

PRAGATI NEWSLETTER

NIRDPR Launches Refresher Training Programmes under the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)



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NIRDPR Launches Refresher Training Programmes under the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)

The National Institute of Rural Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, launched the Refresher Training Programmes under the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) on 6th October 2025. The inaugural session was led by Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR, and the Vision and Mission of ABP was delivered by Shri Anand Shekar, Additional Mission Director, ABP, NITI Aayog.

The Aspirational Blocks Programme, initiated by NITI Aayog in 2023, aims to transform 500 underdeveloped blocks across India through convergence, data-driven planning, and a saturation-focused approach across 40 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The Refresher Training Programmes have been designed to build the capacities of Block Level Officers (BLOs) and other field functionaries to accelerate progress and achieve saturation in the identified indicators.

Beginning 6th October 2025, NIRDPR launched sector-wise Refresher Training Programmes across nine venues, covering the five key sectors of Health, Nutrition, Basic Infrastructure, Education, and Social Development & Financial Inclusion. The training series will run until 20th November 2025, comprising 126 batches, and will cover around 5,000 Block Level Officers, Aspirational Block Fellows, and Block Pramukhs.

Beginning 6th October 2025, NIRDPR launched sector-wise Refresher Training Programmes across nine venues, covering the five key sectors of Health, Nutrition, Basic Infrastructure, Education, and Social Development & Financial Inclusion. The training series will run until 20th November 2025,

During the inauguration, the central objectives of the training were outlined, highlighting the importance of convergence, innovation, micro-level planning, and real-time monitoring to strengthen service delivery and governance mechanisms at the block level. The role of NIRDPR in designing and coordinating this large-scale capacity-building intervention was emphasised.

The training framework and modules were conceptualised and developed by NIRDPR faculty, and finalised in consultation with NITI Aayog. The capacity-building initiative has been coordinated by Dr R. Aruna Jayamani, Assistant Professor, and Dr P. Kesava Rao, Associate Professor & Head, CGARD and CRTCN, NIRDPR.

Release of Thematic Modules

The training series also featured the release of six Thematic Modules developed for the Refresher Training Programme for Aspirational Block Officials. These modules were formally released by Dr Narendra Kumar Gajula, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR, on 22 October 2025 at NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

The six modules released are:

1. Nutrition
2. Agriculture & Allied Services
3. Health
4. Education
5. Social Development & Financial Inclusion
6. Basic Infrastructure

These modules were conceptualised and authored by faculty members

of NIRDPR. They are designed to strengthen the capacities of block-level functionaries in developing and implementing Block Saturation Strategies under the ABP.

Faculty members involved in module development include Dr R. Aruna Jayamani; Dr P. Kesava Rao; Dr R. Chinnadurai; Dr C. Kathiresan; Dr Vanishree Joseph; Dr R Ramesh; Dr Partha Pratim Sahu; Dr Surjit Vikraman; Dr Digambar A. Chimankar; Dr Ruchira Bhattacharaya; Dr Lakhan Singh;

Dr T. Vijaya Kumar; Dr Nithya Vishwanath Gowdru; Dr Pratyusna Patnaik; Dr Sucharita Pujari; Dr Sonal Mobar Roy; Dr Anuradha Palla.

The release of these six sectoral modules reflects NIRDPR's continued commitment to advancing knowledge-based governance, promoting convergence-driven implementation, and strengthening institutional mechanisms for achieving holistic rural transformation under the Aspirational Blocks Programme.



NIRDPR Organises Training of Trainers on Empowering Women Leaders in Local Governance



Dr G. Narendra Kumar, Director General, NIRDPR, along with Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor & Head, CPRDP&SSD; Dr Pratyusna Patnaik, Assistant Professor, CPRDP&SSD; and Ms Tandra Mondal, Assistant Professor, NIRDPR, with participants during the Training of Trainers on Championing Change: Empowering Women Leaders in Local Governance.

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, (NIRDPR), organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) on “Championing Change: Empowering Women Leaders in Local Governance for State Level Master Trainers (SLMTs) and District Level Master Trainers (DLMTs)” from 6th to 10th October 2025. The programme was conducted under the aegis of the School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR).

The ToT aimed to strengthen the leadership and governance capacities of women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The programme provided participants with practical knowledge and skills to promote participatory governance, inclusive decision-making, and gender-responsive leadership at the grassroots level.

During the five-day training, a diverse group of trainers and women

leaders took part in interactive sessions, group discussions, and experience-sharing activities. The sessions focused on enhancing leadership qualities, effective communication, advocacy skills, and community mobilisation. Special attention was given to empowering women to actively contribute to local governance and to serve as role models for future leaders.

The programme also emphasised the importance of collaboration and peer learning among trainers from different states and districts. By sharing experiences and good practices, participants developed strategies to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions and promote sustainable rural development through women’s active participation.

ToT on Development of FNHW Immersion Sites under DAY-NRLM



Programme Coordinator Dr Vanishree Joseph, Assistant Professor & Head i/c, CGSD, and Director, NRLM, NIRDPR, with participants of the ToT on Development of FNHW Immersion Sites

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Development of Food, Nutrition, Health & WASH (FNHW) Immersion Sites under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) from 14th to 16th October 2025.

The three-day training programme aimed to strengthen the capacities of resource persons and master trainers to design and implement FNHW Immersion Sites—an innovative approach under DAY-NRLM to promote sustainable interventions in rural health, nutrition, and sanitation. The sessions provided participants with practical insights into planning, execution, and monitoring of FNHW initiatives at the village level.

Organised by the DAY-NRLM Resource Cell, NIRDPR, the programme focused on the convergence of community

institutions and local governance mechanisms to ensure holistic and sustainable outcomes. Participants engaged in interactive sessions, case studies, and group activities that highlighted successful models of community-led health and nutrition initiatives.

The training underscored the importance of integrated rural development, linking livelihoods with improved food and nutrition security. It also served as a platform for sharing knowledge, innovations, and field experiences to further strengthen the implementation of DAY-NRLM objectives.

This initiative marks another significant step towards achieving the vision of Sampoorna Grameen Vikas, fostering healthier and more resilient rural communities through knowledge sharing and participatory action.

Training of Trainers on Mainstreaming FNHW Interventions under DAY-NRLM



Participants of the Training of Trainers on Mainstreaming Food, Nutrition, Health, and WASH (FNHW) Interventions under DAY-NRLM posing for a group photo at NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

A three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on Mainstreaming Food, Nutrition, Health, and WASH (FNHW) Interventions under DAY-Aajeevika-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was organised by the DAY-NRLM Resource Cell at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, from 7th to 9th October 2025. The programme was conducted under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

The training aimed to build the capacity of trainers and resource persons to effectively integrate FNHW interventions within ongoing rural livelihood initiatives. It focused on empowering participants with practical knowledge and tools to strengthen the implementation of holistic, community-led development models under the DAY-NRLM framework.

The sessions covered key areas such as convergence between livelihood and health initiatives,

behaviour change communication for nutrition and hygiene, and innovations in WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) management. Emphasis was placed on leveraging community institutions like Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Village Organisations (VOs) to promote sustainable health, nutrition, and sanitation practices at the grassroots.

The programme featured a mix of interactive lectures, group exercises, and experience-sharing sessions facilitated by experts from NIRDPR and the DAY-NRLM Resource Cell. Participants discussed challenges and shared best practices from various states, encouraging peer learning and collaborative problem-solving.

The training concluded with a call for stronger interdepartmental convergence and continuous capacity-building efforts to ensure that FNHW interventions are seamlessly integrated into rural development programmes. The initiative reaffirmed NIRDPR's commitment to advancing inclusive and sustainable rural livelihoods through knowledge sharing and innovation.

NIRDPR and Envu Sign MoU to Promote Rural Health and Livelihoods



Dr Sandhya Gopakumaran, Director (T&D), NIRDPR, and Shri M. Arunkumar, Managing Director, Envu, exchanging the MoU

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Envu on 23rd October 2025 to collaborate on promoting rural health and livelihood opportunities through structured, industry-oriented skill training and entrepreneurship in pest management.

The partnership aims to build sustainable rural enterprises while addressing public health challenges related to vector-borne diseases. The initiative focuses on developing trained rural youth capable of managing pest control activities in villages, thereby contributing to both community health improvement and livelihood generation.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR, commended Envu's commitment to community well-being and termed the partnership a major step towards enhancing rural health, sanitation, and livelihoods through skill-based interventions.

Representing Envu, Shri M. Arunkumar, Managing Director, and Dr Ashish Dokras, Head, Technical Services, reiterated the company's dedication to advancing rural health and empowering youth through skill development. Shri Uday Menon, Subject Matter Expert and Entrepreneur, detailed the proposed training methodology and its potential impact on rural employment.

From NIRDPR, Dr Sandhya Gopakumaran, Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Shri M.D. Khan and Dr Vanishree Joseph emphasised the importance of convergence with Panchayati Raj Institutions, greater women's participation, and community-driven awareness to ensure effective implementation and sustainability.

The event also saw participation from representatives of the Kesineni Foundation (Andhra Pradesh), SERP Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Elected Panchayat Representatives from Uttarakhand and Odisha, and NRLM Resource Persons, who shared field-level experiences and implementation models.

Writeshop on Module Development for Faculty Development Programme Held at NIRDPR



Dr G. Narendra Kumar, Director General, NIRDPR; Dr S. Jyothis, Professor & Head, CDDC and CPGS&DE; Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor & Head, CPRDP&SSD; and Ms Tandra Mondal, Assistant Professor, NIRDPR, with participants of the Writeshop on Module Development for Faculty Development Programme

A two-day Writeshop on Module Development for Faculty Development Programme (FDP) was organised from 16th to 17th October 2025 at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad. The programme was coordinated by the School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR), NIRDPR, under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

The writeshop aimed to provide a structured platform for experienced faculty members, trainers, and subject experts to collaborate in developing comprehensive training modules for upcoming Faculty Development Programmes. It served as a hands-on exercise in refining the content, structure, and methodology of training material that will be used in future capacity-building initiatives for rural development professionals.

During the two days, participants engaged in intensive discussions, group exercises, and peer reviews to design effective modules that reflect current priorities in decentralised governance and Panchayati Raj. Emphasis was

placed on integrating field-based learning experiences, case studies, and participatory approaches to make the modules more practical and context-specific. The writeshop encouraged faculty to align training materials with evolving national and state-level development goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The sessions also focused on enhancing the pedagogical depth of the modules through the use of interactive learning techniques, technology-enabled delivery, and outcome-oriented assessment tools. Participants shared their experiences from the field, identified capacity gaps, and proposed innovative frameworks for strengthening faculty competence in rural training institutions.

By the end of the writeshop, draft modules were prepared for further refinement and standardisation to be used in forthcoming Faculty Development Programmes at NIRDPR and its partner institutions. The collaborative exercise not only strengthened content quality but also fostered a shared understanding among trainers and academicians on advancing the standards of rural training delivery.

Training of Trainers on Generation and Mobilisation of Own Source Revenue for Gram Panchayats



Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Dr Anshika Singh, and Ms Tandra Mondal with participants of the Training of Trainers on Generation and Mobilisation of Own Source Revenue (OSR) for Gram Panchayats

A three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on “Generation and Mobilisation of Own Source Revenue (OSR) for Gram Panchayats” was organised from 8th to 10th October 2025 by the School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, with support from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India.

The programme aimed to build the capacities of trainers and practitioners in strengthening local fiscal governance and promoting self-reliant Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The sessions provided in-depth insights into critical aspects of resource mobilisation, including property tax assessment and collection, formulation of OSR by-laws, innovative local financing models, behavioural approaches to revenue generation, and community participation in fiscal management.

Participants included trainers and faculty members from State and

District Panchayat Resource Centres (DPRCs) of Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu. The training served as a platform for cross-learning and experience sharing among officials from different states to enhance the efficiency and transparency of Gram Panchayat-level financial systems.

Faculty members of NIRDPR, Dr S. Jyothis, Dr R. Ramesh, Dr Partha Pratim Sahu, Dr Vanishree Joseph, Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, and Dr Kiran Thete contributed as resource persons. They shared their academic expertise and field experiences, offering practical perspectives on local revenue management, fiscal planning, and institutional strengthening.

The programme concluded with an emphasis on the importance of fiscal decentralisation and capacity building for Panchayat leaders and officials to effectively manage and mobilise local resources. The initiative reaffirmed NIRDPR’s ongoing commitment to promoting good governance, transparency, and financial sustainability in rural local bodies.

DoLR-Sponsored Off-Campus Training Programme on Strategies for Up-scaling Production System Technologies under WDC-PMKSY 2.0” at Kerala



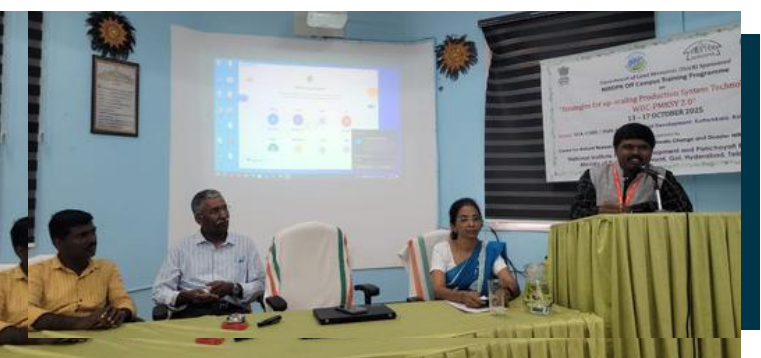
Participants of the DoLR-sponsored off-campus training programme on Strategies for Up-Scaling Production System Technologies under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, with Dr Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor & Course Director, CNRMCCDM, NIRDPR, and Dr Jibini V. Kurian, Faculty, KILA-CHRD.

The Centre for Natural Resource Management Climate Change and Disaster Mitigation (CNRMCCDM), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), conducted a Department of Land Resources (DoLR)-sponsored five-day off-campus training programme on “Strategies for Up-scaling Production System Technologies under WDC-PMKSY 2.0” from 13 to 17 October 2025 at the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) – Centre for Human Resource Development (CHRD) / State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Kottarakkara, Kollam District, Kerala.

of the Watershed Development Technical Teams and Extension Officers from various District PIAs including Idukki, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad, Thiruvananthapuram, and Wayanad, attended the programme.

The inaugural session was graced by Shri. Sudeshan, Director, KILA-CHRD, and Shri. Sudhish Kumar, Technical Expert, SLNA, Kerala. In their inaugural addresses, they emphasized the importance of strengthening production system technologies under WDC-PMKSY 2.0 and highlighted the key issues and challenges in its implementation across the state.

The five-day training followed a blended learning approach, combining classroom lectures, group exercises, case discussions, video presentations, and field visits to selected WDC-PMKSY 2.0 project sites in the Nemom Block of Thiruvananthapuram District. Technical sessions were delivered by eminent experts including Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor, CNRMCCDM, NIRDPR; Dr. Meera, Assistant Professor, IFSRS-Karamana, Kerala Central University; Dr. Ashok Babu, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Nutrition, PVNR Veterinary University; Shri. Arun Kumar, Joint Director, Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Kerala; Shri. Shibu Kumar,



The programme was coordinated by Dr Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor and Course Director, CNRMCCDM, in collaboration with Dr Jibini V. Kurian, Faculty, KILA-CHRD, Kottarakkara. A total of 25 participants, comprising members

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Government of Kerala; Shri. Sudhish Kumar, Technical Expert, SLNA-Kerala; Shri. Ravi Raj, Joint Director, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, Government of Kerala; Shri. Sudeshan, Director, KILA-CHRD; and Dr Jibini V. Kurian, Faculty, KILA-CHRD.

implementation process at the grassroots level, Gram Panchayat-level procedures, existing challenges, and best practices. These interactions also helped participants understand how project initiatives are translating into tangible benefits for local communities.



As part of the training, participants undertook field visits to project areas under Vilavoorkkal and Malayinkeezhu Gram Panchayats in the Nemom Block. These visits enabled them to interact with beneficiaries and observe the on-ground impact of various watershed interventions, including production systems, technological applications, soil and water conservation measures, livelihood initiatives, and entry point activities. The field visits were organised with support from the respective District PIAs and their teams.

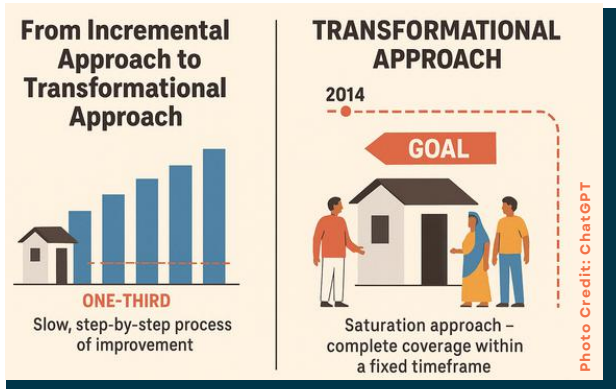
The primary objective of the field exposure was to provide participants with first-hand insights into the



The programme concluded with a valedictory session, where Shri. Sudeshan, Director, KILA-CHRD, delivered the closing remarks. Training completion certificates were distributed to all participants by Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor and Course Director, CNRMCCDM, NIRDPR.

Overall, the five-day DoLR-sponsored off-campus training programme was highly informative and enriching, offering participants valuable practical exposure and a deeper understanding of WDC-PMKSY 2.0's implementation and impact at the grassroots level across Kerala.

From Incremental Approach to Transformational Approach (SBM-G as a typical example of saturation strategy to achieve transformational change)



For decades, rural development has often followed an *incremental approach*—a slow, step-by-step process of improvement. Take, for instance, the construction of rural toilets. Beginning in 1986, progress was made little by little, covering barely one-third of rural households over 28 long years. While each year showed some improvement, the pace was far too slow for a nation aspiring to uplift millions.

Then came a transformational shift. In 2014, the government declared a clear goal—every rural household must have a toilet by 2nd October 2019. This time-bound, all-inclusive mission changed everything. Every household, every village, every person was brought under one common purpose—no one left behind. That is the saturation approach—a commitment to complete coverage within a fixed timeframe, ensuring tangible results that transform lives, not just statistics. It did happen. By 2nd October, 2019, India could be declared an ODF nation. In other words, a basic need - like toilet construction for every rural household - was progressing at snail's pace. It took acceleration as a people's movement, when taken on a saturation-mode. In about 60 months-time we could ensure that every rural household has a toilet, and no one does it in the open.

The same approach continues to drive other flagship programmes. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the government set out to provide a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural home by 2024, and is now progressing toward full saturation by 2028. Each tap connection represents dignity, convenience, and better health for rural families—turning a basic need into a guaranteed service.

Likewise, programmes for Housing for All, 100% Immunisation, 100% School Enrolment, and Universal Financial Inclusion all embody the same spirit of saturation—ensuring every citizen benefits fully and equally. This is inclusive and result-oriented development, not slow, indefinite progress.

Why the Saturation Approach Matters

Incremental change is comfortable but slow. It carries the attitude of “*We will get there someday.*”

Transformational change, in contrast, says, “*We will achieve this within a defined time frame.*”

The saturation approach represents a new mindset of professionalism and urgency in rural development. It brings discipline, speed, and accountability to governance. It acknowledges a simple truth: someone who is thirsty cannot wait for years to quench their thirst. People are waiting for clean water, sanitation, housing, roads, and digital access—these cannot be delayed endlessly. Delayed delivery only earns frustration, not faith.

By adopting a saturation approach, we commit to specific, measurable, time-

bound goals, ensuring that development is not partial or selective but complete and universal. It's about improving lives within the timeframe we set—so that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and realising a Viksit Bharat by 2047 become real, not rhetorical. Focus on one indicator and take it to the 'finish line'.

Building Blocks of the Saturation Approach

1. Set Clear and Measurable Targets – Define block-wise and village-wise goals with fixed timelines.

2. Mobilise Communities – Involve PRIs, SHGs, youth groups, and local champions to build ownership.

3. Ensure Convergence – Align all departments, CSR partners, NGOs, and academic institutions for collective action.

4. Communicate Effectively – Use local media, wall paintings, and stories that connect emotionally with the people.

5. Monitor and Adapt – Use dashboards and regular reviews to track, learn, and make course corrections.

6. Recognise Achievers – Celebrate successes, highlight role models, and sustain motivation across teams.

When systems align and communities take charge, true saturation is achieved—not as a bureaucratic target, but as a social movement that transforms lives.

Two Critical Dimensions of the Saturation Strategy

While these building blocks define the operational side of saturation, two

deeper elements make it a truly transformative strategy.

1. Distance to Saturation – Targeting the Low-Hanging Fruits

In any large-scale development mission, it is both logical and efficient to start with the low-hanging fruits—those Gram Panchayats (GPs) or Blocks already close to achieving saturation. These are the areas where just a small additional effort can lead to complete coverage.

For example, under the Jal Jeevan Mission, when the national average for Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) has already reached 81%, it makes sense to first motivate and support GPs that have crossed or are close to this level. Quick wins here not only demonstrate success but also create powerful examples for others to follow.

At the same time, GPs that are lagging can be encouraged to first reach the national average – a target that is realistic and within sight. This incremental push within the larger saturation framework keeps morale high and shows continuous progress.

Hence, 'distance to saturation' becomes a crucial metric – helping planners visualise where each GP or Block stands, prioritise action, and allocate resources more effectively. It transforms decision-making from intuition to evidence.

2. Fostering Healthy Competition Across Administrative Levels

The second vital dimension is the spirit of healthy competition that the saturation strategy naturally generates.

When progress data is visible and comparable – between GPs, Blocks, Districts, and States – it builds a positive sense of rivalry and pride.

This competitive environment drives officers and frontline workers to innovate, share best practices, and find locally suited strategies that accelerate progress. Peer learning and recognition become powerful motivators. One GP's achievement becomes another's aspiration.

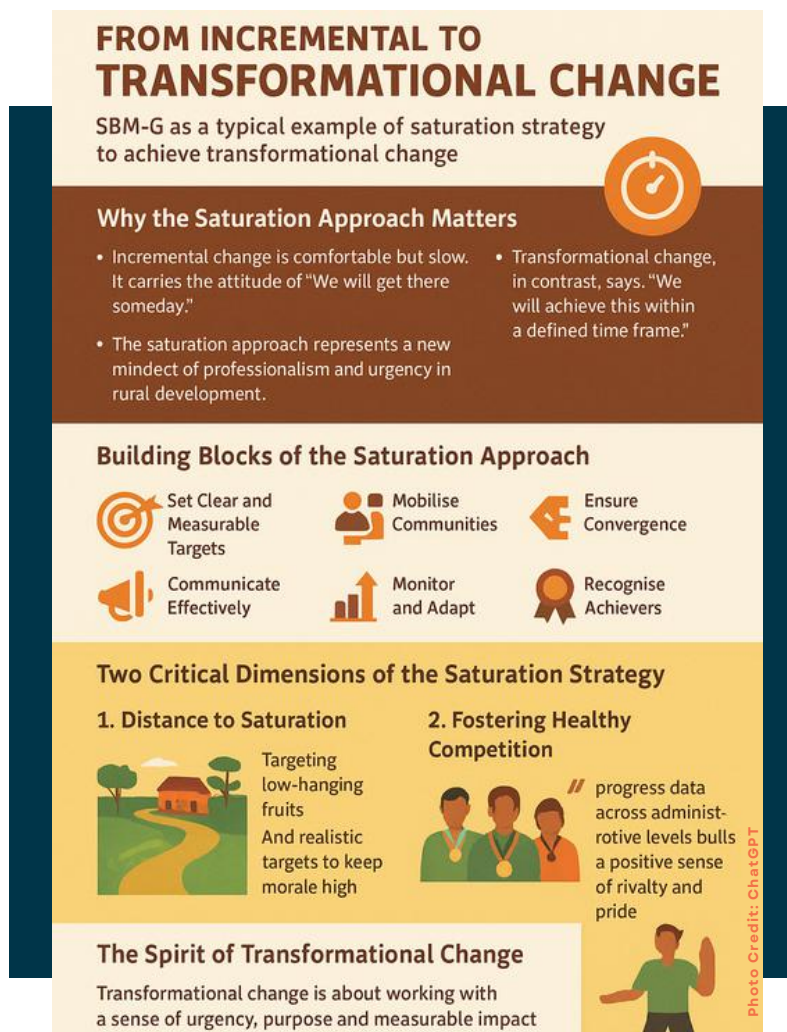
When this spirit is nurtured through acknowledgement, awards, exposure visits, and public appreciation, it leads to a culture of excellence and continuous improvement. Progress then becomes a shared ambition – not imposed from above, but owned and celebrated locally.

The Spirit of Transformational Change

Transformational change is not about working endlessly – it's about working with a sense of urgency, purpose, and measurable impact. It's about redefining what professionalism means in rural development: delivering outcomes within time, completeness, and empathy.

Let's make the incremental approach outdated. Let's lead with a saturation mindset—one that delivers services promptly, improves the quality of life, and engages citizens in celebrating the change they experience.

As BDOs – being at the cutting edge, you are not just implementing schemes—you are leading India's transformational journey. It's about converting promises into results, and results into pride. You are expected to be a transformational leader at the Block level.



UNESCO 2025 Gender Report: Women Lead for Learning

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The 2025 Gender Report released by UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report team focuses on one central message: women's leadership in education strengthens learning environments, supports equity, and contributes to more thriving schools. Titled Women Lead for Learning, the report provides a global overview of gender disparities in education systems, with a special emphasis on who leads schools and how leadership influences students' learning experiences.

Why Women's Leadership Matters

According to UNESCO, educational leadership is one of the most decisive factors shaping school climate and student outcomes. The 2025 Gender Report highlights that:

- Women leaders contribute positively to building inclusive and equitable learning environments.
- Schools led by women often demonstrate stronger collaborative

practices, better student-teacher relationships, and a culture of shared responsibility.

- Leadership skills—more than gender itself—directly influence learning quality. What matters is the competence, preparedness, and professional support available to school leaders.

The report states that in many countries, women remain significantly under-represented in formal leadership positions, despite forming a large proportion of the teaching workforce. This mismatch between women's participation in teaching and their presence in leadership roles continues to shape gender norms within the education sector.

Persistent Barriers Highlighted in the Report

The UNESCO Gender Report points to several global challenges:

- Structural constraints: Gender stereotypes, limited opportunities for
- Institutional cultures: Environments that may unintentionally favour male leadership models.
- Policy gaps: In many countries, gender-responsive leadership development policies are either absent or under-implemented.

The report stresses that achieving gender equality in education requires more than parity in enrolment; it demands parity in decision-making power.

What Countries Need to Prioritise

UNESCO urges governments and education systems to:

1. Strengthen pathways for women's advancement into leadership roles, including targeted mentoring and training programmes.
2. Support all school leaders—women and men—with professional development, focusing on instructional leadership, community engagement, and school climate improvement.
3. Address norms and institutional barriers that restrict women's leadership opportunities.
4. Promote gender-transformative school cultures, ensuring inclusive practices, safe learning spaces, and equal opportunities for all learners.

By emphasising leadership as a core driver of educational quality, the report reframes gender equality not only as a right but also as a strategy for better learning.

Relevance for India and Rural Development Institutions

Although the report is global in scope, its insights hold strong relevance for Indian institutions, including PRIs, teacher training bodies, and rural development centres:

- Women constitute a major share of frontline education workers in many states.
- Their presence in decision-making roles in schools, clusters, and district-level bodies remains limited.
- Strengthening women's leadership aligns closely with India's ongoing efforts to improve school governance, community participation, and gender inclusion.

For institutions like NIRDPR, where we train leaders and build capacities at multiple levels, the report reinforces the value of gender-responsive leadership development—a priority that resonates with programmes on FNHW, gender budgeting, PRI-SHG convergence, and community-led development.

Conclusion

The UNESCO 2025 Gender Report reiterates a vital truth: Education systems flourish when women lead. They bring perspectives rooted in collaboration, equity, and community engagement—values essential for shaping the next generation of learners. The challenge ahead lies not only in expanding girls' access to education but also in ensuring that women have an equal voice in guiding and governing how education is delivered. As the report reminds us, leadership matters, and gender-responsive leadership matters even more—for students, teachers, communities, and education systems worldwide.

Exposure visit: Best Practices and Cross-Learning of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS



The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad, through its Centre for Wage Employment and Livelihoods (CWEL), in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Rajasthan, organised a three-day exposure visit on “Best Practices and Cross-Learning of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS” from 27th to 29th October 2025.

Participants from Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, and Telangana took part in the programme, which aimed to facilitate mutual learning through field exposure to successful MGNREGS models implemented in Ajmer district. The visiting teams explored Bamseli and Kadel villages to study innovative and sustainable works executed under MGNREGS.

In Bamseli village, a total of ₹27.85 lakh was spent on plantation activities, construction of a cremation ground (Dahana Vatika), and the Gram Panchayat building. The building was constructed at a total cost of ₹45 lakh, with ₹20 lakh sourced from MGNREGS funds and the remaining from SFC and FFC allocations. In Kadel village, similar convergence-based initiatives were undertaken, including nursery development, construction of cattle sheds, land levelling for playfields, road connectivity, and the Gram Panchayat building.

The Sarpanch of both villages, through effective coordination among line departments, has been implementing the Panchayati Raj Act efficiently, ensuring proper tax collection and fostering holistic rural development.





Key Observations from Field Visits (26th & 27th October 2025):

1. Wage employment is being provided to unskilled workers as per the labour budget, with 40% of funds allocated to material components.
2. Each Panchayat has developed a nursery with about 5,000 fruit-bearing and forest species, promoting greenery and employment for local labourers.
3. Under cremation ground development, plantations were created under the name “Panchavati”, along with tracks and avenue plantations.
4. Nursery-based vegetable and fruit plantations are helping villagers earn additional income.
5. Convergence of MGNREGS with SFC and FFC funds has supported the construction of Panchayat buildings and cremation grounds, ensuring optimum use of resources.

6. Advanced technologies such as NMMS, Geo-Tagging, NIC Secure Login Software, and GGI initiatives are being effectively used to ensure transparency and efficiency in implementation.

7. Natural Resource Management (NRM) activities have improved the groundwater table, promoted economic growth through plantations, and enhanced social security through the development of cremation grounds.

The teams from the five participating states also shared their respective best practices and identified key learnings that could be replicated in their regions. The interaction fostered rich cross-learning, focusing on strengthening livelihood opportunities, enhancing convergence mechanisms, integrating technology, and improving the overall effectiveness of MGNREGS.

The programme concluded with group presentations summarising field insights and strategies for adopting these best practices across states to achieve inclusive and sustainable rural development.

Faculty Development Programme on Strengthening Panchayati Raj Training Institutes



Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR and Dr. Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor and Head, SoEPR, along with participants of the Faculty Development Programme on Strengthening Panchayati Raj Training Institutes

The School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR) at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, successfully conducted two batches of the Faculty Development Programme (FDP) from 27th to 31st October 2025.

The week-long programme was designed to enhance the pedagogical and thematic competencies of faculty members from various State and District Panchayati Raj Training Institutes (PRTIs/DPRCs). It focused on improving the quality and effectiveness of training delivery in the area of decentralised governance and rural development.

Participants engaged in interactive sessions, group discussions, and

experience-sharing exercises, which provided them with practical insights into participatory planning, capacity building, and institutional strengthening of Panchayati Raj systems. The sessions encouraged faculty members to adopt innovative training methodologies and to integrate real-world governance experiences into their teaching practices.

Resource persons from NIRDPR and allied institutions shared their expertise on emerging themes in local governance, ensuring that participants gained a thorough understanding of the evolving role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in rural transformation.

Jal Samvad: UBA Water Literacy Campaign

Dr R Ramesh
Associate Professor
UBA Coordinator
NIRDPR, Hyderabad



Dr R. Ramesh, Associate Professor & Head, Centre for Rural Infrastructure, NIRDPR along with UBA Institutional Coordinators, NGO partners, and delegates from IIT Delhi and Vibha Vani India.

At a time when digital and financial literacy dominate public discourse, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, emphasised the equally vital need for water literacy by organising a two-day workshop titled “Jal Samvad: UBA Water Literacy Campaign” on 9–10 October 2025 at its campus.

The programme brought together 20 Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) Institutions and 40 NGOs from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, supported by the UBA National Coordinating Institute, IIT Delhi, in collaboration with Vibha Vani India. The workshop aimed to establish a strong interface between UBA Institutions and NGOs, combining the former’s research and technological strengths with the latter’s local presence and community outreach, to promote water conservation, harvesting, management, and efficient use at the village level.

Discussions revolved around critical topics such as Water Issues: Multi-Dimensional Approach, Water Budgeting, Conservation Techniques,

Water Quality and Safety, Local Water Management, and Action Plans for Water Education Campaigns. Participants engaged in lectures and focused group discussions addressing local challenges and exploring collaborative solutions to the growing water and climate crises.

A comprehensive Action Plan for Water Literacy and Local Water Management was developed, emphasising:

- Strengthening local institutions by forming Village Water Committees and training Water Volunteers for participatory water governance.
- Awareness and education through community campaigns, exhibitions, and local-language IEC materials led by NGOs.
- Technological interventions led by UBA Institutions include affordable purification systems, rainwater harvesting models, water quality testing kits, and greywater reuse technologies.
- Restoration of traditional water bodies through mapping, desilting, and community ownership.
- Water quality management and pollution control using eco-friendly farming and natural wastewater treatment.

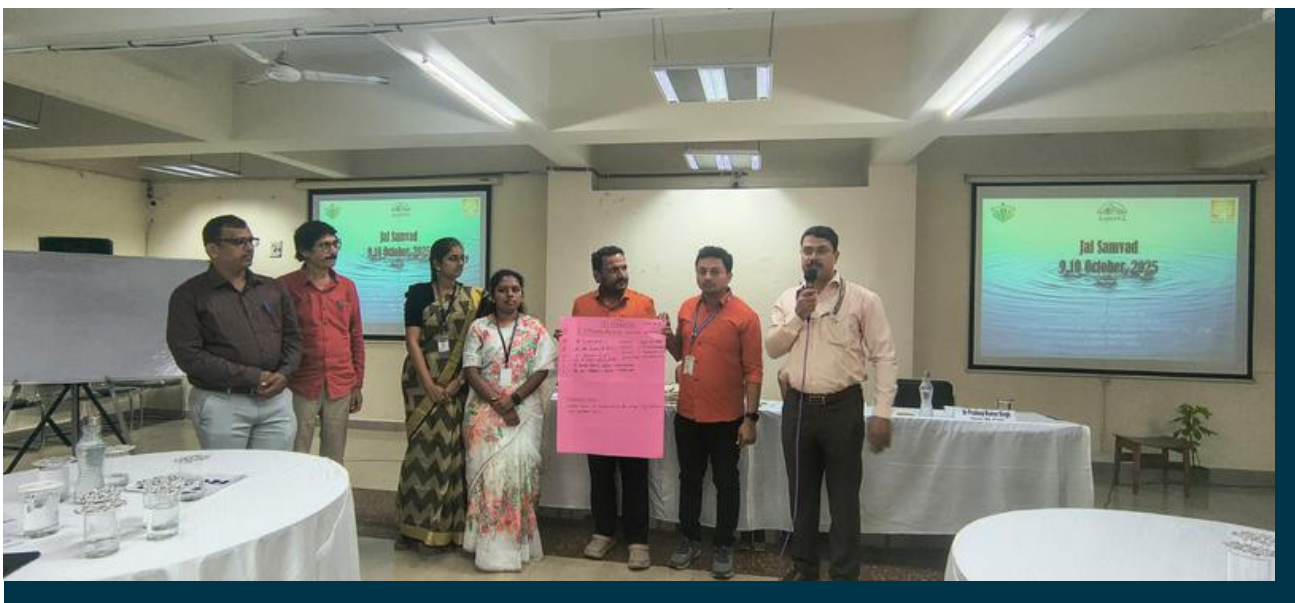


Participants attending one of the sessions

- Convergence and collaboration among government schemes such as MGNREGS, JJM, PMKSY, NABARD, and CSR initiatives.
- Data-driven planning using baseline surveys, dashboards, and performance tracking at the Gram Panchayat level.
- Sustainability efforts, including integrating water literacy into school curricula and recognising best-performing villages and volunteers.

The partnership framework clearly outlined that UBA Institutions will focus on innovation, research, and technological design, while NGOs will drive social mobilisation and community engagement.

A tree plantation drive was also conducted on the NIRDPR campus as part of the programme. One of the key outcomes of Jal Samvad was the mapping of UBA Institutions with nearby NGOs, strengthening their grassroots collaboration for sustained water conservation and management efforts.



Participants sharing their state-level water management action plan

Training Programme on Retail Outlet Management & Operations for SHG Products



Programme Coordinator Dr Vanishree Joseph, Assistant Professor & Head (i/c), CGSD, and Director, NRLM, along with participants of the Training Programme on Retail Outlet Management & Operations for Marketing of SHG-based Products, posing for a photo

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, conducted a Training Programme on Retail Outlet Management & Operations for Marketing of Self-Help Group (SHG)-based Products under Non-Farm Livelihoods from 8th to 10th October 2025. The programme was organised by the DAY-NRLM Resource Cell, with the objective of strengthening the marketing and retail capacities of SHG entrepreneurs engaged in non-farm livelihoods.

The three-day training brought together participants from different states who are actively involved in promoting SHG-based enterprises.

Resource persons shared valuable insights on branding and packaging techniques, market linkage development, and digital marketing

tools to enhance competitiveness in both rural and urban markets. Case studies and group discussions were used to illustrate best practices and innovative approaches for managing SHG retail outlets efficiently.

The programme also emphasised the importance of quality assurance, customer trust, and sustainable business models to ensure the long-term success of SHG enterprises. Participants interacted with experts and engaged in practical exercises that helped them identify challenges and solutions relevant to their field experiences.

The training concluded with positive feedback from participants who expressed confidence in applying the newly acquired knowledge to strengthen their respective SHG-based ventures.

Hindi Pakhwada-2025 concludes at NIRDPR



The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad, organised the Hindi Pakhwada during 14-28 September 2025, as per the guidelines of the Rajbhasha Vibhag, MHA, New Delhi and approval of the Director General. The institute organised a prize distribution program on October 8, 2025.

The program started with Ganesh Vandana, presented by Mrs Gayatri, Training Manager. The program outline and the official language report were presented by Mrs Anita Pandey, Assistant Director (Official Language).

Dr Jyothis Satyapalan, P &H (CPGS), presided over the occasion, along with Mr Manoj Kumar, Registrar and Director (Administration), and Dr P.K. Ghosh, Assistant Registrar. The guests on the dais were welcomed with a bouquet.

In his presidential address, Dr Jyotis Satyapalan P&H (CPGS) stated that Hindi is our official language; hence, it should be promoted as much as possible in government work. Only then will we be able to give Hindi the status of an official language in the true sense.

Thereafter, the Registrar and Director (Administration) of the Institute, Shri Manoj Kumar and Assistant Registrar, Dr P.K. Ghosh, also



expressed their views and reiterated the commitment to the official language Hindi.

Following this, the winners of the Hindi competitions held during the Hindi Pakhwada were presented with cash prizes by the officials on stage. During the fortnight, essay elocution, solo singing and sulekh competitions were organised in which officers/employees and students participated.

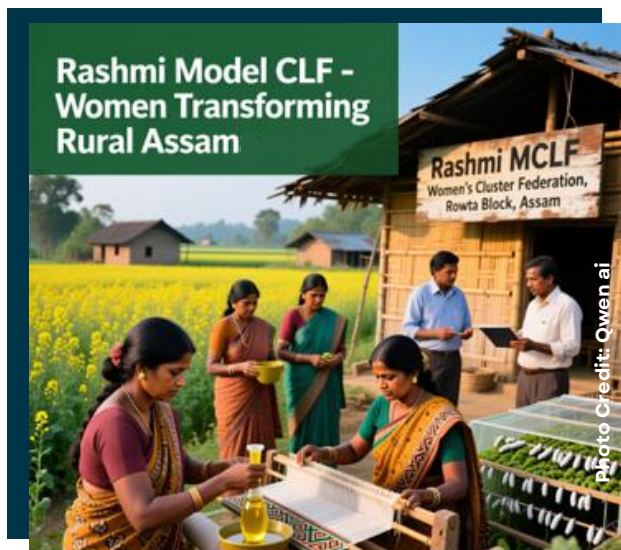
Dr Digambar Chimankar, Associate Professor and Shri E. Ramesh, Senior Hindi Translator (Retd.), were present as judges of the competitions.

Smt. Anita Pandey, Assistant Director (Official Language), coordinated the entire programme with the help of Mrs Savita Pathrabe, Section Officer.



Rashmi Model CLF: A Story of Collective Strength and Rural Transformation

Sangita Roy Barthakur,
Mission Manager,
NRLMRC



Nestled in the culturally vibrant Rowta Block of Udalguri District, Assam, the Rashmi Model Cluster Level Federation (Rashmi MCLF) stands as a remarkable illustration of what women's collectives can achieve when vision, support, and opportunity come together. Spread across six panchayats and forty revenue villages, and comprising 29 Village Organisations, 609 Self-Help Groups, and 7,373 members, this CLF represents more than an institutional structure—it represents aspiration, resilience, and the growing economic power of rural women. Formed in July 2019 under the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP), the federation has steadily carved out a place for itself as a model of community-led development in Assam.

At the heart of the Rashmi MCLF is a simple vision: to make every family self-reliant and every village ideal. The federation's intensive work in livelihoods, enterprise promotion, farm-based interventions, social inclusion, gender awareness, and convergence with Panchayati Raj Institutions has collectively transformed the rural landscape of Rowta. The backbone of this transformation lies in its commitment to skilling, capacity-building, and

mobilising women into meaningful economic activities, supported by strong institutional linkages with government departments, the veterinary sector, agriculture, handloom, fisheries, and more.

One of the most significant contributions of the Rashmi MCLF is in the domain of livelihood promotion. The federation has supported women across diverse livelihood avenues—farm, allied activities, livestock, sericulture, organic farming, and non-farm enterprises. The shift from traditional cultivation to scientific and agro-ecological practices has reshaped farm livelihoods for thousands of women. More than 1,500 Mahila Kisans have transitioned to improved cultivation methods, while 925 women have enhanced their livestock rearing practices through convergence with the veterinary department. The result is visible not only in increased yield and income but also in heightened confidence and agency among the women.

The CLF's emphasis on organic farming reflects its commitment to ecological sustainability. With 550 farmers certified under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), the villages under Rashmi MCLF are increasingly turning towards chemical-free cultivation. Through collaborations with KVKs, SIMFED, and agricultural departments, the women have learned composting, vermiwash production, pest management, and biochar preparation. This shift to organic cultivation has reduced input costs, improved soil fertility, and strengthened the ecological balance. It has simultaneously opened avenues for rural entrepreneurship, with local women now selling organic produce directly to retailers and specialised outlets.

The federation has also promoted value chain initiatives, most notably in sericulture. A Producer Group of 100 members has emerged as a strong collective enterprise dealing in eripolu,

cocoon, and eri cloth. With a turnover of ₹203,280 and profits of nearly ₹196,000 over the last few years, the sericulture initiative highlights how traditional knowledge can be converted into profitable group enterprises. Women who once sold raw cocoon now produce threads and weave high-value eri cloth, improving both their income and bargaining power.

A flagship intervention of the CLF is the Mustard Oil Processing and Packaging Unit, established in March 2022. Built with VGF and incubation fund support, the unit aims to provide pure and chemical-free mustard oil to local communities. With sales crossing ₹20 lakh by mid-2024, and with direct and indirect benefits to mustard farmers across the cluster, the unit is an example of how rural federations can operate market-oriented, high-value community enterprises. Equally important is the federation's role in supporting 326 non-farm enterprises—ranging from handloom, snack-making, beauty parlours, and trading units—by leveraging more than ₹3.47 crore through CEF, CIF, and bank linkages

The federation's impact is not limited to livelihoods; it extends into family health, nutrition, and hygiene (FNHW). Behavioural change practices around sanitation, handwashing, safe drinking water, menstrual hygiene, and the 1,000-day maternal care window have gained momentum. Nutri-Gardens, covering over 399 acres across 40 villages, now supply diverse seasonal vegetables to households year-round, ushering in dietary improvements and reducing hidden hunger. The federation's collaboration with JJM, health departments, and community health initiatives has enhanced well-being across generations.

Another remarkable achievement of the Rashmi MCLF lies in gender sensitisation and social inclusion. Through awareness programmes, rallies, wall writings, miking, and pledges, the women have championed conversations around gender-based violence, rights, entitlements, and safety. The upcoming Gender Resource Centre (GRC) under BMMU

Rowta is expected to become a focal point for integrated support—legal, psychological, medical, and rehabilitative—for women and the marginalised.

Financial inclusion has been significantly strengthened through the efforts of BC Sakhis and Bank Sakhis. With more than 4,600 women enrolled under PMJJBY, nearly 5,900 under PMSBY, and 851 under APY, the CLF has ensured that financial safety nets reach the rural poor. The achievements of the BC Sakhis are particularly noteworthy—one topping Assam and another topping the country in transaction volume. Their doorstep services have made banking accessible, reduced travel costs, and built trust in formal financial systems.

The federation has also made major strides in PRI-CBO convergence, ensuring rural households receive benefits under government schemes. Households under the Rashmi MCLF have gained access to job cards, social security pensions, Ayushman cards, ration cards, Ujjwala connections, PMAY-G housing, and Arunodoi benefits. As women became aware of entitlements, their participation in community planning and governance deepened.

Through all these efforts, the Rashmi Model CLF has emerged as a powerful catalyst for rural transformation. It has been demonstrated that when women come together, supported by strong institutional structures and responsive systems, communities move collectively toward prosperity. The federation's work—ranging from mustard oil processing to sericulture, livestock to organic farming, gender sensitisation to social inclusion—reflects a comprehensive approach to development rooted in local realities and aspirations.

In a region marked by cultural diversity, ecological richness, and strong community bonds, the Rashmi MCLF has become a symbol of what women can achieve when given the space, skills, and solidarity to lead. It is not just a model CLF; it is a model of resilience, enterprise, and inclusive growth—a story that continues to inspire rural communities across Assam and beyond.

Town Official Language Implementation Committee – 2 meeting



Chairman, TOLIC-2, Officials and Hindi Officers / Translators of various member institute

The meeting of Town Official Language Implementation Committee -2 was held today at ICAR-NAARM under the aegis of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj under the chairmanship of Dr Jyotis Satyapalan, P&H, NIRDPR.

Dr J. Renuka, Joint Director (Official Language). Welcomed the Officers and staff of member institutions who attended the meeting. Addressing the gathering, Dr Gopal Lal, Executive Director of ICAR-NAARM, the organising institution, clarified that the absence of office heads from the Town Official Language Implementation Committee meetings is questionable. Mere data management cannot lead to active compliance. It would be a significant, progressive, and practical effort if we all, regardless of our designations, joined together to work for the Official Language.

Anirban Kumar Biswas, Deputy Director (Official Language), Regional Implementation Office, Bengaluru, reviewed the quarterly progress report online and underlined that violations of the Official Language Rules will result in administrative action. The Official Language Policy is no longer merely a policy of encouragement, but has become law.

Chairperson Dr Jyotis Satyapalan, P&H, NIRDPR, urged everyone to strictly adhere to the official language policies, rules, and standards established by the Government of India. It is now evident that national integration in India is being facilitated through the use of the Hindi language. Our culture is rich, and we should take pride in it. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from Anita Pandey, Member-Secretary.



Director ICAR-NAARM addressing the gathering



Chairman TOLIC-2 addressing the gathering

Mahila Coir Yojana: Weaving Women's Empowerment through the Golden Fibre

Ms. Harshita Harsha,
PGDM-RM,
NIRDPR



Photo Credit: <https://dmkk.org.in/skill-development/>

The coastal stretches of Kerala wake up each morning to the sound of coconut leaves rustling in the breeze—and the steady hum of motorised coir spinning units. In one such village workshop in Alappuzha district of Kerala, Lakshmi, a coir artisan, adjusts her spinning machine with quiet confidence. Until recently, she spun coir manually, earning just enough to meet basic needs. Today, with mechanised equipment and training support under the **Mahila Coir Yojana**, she produces thrice the yarn, earns more, and trains other women from her community.

Her story echoes across India's coconut-growing belts. The Mahila Coir Yojana, now in its third decade, continues to enable rural women to move from low-paid manual labour to skilled, dignified livelihoods.

A Sector Rooted in Women's Strength

Coir—often referred to as the golden fibre—is a strong, biodegradable

material that is globally recognised for its eco-friendly applications, ranging from ropes and mats to geotextiles. India is the largest producer of coir in the world, accounting for nearly 85 per cent of the total global production. The industry exports products to over 110 countries, making it a substantial contributor to the national economy.

Yet, what makes the coir sector remarkable is not just its market scale but the demographic that powers it. More than seven lakh workers earn their livelihoods from coir processing and production in India, and women form about eighty per cent of this workforce. These women, primarily from rural households in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, have carried this traditional craft through generations. Despite their critical role, their labour historically remained undervalued, marked by physically demanding work conditions and low, irregular incomes.

A Scheme Rooted in Empowerment

Launched in 1994 and implemented by the Coir Board under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), the Mahila Coir Yojana (MCY) was envisioned as a livelihood-based initiative for gender empowerment. At its core lies a clear and powerful idea: women need not remain mere manual labourers in the coir industry. With training, access to technology, and productive assets, they can become skilled artisans, producers, entrepreneurs, and even employers.

Women enrolled under the scheme undergo a structured two-month training programme conducted at Coir Board training centres across coir-growing regions. Unlike theoretical skill development models, the training is entirely hands-on. Women learn how to operate motorised spinning equipment, process fibre to quality standards required for domestic and export markets, and carry out basic equipment maintenance. Importantly, they receive a monthly stipend during training. This financial support ensures that the cost of learning does not come at the expense of livelihood.

Upon completion, women are eligible to obtain motorised ratt spinning equipment at a highly subsidised rate. The difference this makes is immense. Mechanisation not only reduces physical strain, enabling women to work in safer and more humane conditions, but also significantly increases their daily output and earnings. More importantly, the machine becomes a productive asset that they own, giving them the autonomy to work from home, join cooperatives, or start micro-enterprises.

A Ripple of Economic and Social Transformation

The effects of the Mahila Coir Yojana extend far beyond increases in productivity. The shift from being wage-dependent labourers to asset-owning producers transforms

women's economic agency. In many households, this marks the first time a woman holds ownership of income-generating equipment. The pride associated with this is not merely symbolic; it influences household decision-making, gender relations, and social perceptions of women's work.

As incomes improve, women report better access to healthcare and nutrition, greater ability to support their children's education, and reduced vulnerability to debt cycles. In several villages, trained women have formed production groups, established small-scale coir workshops, and even developed market linkages through cooperatives or self-help group networks. With support from the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, some have transitioned from artisanal production to entrepreneurship, employing other women in their community. This demonstrates how livelihood interventions, when supported with enterprise linkages, can generate cascading employment benefits.

Recognising the Challenges that Remain

Despite its successes, the scheme operates within a broader industry landscape that continues to present challenges. Wages in the coir sector remain low in many regions, and market linkages are often mediated through intermediaries, reducing the share of profit available to artisans. Some trained women struggle to access consistent raw material supply, especially in areas where retting processes have declined due to environmental regulations. Delayed payments from cooperatives disrupt income flows, forcing women to seek alternative wage labour intermittently. Many production centres still lack childcare facilities, restricting the participation of young mothers. Although women dominate the workforce, leadership roles in

cooperatives and producer societies continue to be overwhelmingly held by men.

These challenges highlight an important lesson: skill development alone is not enough. Sustainable livelihood transformation requires integrated support systems, including market access, fair pricing, leadership representation, social security, and supportive infrastructure. The Mahila Coir Yojana provides a strong foundation—but the next phase of progress lies in deepening the ecosystem that surrounds it.

The Promise of a Greener Future

The global shift toward sustainable and eco-friendly products presents an important opportunity for India's coir sector. Coir is a naturally biodegradable and renewable material, offering environmentally responsible alternatives to synthetic materials in packaging, horticulture, construction, and home furnishings. International demand for coir-based geotextiles and soil conditioners continues to increase. This is a moment where women artisans, with training and strengthened market linkages, can significantly expand their reach into high-value product segments.

With targeted interventions such as cluster-based production hubs, women-led producer companies, enhanced entrepreneurship training, and direct market linkages, including digital platforms and government procurement, the coir sector can evolve into a model of sustainable, women-led rural enterprise.

Conclusion: Weaving Futures with Dignity

As India advances toward the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, strengthening

women's economic participation is not merely desirable, it is essential. The Mahila Coir Yojana demonstrates how livelihood support rooted in local skills can serve as a catalyst for broader social and economic transformation. It does not impose a new occupation on women; instead, it dignifies, modernises, and empowers a traditional one that rural women have practised for generations.

However, the next chapter of this journey lies in deeper institutional strengthening. Integrating the scheme more systematically with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and women-led producer collectives can expand its reach and impact. SHGs already provide trusted platforms for mobilising women, rotating savings, supporting enterprise risks, and fostering confidence. If SHGs become the primary channel for identifying beneficiaries, managing shared machinery, organising production clusters, and negotiating markets collectively, women can gain stronger bargaining power, reduce dependence on mediators, and ensure fairer distribution of earnings.

When women own productive assets together, learn together, produce together, and market together, the shift is not only economic—it is deeply social. It transforms how women see themselves and how communities recognise their value. It builds leadership pathways, preparing women not just to participate in cooperatives or producer companies, but to lead them.

NIRDPR Observes Vigilance Awareness Week 2025



The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, observed Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 with the administration of the Integrity Pledge on 27th October 2025 in front of Dr B. R. Ambedkar Block.

Dr. Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor and Chief Vigilance Officer, introduced the theme for this year – “Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility.” He read out the message of the Hon’ble President of India, who reminded that the fight against corruption is a shared duty of all citizens and urged everyone to uphold ethics, honesty, and accountability in every aspect of life.

Shri Manoj Kumar, Registrar and Director (Administration), read out the message of the Hon’ble Prime Minister

of India, which highlighted that transparency and accountability are essential for sustainable national growth. He emphasised that ethical conduct strengthens democracy and that active citizen participation is vital for building a trustworthy and inclusive society.

Following this, Dr G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR, administered the Integrity Pledge to officers and staff. The gathering reaffirmed its commitment to uphold the values of integrity, transparency, and ethical governance. The observance set a thoughtful tone for the week, encouraging everyone to contribute to a corruption-free and responsible public service environment.

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
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COVER PAGE DESIGN: V G BHAT

PUBLISHED BY:
JYOTHIS SATHYAPALAN, PROFESSOR AND HEAD, CPGS & DE
ON BEHALF OF NIRDPR, RAJENDRANAGAR,
HYDERABAD- 500 030



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