to enhance visibility and cross-learning.

–“Thank you, NIRDPR, for this opportunity. I have been regularly attending UBA training programmes and workshops, and each visit offers new insights. This time, however, the experience was particularly enriching—every moment of the workshop contributed meaningfully to my learning. I am returning with several actionable ideas that I look forward to implementing, and I am confident that the outcomes will reflect the depth of knowledge gained during this workshop.”

Dr.N.N.Krishnaveni,

UBA Coordinator & Assistant Professor,
Holy Cross Home Science College,
Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.

– “It’s not just about documenting what happened—it’s about communicating change, celebrating community, and building a bridge between experience and learning.”

Dr. R. Ramesh

Associate Professor, CRI & UBA SEG
Coordinator, NIRDPR, Hyderabad

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development, is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj. Recognised internationally as one of the UN-ESCAP Centres of Excellence, it builds capacities of rural development functionaries, elected representatives of PRIs, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders through inter-related activities of training, research and consultancy. The Institute is located in the historic city of Hyderabad in Telangana state. The NIRDPR celebrated its Golden Jubilee Year of establishment in 2008. In addition to the main campus in Hyderabad, this Institute has a North-Eastern Regional Centre at Guwahati, Assam, a branch at New Delhi and a Career Guidance Centre at Vaishali, Bihar.



राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं
पंचायती राज संस्थान

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ**

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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