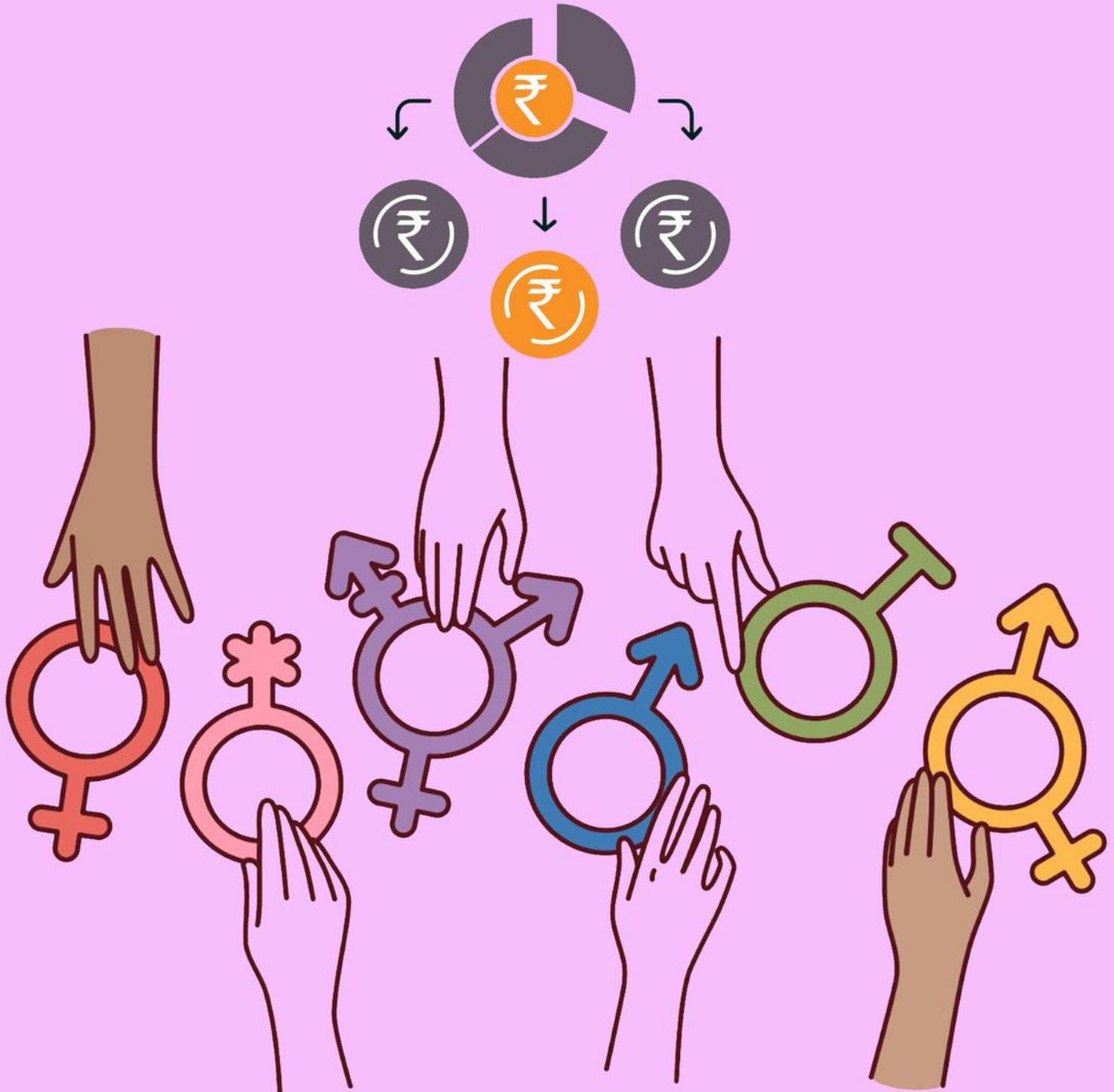


PRAGATI NEWSLETTER



**Gender Responsive Budgeting :
A Retrospective Lens**

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UBA Progress Card- DAY-NRLM in a Global Lens: India's Unmatched Model of Women's Collective Power

Gender Responsive Budgeting: A Retrospective Lens

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Picture a town that proudly announces a new sanitation project. The municipality builds dozens of public toilets under a government scheme. The report looks impressive: funds spent, toilets constructed, targets achieved. Now imagine the first morning after they open. A woman approaches the toilet block but hesitates. The entrance is poorly lit, and there is no proper door latch. For her, safety and privacy matter more than the mere existence of a toilet. A transgender person walks toward the same facility. The signboards read only “Men” and “Women.” Entering either side invites stares, harassment, or even confrontation. The infrastructure exists, but socially it excludes them. A mother arrives with a young child. There is no space to assist the child, no water for washing, and no disposal system for menstrual products. The toilet technically serves the public, yet it ignores the realities of care work and bodily needs. Engineers might say the sanitation target is complete. But from a social perspective, the system is incomplete because it was designed under the assumption that everyone uses public space the same way.

This is where **Gender Responsive Budgeting** becomes relevant in sanitation planning. Instead of simply asking “How many toilets can we build?” it pushes policymakers to ask deeper questions: Who feels safe using this facility? Who might be excluded by its design? How will women, men, transgender people, elderly users, and children experience the space differently?

Suppose these questions guide the budgeting stage; the outcome changes. Funds might include provisions for gender-neutral toilets, better lighting, menstrual hygiene disposal units, accessible designs, and privacy features. The budget may not dramatically increase, but the infrastructure becomes genuinely inclusive.

According to a UN Women Report, current economic models and budgets can lead to fiscal policies and budgets that are biased. By failing to consider women’s needs, budgets can have unintended negative consequences. For example, according to recent surveys, the global value of unpaid care and domestic work for women aged 15 and over stands at around \$10.8 trillion annually – three times the size of the world’s tech industry. But when gender gaps are brought to the surface, governments can target available resources to address gender inequalities and support sustainable, inclusive development for all. Gender-responsive budgets foster a sense of justice, strengthen government accountability, and better align national budgets with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to gender-responsive budgeting, but we know what works.

What is Gender Responsive Budgeting?

Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) is a strategy that promotes gender equity by allocating specific



budgets to both women and men beneficiaries in projects/programmes. The purpose of GRB is to promote accountability and transparency in fiscal planning; increase gender-responsive participation in the budget process; and advance the gender equity agenda.

A Non Biasment Look

Achieving gender equity in developmental or service delivery programmes requires intentional measures to incorporate a gender perspective into planning and budgeting frameworks, and concrete investments to address gender gaps. In GRB, we do not create separate budgets for women or increase spending on women-focused interventions or activities. Rather, GRB seeks to ensure that the collection and allocation of resources are carried out effectively and advance gender equity. It should be based on in-depth analysis that identifies effective interventions that advance women's rights. GRB can be applied to any budget system at all levels. This tool highlights different approaches to make our programme budgeting more gender-responsive. It has been adapted from the Handbook on costing gender equality, published by UN Women, and from Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Asia and the

Pacific: Key Concepts and Good Practices, published by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

Preparation of Gender Responsive Budgeting

The budgeting process involves the following three approaches: Gender analysis, Gender-disaggregated data and indicators for budgeting, and Costing for gender equity.

Gender Analysis: A Need Base Assessment

Gender analysis is an important first step to identify existing gender gaps in any ongoing and planned programmes in the project area. This process provides key information and data to inform better strategies and to develop programmes that are responsive to the differentiated needs of men and women, thereby helping to reduce gender inequity. The objective of this step is to assess the situation of women and men and understand their different needs and priorities within the sector. It also helps to understand how we can address the existing inequities between men and women through various programmatic interventions.

Step 1	Analyse the situation of women and men, girls and boys in the project area
Step 2	Assess gender responsiveness and gaps of any on-going projects/programmes being implemented in the area either by the government, non-profit or private sector organisations
Step 3	If the information is available, assess the adequacy of budget allocations or money being spent to implement the on-going programmes as in step 2
Step 4	Assess whether the money is being spent as planned, what services are being delivered and to whom
Step 5	Assess the impact of the existing intervention/programme and the extent to which the situation in step 1 has changed

In the Indian context, GRB formally took institutional form in 2005–06, when the Ministry of Finance introduced the Gender Budget Statement as part of the Union Budget process. This mechanism attempts to analyse and report how government expenditures affect different genders. Since then, multiple ministries—particularly the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Rural Development—have incorporated gender considerations into policy planning and budget allocation. The framework broadly classifies expenditures into schemes exclusively targeted at women and those in which a substantial portion of benefits reaches them.

India's approach to GRB is closely linked with its development programmes. Large-scale initiatives such as the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission have created nationwide networks of women's self-help groups, strengthening financial inclusion and collective decision-making. Similarly, employment programmes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act have ensured equal wages and increased women's participation in rural labour markets. Infrastructure and welfare schemes—ranging from housing under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin to clean energy access through Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana—have also been framed to address gendered realities such as property ownership, health risks, and unpaid labour burdens.

Despite these institutional efforts, the practical outcomes of gender budgeting remain uneven. A recurring challenge is that many schemes are included in the Gender Budget Statement primarily through expenditure classification rather than through systematic assessment of gendered outcomes. As a result, the focus often remains on reporting allocations rather than on evaluating whether these

expenditures meaningfully alter access to resources, decision-making power, or economic opportunities. Additionally, the lack of robust gender-disaggregated data at the local level makes it difficult to assess how effectively these policies address diverse realities across rural and urban contexts.

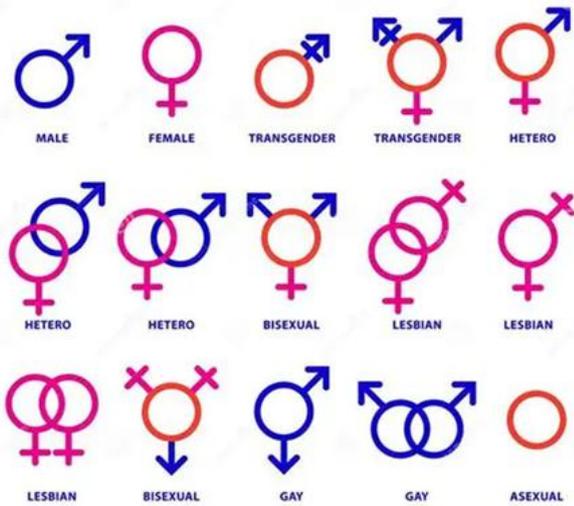
Conclusion

Gender Responsive Budgeting in India has moved beyond rhetoric and entered institutional practice. The inclusion of a Gender Budget Statement in the Union Budget, the scaling of livelihood missions, employment guarantees, housing entitlements, and financial inclusion programmes reflects a formal commitment to equity. However, the deeper question is whether this commitment has fundamentally altered power structures or merely adjusted expenditure categories.

In many cases, gender budgeting continues to function as a classificatory exercise rather than a transformative one. Allocations are tagged, percentages are reported, but outcome-based accountability remains weak. Structural issues—such as unpaid care burdens, unequal asset ownership, intersectional disadvantages across caste and class, and limited decision-making authority—are only partially addressed. When budgets prioritise visibility over impact, inclusion risks becoming administrative tokenism.

True gender-responsive budgeting is not about earmarking funds for a category; it is about redesigning public expenditure so that every rupee consciously reduces structural inequality. In a country as diverse and stratified as India, equity cannot be achieved through isolated schemes. It requires integrated planning, gender-disaggregated data at the local level, convergence across ministries, and measurable shifts in capabilities, productivity, and agency.

Until budgeting shifts from allocation-centric reporting to outcome-centric transformation, gender responsiveness will remain procedural rather than structural. The challenge before India is not whether it budgets for gender, but whether it budgets for justice.



The image visually represents the diversity and complexity of gender identities that exist in society today. While traditional social structures have largely recognised only two categories—male and female—the image expands this understanding by displaying multiple gender identities and expressions through different symbols. It illustrates identities such as transgender, genderqueer, agender, bigender, and genderfluid, among others, reflecting the idea that gender is not always limited to a fixed binary but can exist along a spectrum shaped by social, cultural, and personal experiences.

In the context of gender responsive budgeting, such a representation serves as an important reminder that public policies and budgetary decisions should not assume a uniform population with identical needs.

Individuals with diverse gender identities often face barriers to accessing public services such as healthcare, sanitation, housing, education, and employment. When budgets are planned without recognising this diversity, certain groups may remain invisible in policy frameworks and development programmes.

In India, the recognition of a “third gender” through the landmark judgment of National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India marked a significant step toward acknowledging gender diversity within governance structures. This recognition was further supported by legislative measures such as the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, which aims to safeguard the rights and welfare of transgender persons. However, translating such recognition into practical policy action requires inclusive planning, especially in public budgeting processes.

Therefore, the image symbolically reinforces the need for gender responsive budgeting to go beyond a narrow focus and consider the diverse realities of all gender groups. By acknowledging this spectrum, policymakers can ensure that development initiatives and public expenditures promote inclusivity, dignity, and equitable access to resources for every individual in society.

Sources: [Gender-Responsive-Budgeting-Tool.pdf](#)
[What is gender-responsive budgeting? | UN Women - Headquarters](#)



Exposure Visit to the Best Practices of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in Telangana



Dr. Sonal Mobar Roy, Assistant Professor, CWEL, with participants of Exposure Visit on Best Practices of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in Telangana organised by NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

As part of its continued efforts to strengthen field-level learning and cross-state knowledge exchange, the Centre for Wage Employment and Livelihoods (CWEL), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), organised a three-day Exposure Visit to the Best Practices of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in Telangana from 25 to 27 February 2026.

The exposure visit enabled participants to directly observe successful implementation models and innovative practices adopted in Telangana under MGNREGS. Field visits were organised to selected Gram Panchayats and project sites where participants examined natural resource management works, water conservation structures, land development initiatives, and durable community assets created through the programme.

Special focus was placed on participatory planning processes, convergence with other rural development schemes, use of digital monitoring systems, and institutional mechanisms that ensure transparency and accountability. Interactions with local officials, field staff, and community representatives provided deeper insights into effective supervision, quality control, and timely wage disbursement practices.

The programme served as an important platform for experiential learning, allowing participants to understand replicable models and adapt proven strategies in their respective States. The exposure visit reaffirmed NIRDPR's role in facilitating capacity building and promoting best practices to enhance the impact of wage employment and livelihood programmes across the country.

Training of Trainers on LokOS Application for Resource Persons



Dr Vanishree Joseph, Assistant Professor & Head (i/c), CGSD and Director, NRLM-RC, NIRDPR, with participants of ToT on the LokOS Application

The DAY-NRLM Resource Cell, National Institute of Rural Rural Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on the LokOS Application for Resource Persons from 02 to 10 February 2026 at the Institute campus. The training programme aimed to strengthen the capacities of resource persons involved in the implementation of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) by equipping them with practical knowledge and skills to effectively use the LokOS digital platform. The programme brought together resource persons from various regions who play a key role in supporting field-level implementation, monitoring, and reporting of NRLM activities.

During the programme, participants were introduced to the features and functionalities of the LokOS application, including data entry, monitoring of Self-Help Group (SHG) activities, tracking of livelihood interventions, and management of

programme-related information. The sessions focused on enhancing participants' understanding of digital tools for efficient programme management, transparency, and real-time data-based decision-making. The training included practical demonstrations, interactive sessions, and hands-on exercises that enabled participants to gain familiarity with the application and understand its role in strengthening the monitoring and implementation framework of DAY-NRLM initiatives. Participants also shared field-level experiences and discussed strategies for improving data accuracy, reporting systems, and coordination among different stakeholders.

The programme concluded with participants gaining improved technical skills and confidence to serve as trainers and support functionaries in promoting the effective use of the LokOS platform for better programme management and strengthening the implementation of rural livelihood initiatives.

International Training Programme for Sri Lankan Local Government Representatives



Participants of the International Training Programme for Local Government Representatives from Sri Lanka with Dr Vanishree Joseph, Assistant Professor & Head (i/c), CGSD and Director, NRLM-RC, and Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor & Head, CPRDP & SSD, NIRDPR, Hyderabad

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, organised an International Training Programme for Local Government Representatives and Members of the Ceylon Workers' Congress, Sri Lanka, from 19 to 29 January 2026. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor and Head, Centre for Panchayati Raj, Decentralised Planning & Social Service Delivery (CPRDP & SSD), NIRDPR, who served as the Course Director. The training brought together 20 elected representatives from Sri Lanka, including the Deputy Mayor of Nuwara Eliya, with the objective of strengthening institutional capacities in decentralised governance, participatory planning, and inclusive rural development.

The programme commenced with an inaugural session attended by dignitaries including representatives of the High

Commission of India to Sri Lanka, NIRDPR faculty members, and Shri Sushil Kumar Lohani, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India. In his address, Shri Lohani highlighted the evolution of Panchayati Raj institutions in India and emphasized the role of women's leadership and participatory governance in strengthening grassroots democracy. Classroom sessions during the programme covered topics such as economic survey methods for assessing primary healthcare, localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through decentralised planning, and the status of primary education in Telangana, along with discussions on governance frameworks and service delivery mechanisms.



Field exposure visits formed a major component of the training. Participants visited Toopran Mandal Panchayat in Medak district and Malkapur Village Panchayat, where they interacted with officials to understand administrative structures, financial management systems, and implementation of welfare programmes. They also learned about key development initiatives and government schemes including Cheyutha Pensions, Gruha Jyothi, Indiramma Indlu, Rythu Bharosa, Mission Bhagiratha, and Kalyana Lakshmi, which contribute to social welfare and inclusive development at the grassroots level.



The delegation further visited Orvakal Mandal in Kurnool district to study women's economic empowerment initiatives. Interactions with members of the Podupu Lakshmi Ikyu Sangam and visits to women-led brick manufacturing units highlighted the role of collective institutions in promoting entrepreneurship, financial independence, and leadership among rural women. Participants also heard inspiring success stories of women who transformed their livelihoods through collective action and sustained efforts.



Another important exposure visit was organised to the Mulkanoor Cooperative Rural Credit and Marketing Society, where participants gained insights into cooperative models of rural credit, agricultural marketing, rice milling, cotton processing, and women-led dairy enterprises. The delegation also visited the Fruit Research Station of Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticulture University, interacting with scientists and observing field-based research on fruit crops, sustainable horticulture practices, and innovations aimed at improving farmers' productivity and income.



The participants also visited StreeNidhi Credit Cooperative Society under the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) to understand technology-enabled financial services supporting women's Self-Help Groups. Cultural and

experiential learning activities included visits to Charminar in Hyderabad and exposure visits to Ooty in Tamil Nadu, where participants explored the Botanical Garden, organic farming units, and the Urban Primary Health Centre to understand biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, and community-based healthcare delivery systems.

On the concluding day, participants presented group reflections summarising key learnings from classroom sessions and field visits.

During the valedictory session, Dr. Pranab Kumar Ghose, Assistant Registrar, NIRDPR, appreciated the active participation of the Sri Lankan delegation and encouraged them to apply the insights gained to strengthen local governance and development initiatives in their respective regions. Certificates were distributed to all participants, marking the successful completion of the programme and reinforcing cooperation between India and Sri Lanka in the field of local governance and rural development.



Induction Training Programme for Newly Recruited Staff of Chhattisgarh SRLM held at NIRDPR



Participants of the Induction Training Programme for newly recruited staff of Chhattisgarh SRLM with Dr Vanishree Joseph, Assistant Professor & Head (i/c), CGSD and Director, NRLM-RC, NIRDPR posing for a photo

The DAY-NRLM Resource Cell of the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, organised an Induction Training Programme for the newly recruited staff of Chhattisgarh State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) from 02 February to 06 February 2026 at the Institute campus.

The five-day programme was designed to familiarise the participants with the vision, objectives, and implementation framework of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). It aimed to equip the newly inducted staff with conceptual clarity, operational knowledge, and practical skills required for effective field-level implementation and institutional strengthening.

The training covered a wide range of thematic areas, including the institutional architecture of SRLMs, social mobilisation and formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), capacity building of community institutions, financial inclusion, livelihood promotion, convergence strategies, and monitoring mechanisms. Special emphasis was laid on understanding

the role of field functionaries in nurturing community-based organisations such as Village Organisations (VOs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs).

Interactive sessions, group exercises, case discussions, and experience-sharing enriched the learning process. Faculty members and resource persons highlighted best practices from different States and discussed practical challenges encountered in field implementation. The participants were also oriented on digital platforms, reporting systems, and accountability frameworks that support transparent and efficient programme delivery.

The programme provided a platform for the newly recruited staff to clarify their roles and responsibilities, strengthen their understanding of community-driven development approaches, and build a shared vision for advancing rural livelihoods in Chhattisgarh. They reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen grassroots institutions, promote inclusive livelihood opportunities, and ensure impactful implementation of DAY-NRLM initiatives across Chhattisgarh.

Strengthening Gender Resource Centres through ToT on Case Management and Legal Literacy



Participants of the ToT on GRC Strengthening, Case Management, and Legal Literacy under DAY-NRLM posing for a group photograph

With a focus on enhancing gender-responsive service delivery under DAY-NRLM, the DAY-NRLM Resource Cell of the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) on GRC Strengthening, Case Management and Legal Literacy from 02 to 06 February 2026 at its campus.

The five-day programme brought together State and district-level functionaries and Resource Persons associated with Gender Resource Centres (GRCs) to deepen their understanding of institutional mechanisms, case handling procedures, and legal frameworks supporting women's rights and protection. The training aimed to strengthen the operational efficiency of GRCs and enhance their role as support systems for women facing social, economic, and legal challenges.

Detailed sessions were conducted on the structure and functioning of GRCs, standard operating procedures for case registration and documentation, referral pathways, and convergence with key stakeholders such as police departments, legal services authorities, protection officers, and

other line departments. Emphasis was placed on adopting a survivor-centric, confidential, and time-bound approach to case management.

The legal literacy component covered important legislation related to domestic violence, child marriage, sexual harassment at the workplace, trafficking, and women's property and inheritance rights. Resource persons highlighted practical field experiences, common implementation challenges, and effective strategies adopted across States to strengthen response systems.

Through interactive discussions, group activities, role plays, and case study analysis, participants gained hands-on exposure to counselling techniques, record maintenance, follow-up mechanisms, and community mobilisation strategies. The programme also underscored the importance of awareness generation and institutional convergence in promoting gender equity and justice at the grassroots level.

The training concluded with participants expressing their commitment to reinforcing GRC functions, improving case management systems, and advancing legal literacy initiatives to ensure safer and more inclusive rural communities under DAY-NRLM.

Training Programme on Appropriate Housing Technology – CSEB Mud Block Making



Dr C. Kathiresan, Associate Professor & Head, CIAT&SJ; Dr S. Ramesh Sakthivel, Associate Professor & Head, CSR & PPP; and Mr Mohammad Khan, Senior Consultant, RTP, with participants during the Training Programme on Appropriate Housing Technology – CSEB Mud Block Making

To promote sustainable and cost-effective housing solutions in rural areas, the Centre for Innovations and Appropriate Technologies for Skills and Jobs (CIAT&SJ), NIRDPR, organised a three-day Training Programme on Appropriate Housing Technology – CSEB Mud Block Making from 11 to 13 February 2026 at the Rural Technology Park, Hyderabad. The programme was conducted for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) under the Lakhpati Didi Initiative.

The training programme focused on building technical competencies in Compressed Stabilized Earth Block (CSEB) technology, an eco-friendly and cost-effective alternative to conventional building materials. Participants received comprehensive exposure to various aspects of mud block production, including soil identification and testing, preparation of the soil mix, stabilisation techniques, operation of block-making machinery, curing processes, quality assurance standards, and basic construction methods.

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Compressed Stabilised Earth Block (CSEB) technology is an eco-friendly and cost-effective alternative to conventional building materials. Participants received comprehensive exposure to various aspects of mud block production, including soil identification and testing, preparation of the soil mix, stabilisation techniques, operation of block-making machinery, curing processes, quality assurance standards, and basic construction methods.

Through structured technical sessions and extensive hands-on practice, participants gained practical insights into setting up small-scale production units and exploring enterprise opportunities in sustainable housing materials. Demonstrations highlighted the environmental and economic advantages of CSEB technology, such as reduced carbon footprint, lower construction costs, durability, and improved thermal comfort in buildings.

Interactive discussions and experience-sharing sessions enabled participants to explore avenues for integrating CSEB-based enterprises with ongoing rural housing and livelihood initiatives.

DoLR Sponsored Training Programme on Use of GIS and Remote Sensing Technology under PMKSY 3.0



Participants of the four-day Training Programme for National Level Master Trainers (NLMTs) of Empanelled Agencies with Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja,

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, organised a three-day DoLR-sponsored Training Programme on “Use of GIS and Remote Sensing Technology in Preparation of DPRs under PMKSY 3.0 and Real-time Monitoring of Scheme Implementation” from 25 to 27 February 2026 at its campus.

The programme aimed to strengthen the technical capacities of officials engaged in watershed development and natural resource management under PMKSY 3.0. Participants included engineers, project officers, GIS specialists, and field-level functionaries from various States involved in planning and implementation of watershed projects.

The training focused on the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing technologies for scientific planning, preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and evidence-based decision-making. Sessions covered spatial data collection and analysis, satellite imagery interpretation,

watershed delineation, thematic mapping, geo-tagging of assets, and integration of field data with digital platforms.

Special emphasis was placed on real-time monitoring of project implementation using geospatial tools, digital dashboards, and mobile-based applications to enhance transparency, accountability, and timely reporting. Hands-on exercises enabled participants to work with GIS software, develop maps, and understand data-driven planning approaches for sustainable watershed development.

The programme provided a valuable platform for technical learning and peer interaction, equipping participants with practical skills to improve the quality of DPR preparation and strengthen monitoring systems under PMKSY 3.0. The initiative reaffirmed NIRDPR’s commitment to promoting technology-enabled governance and enhancing the effectiveness of rural development programmes.

Training Programme on Handmade Paper Production & Value Addition under Lakhpati Didi Initiative



Dr. C. Kathiresan, Associate Professor & Head, CIAT&SJ, and Mr. Mohammad Khan, Senior Consultant, RTP, interacting with participants of Training Programme on Handmade Paper Production & Conversion into Value-Added Products

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, through its Centre for Innovations and Appropriate Technologies for Skills and Jobs (CIAT&SJ), organised a five-day Training Programme on “Handmade Paper Production & Conversion into Value-Added Products” from 09 to 13 February 2026 at the Rural Technology Park, Hyderabad. The programme was conducted under the Lakhpati Didi Initiative with the objective of enhancing livelihood opportunities for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Community Resource Persons (CRPs).

The training focused on imparting practical skills in handmade paper production using eco-friendly and locally available raw materials. Participants were provided hands-on exposure to the complete production cycle, including pulp preparation, sheet formation, pressing, drying, finishing, and quality control techniques. Emphasis was placed on sustainable practices, cost-effective

production methods, and efficient utilisation of resources.

In addition to paper making, the programme covered conversion of handmade sheets into value-added products such as stationery items, decorative articles, gift materials, and packaging products. Sessions also addressed basic aspects of entrepreneurship development, branding, pricing, marketing strategies, and exploring local market linkages to promote micro-enterprises.

The interactive and practice-oriented approach enabled participants to build confidence in establishing small-scale production units and generating income through sustainable enterprise models. The programme reinforced NIRDPR’s commitment to promoting green livelihoods, skill development, and economic empowerment of rural women under national livelihood initiatives.

Training Programme on Convergence of PMKSY 2.0 with Mahatma Gandhi NREGS



Dr Jyothis Sathyapalan, Professor & Head, CPGS & DE, and Dr Nithya V. G., Assistant Professor, CAS, addressing participants during the Training Programme on Convergence of PMKSY 2.0 with Mahatma Gandhi NREGS

The Centre for Agrarian Studies, National Institute of Rural Development, through its Centre for Agrarian Studies, organised a five-day Training Programme on “Convergence of PMKSY 2.0 with Mahatma Gandhi NREGS” from 23 to 27 February 2026. The programme was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

The programme was designed to strengthen institutional capacities for effective convergence between Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY 2.0) and Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, with a focus on integrated watershed management, sustainable natural resource development, and improved livelihood outcomes. Officials from various States participated in the training, representing departments associated with rural development, watershed programmes, and employment guarantee schemes.

The sessions covered key aspects of convergence planning, technical and

administrative coordination, preparation of integrated action plans, resource optimisation, and monitoring mechanisms. Emphasis was laid on aligning watershed development interventions with wage employment activities under MGNREGS to ensure durable asset creation, improved water conservation, soil health management, and enhanced agricultural productivity.

The programme featured expert lectures, thematic presentations, interactive discussions, and experience-sharing sessions that enabled participants to exchange field-level insights and best practices. Case studies highlighting successful convergence models were also discussed to facilitate replication across States.

The training programme contributed to strengthening collaborative planning and promoting sustainable and inclusive rural transformation through effective convergence of flagship schemes.

ToT Programme on Empowering Women Leaders in Local Governance



Dr A. K. Bhanja, Associate Professor & Head, CPRDP&SSD, with participants during the ToT Programme on “Championing Change: Empowering Women Leaders in Local Governance”

The School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on “Championing Change: Empowering Women Leaders in Local Governance” from 16 to 19 February 2026. The programme aimed to strengthen the leadership capacities of Women Elected Representatives (WERs) and enhance their ability to effectively participate in Panchayati Raj governance.

Despite constitutional reservations for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions, many women leaders continue to face social and institutional challenges that limit their active participation. The programme, organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, sought to bridge this gap by enhancing leadership, communication, and facilitation skills while deepening participants’ understanding of governance structures and constitutional provisions.

The training was conducted in two phases. The first phase included technical sessions on adult learning methods, training design, gender concepts, and the significance of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, which expanded opportunities for women’s participation in grassroots

governance. Activities such as the Micro Lab exercise encouraged reflection, collaboration, and active learning among participants.

The second phase focused on practical learning through self-facilitated sessions, where participants worked in groups to present modules on topics such as gender roles, responsibilities of elected representatives, and Gram Sabha procedures. Interactive exercises, including the “Power Walk” activity, helped participants understand issues of inequality and social positioning, while sessions on leadership and communication highlighted the importance of trust-building, negotiation, and inclusive decision-making in local governance.

The programme concluded with a valedictory session, during which Dr A.K. Bhanja, Associate Professor and Head, CPRDP&SSD, NIRDPR, emphasised the importance of dedicated and transparent leadership in Panchayati Raj institutions. Participants shared that the programme significantly strengthened their confidence and leadership clarity. Certificates were distributed to mark the successful completion of the training, which was coordinated by Dr Deeksha, Assistant Professor, SoEPR, along with Ms Ashalatha and Ms Vidyullatha, Consultants at SoEPR.

BDO Leadership Programme on Saturation of RD Programmes



Participants of the programme BDO Leadership for Bringing Saturation of RD Programmes: Building Prosperous Blocks with Dr R. Aruna Jayamani, Assistant Professor, CGG&PA

The National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, organised a capacity-building programme titled “BDO Leadership for Bringing Saturation in RD Programmes: Building Prosperous Blocks” from 2 to 7, February 2026 at its campus in Rajendranagar.

The programme was designed to strengthen the leadership, planning, and convergence capacities of Block Development Officers (BDOs) in achieving saturation of key Rural Development (RD) programmes. It focused on equipping participants with strategies to ensure comprehensive coverage of eligible beneficiaries and effective implementation of flagship schemes at the block level.

During the six-day programme, sessions were conducted on saturation planning, data-driven decision-making, convergence of schemes, community engagement, monitoring frameworks, and outcome-based implementation. Faculty members and domain experts highlighted the critical role of BDOs in coordinating line departments,

mobilising Gram Panchayats, and ensuring last-mile delivery of services.

The programme emphasised integrated planning approaches to maximise the impact of schemes related to livelihoods, housing, sanitation, social protection, infrastructure, and natural resource management. Case studies and best practices from various States were discussed to demonstrate successful models of saturation and holistic rural transformation.

Interactive discussions, group exercises, and experience-sharing sessions enabled participants to reflect on field-level challenges and identify practical solutions for improving efficiency and accountability. The training underscored the importance of proactive leadership, timely monitoring, and effective convergence to build prosperous and self-reliant blocks.

The programme concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to strengthening block-level governance and accelerating the achievement of saturation in Rural Development programmes for inclusive and sustainable growth.

Writership-cum-Workshop on Use of AI, Blockchain and Advanced Technologies in Watershed Projects under WDC-PMKSY 2.0



Participants posing for a group photograph with Dr. Ravindra S. Gavali, Professor & Head, CNRM, CC & DM, and Dr. P. Kesava Rao, Associate Professor & Head, CGARD & CRTCN, during the Writership-cum-Workshop on the Use of AI, Blockchain and Advanced Technologies in Watershed Projects under WDC-PMKSY

The Centre for Good Governance & Policy Analysis (CGG&PA), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), organised a two-day Writership-cum-Workshop on the “Use of AI, Blockchain and other Advanced Technologies in the Implementation of Watershed Projects under WDC-PMKSY 2.0” on 26–27 February 2026 at the Institute campus.

The programme aimed to explore the integration of emerging technologies into watershed planning, monitoring, and evaluation frameworks. It brought together officials, domain experts, researchers, and practitioners engaged in watershed development and natural resource management initiatives.

The workshop deliberated on the potential applications of Artificial Intelligence for predictive analysis, geospatial mapping, and decision-

support systems in watershed projects. Sessions on blockchain technology focused on enhancing transparency, traceability, and accountability in fund flow management and asset tracking. Discussions also covered the use of remote sensing, GIS tools, data analytics, and digital dashboards for real-time monitoring and evidence-based planning.

Through technical presentations, thematic discussions, and collaborative writing sessions, participants examined practical pathways for mainstreaming advanced technologies within the WDC-PMKSY 2.0 framework. The writership component enabled participants to document policy insights, implementation challenges, and scalable models for wider dissemination.

The programme underscored the importance of technology-driven governance in strengthening watershed outcomes, improving resource efficiency, and ensuring sustainable rural development.

National Workshop on Strengthening Implementation of the PESA Act



Participants of the National Level Workshop on Strengthening Implementation of the PESA Act posing for a group photograph

The School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India, organised a National Level Workshop on “Strengthening Implementation of the PESA Act through State Experiences and Development of National Level Master Trainers” from 16 to 18 February 2026 at the Institute campus. The workshop brought together representatives from state governments, practitioners from tribal regions, civil society organisations, and subject experts to deliberate on strengthening grassroots governance in Scheduled Areas.

The deliberations highlighted that the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) is not merely a statutory framework but a transformative constitutional instrument aimed at empowering Gram Sabhas as the core decision-making institutions in tribal areas. Experts emphasised that tribal communities must be enabled to determine their own developmental priorities in accordance with their cultural traditions and local

governance practices. Discussions also revisited the historical evolution of PESA as an extension of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment to Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule, reinforcing its distinct constitutional mandate.

The workshop examined key provisions of Section 4 of the PESA Act, including the ownership of Minor Forest Produce (MFP), consultation and consent in land acquisition, control over minor minerals, regulation of money lending, and recognition of customary dispute-resolution systems. Participants underscored that these provisions are central to strengthening community-led governance and ensuring that development processes remain aligned with local traditions and institutions. The discussions also emphasised that Gram Sabhas under PESA should function as sovereign decision-making bodies, supported by community-based committees, participatory monitoring mechanisms, and institutional convergence across government departments.



Experiences from tribal regions enriched the deliberations. Case studies from Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh illustrated the continued relevance of customary dispute resolution practices led by traditional institutions. Experiences from Devichapada in Raigad district (Maharashtra) and Navapada in Madhya Pradesh demonstrated how awareness of PESA provisions enabled communities to assert their rights over local resources and participate actively in governance. Similarly, the example of Ghatkawali village in Bastar, Chhattisgarh highlighted strengthened local governance through Gram Sabha committees, greater participation of women, and improved management of community resources.

State representatives shared progress in aligning their legal frameworks with the central PESA Act. States such as Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have amended their Panchayati Raj Acts and notified PESA Rules, while Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh have introduced provisions requiring Gram Sabha consultation in matters related to natural resources and development schemes. States also highlighted initiatives such as formation of Gram Sabha standing committees, institutionalisation of social audits,

transparent mineral auction systems, and recognition of traditional dispute-resolution mechanisms.

The workshop also underscored the importance of capacity building for effective PESA implementation. Participants discussed the creation of master trainer networks at the state, district, and block levels, along with the development of training modules in local languages to enhance accessibility and awareness among elected representatives, officials, and community members. At the same time, discussions acknowledged key challenges such as limited awareness among frontline officials, gaps in departmental convergence, staffing constraints, and evolving monitoring mechanisms for Gram Sabha decisions.

The workshop concluded with a collective commitment to strengthening training frameworks, promoting institutional convergence, and empowering Gram Sabhas to exercise their constitutional mandate effectively. Participants emphasised that translating the intent of the PESA Act into meaningful grassroots action will be critical for advancing community-led development, democratic decentralisation, and inclusive governance in Scheduled Areas.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
(Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT-Rural Management (PGDM-RM) 2026-28 BATCH-9
Approved by AICTE

TWO YEARS FULL-TIME RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) is a premier national center of excellence in rural development. It builds capacities of the rural development functionaries, elected representatives, academicians and young students through interrelated activities of teaching, training, research, action research and consultancy. The NIRDPR faculty comprises experienced academicians and development practitioners. For more details about the Institute and the PGDM-RM programme, please visit the website (<https://nirdpr.org.in/Admissions>).

NIRDPR announces Two-year full-time **'Post Graduate Diploma in Management-Rural Management (PGDM-RM)** approved by AICTE with an aim to create a committed and competent cadre of rural development professionals in the country. The programme seeks to impart management techniques that will enhance the understanding of the paradigm and practice of rural development.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Minimum 50% marks (45% marks for SC/ST and PWD candidates) or equivalent in Graduation.
- Students who are in the final year and expect to complete all the requirements before **15th July 2026**, may also apply.
- Valid Score in CAT / XAT / MAT / CMAT / GMAT / ATMA/CUET PG/ Management Aptitude Test conducted by the state Govt.

SELECTION PROCESS: Should have a valid score in any of the qualifying exams: CAT / XAT / MAT / CMAT / GMAT / ATMA / CUET PG/ Management aptitude test conducted by the state Govt. Valid for the admission year 2026-28, applicants have to apply online through the web portal, i.e <https://nirdpr.org.in/Admissions>. Shortlisted candidates will be called for Group Discussion and Personal Interviews for the final selection of the programme.

PROGRAMME DURATION: Two years

COURSE FEE: Rs.2,46,000/- per annum

Board and Lodging: The board and lodging expenses will be Rs. 1,22,430/- per annum. Accommodation will be given to the students in the NIRDPR Hostel.

Caution Deposit: A refundable Caution Deposit of Rs. 10,000 is to be paid along with the First Trimester Fee.

Seat Registration Fee: Upon selection, a non-refundable Seat Registration Fee of Rs. 20,000 should be paid by the students. This amount will be adjusted against the First Trimester Fee.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Few meritorious students will be eligible for NIRDPR's Scholarship based on their performance during the trimester examination as per the NIRDPR Policy.
- The North Eastern Council, Shillong, will be approached for giving fellowships to economically backward students of the North Eastern states.

RESERVATION: Reservations for the students of the SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer), EWS, and Persons with Disability (PWD) will be made as per the Government of India norms.

PLACEMENT: NIRDPR will make efforts for placement, but does not guarantee the same. The institute has a 100% placement record across all batches to date.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Applications are to be submitted online only at <https://nirdpr.org.in/Admissions>. The downloaded application form shall not be accepted.

Before applying, the candidates must have the following in hand:

- Application fee of Rs. 400/- (Rs. 200/- for SC/ST, EWS and PWD candidates) will be accepted only online.
- The application form will be available on <https://nirdpr.org.in/Admissions>
- A valid Registration/Application Number of any one of the Management Admissions Tests (CAT/XAT/MAT/CMAT/GMAT/ATMA/CUET PG/ Management Aptitude Test conducted by the state Govt.)
- Valid and active personal Email ID.
- Mobile Number for verification and future correspondence
- **Last date for online submission is 15-05-2026. Applications received after the last date shall not be accepted.**
- NIRDPR reserves the right to make any changes to the Management Programme, its design/content and the process of selection, depending upon the exigencies, without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

For further information in this regard, contact:

Coordinator (Admissions)

Centre for PG Studies and Distance Education
National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030, India
Mobile: 9848780141, 8790097776
Web: <https://nirdpr.org.in/Admissions>



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IoT-Enabled Water Management and Pond Rejuvenation in S. Kallupatti Village



Students and faculty of Sethu Institute of Technology demonstrating the IoT-based automated water level monitoring system installed for improved water management in S. Kallupatti village, Tamil Nadu, under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan initiative.

Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan initiative, Sethu Institute of Technology implemented an innovative rural development project in S. Kallupatti village, Tamil Nadu, combining pond rejuvenation with an IoT-based automated water level monitoring system to improve water sustainability and reduce wastage.

The Challenge: The village depended on a borewell connected to an overhead tank located nearly 2 km away. Manual switching of the pump caused delays, leading to frequent overflow and water wastage. In addition, the village pond required restoration to enhance groundwater recharge and long-term water availability.

Technology and Intervention: The project introduced a smart water management approach through:

- Rejuvenation of the village pond to improve rainwater harvesting and storage.
- Deployment of an IoT-based automatic water level controller using sensors, microcontrollers,

GSM/Wi-Fi communication, and a mobile application for real-time monitoring and remote motor control.

Students and faculty designed, installed, and tested the system, integrating hardware sensors with software algorithms and a mobile interface that provided alerts, usage data, and remote control features. The following are the outcomes and benefits of this intervention.

For the Community

- Reduced water wastage through automated pump control.
- Improved groundwater recharge and water availability due to pond restoration.
- Lower electricity consumption and enhanced reliability in the water supply.
- Approximately 500 villagers benefited from improved water management.

For Students and Faculty

- Hands-on learning in IoT design, sensor integration, and rural infrastructure planning.

- Exposure to real-world problem solving, sustainability practices, and interdisciplinary teamwork.
- Enhanced innovation skills and industry readiness through field implementation.

Impact and Replicability: The initiative demonstrates how low-cost IoT solutions can localise SDGs at the Gram Panchayat level by integrating technology with traditional water conservation practices. The model is highly replicable in villages facing similar challenges of manual pump operation, water loss, and inefficient distribution systems. With modest investment and local capacity building, such solutions can be scaled across rural India to support sustainable water governance.

Sum up: This story shows that a simple yet powerful innovation is transforming the way water is

managed in a village. Under the UBA initiative, Sethu Institute of Technology partnered with the local community to rejuvenate a neglected village pond and introduce an IoT-based automated water level monitoring system. Earlier, manual operation of pumps between a borewell and an overhead tank located nearly 2 km apart led to frequent overflow and water loss.

With the new system, sensors and a mobile application now enable real-time monitoring and automatic motor control, ensuring efficient water use and reducing electricity consumption. The initiative has improved water availability for nearly 500 villagers while offering students valuable hands-on experience in technology-driven rural solutions. By blending traditional water conservation with digital innovation, the project highlights a replicable pathway for sustainable village development and SDG localisation.

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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