

PRAGATI NEWSLETTER



**The Impact of GST Reduction on SHG Women:
A Step Toward Inclusive Economic Empowerment**

In this Issue.....

COVER STORY: The Impact of GST Reduction on SHG Women: A Step Toward Inclusive Economic Empowerment -4

1. DoLR-Sponsored Off-Campus Training Programmes on WDC-PMKSY 2.0 Conducted Across States - 6
2. NIRDPR and NITI Aayog Host Workshop on Training Need Assessment for Aspirational Block Officials -8
3. Write-shop on Agriculture & Allied Services Training Module under the Aspirational Blocks Programme - 9
4. Write-shop on Refresher Training for Aspirational Block Officials - 10
5. Training of Trainers (ToT) on ABP Refresher Training Module on Health - 11
6. Write-Shop on Refresher Training Module – Health Aspirational Blocks Programme held at NIRDPR - 12
7. Writeshop on Nutrition under the Aspirational Blocks Programme held at NIRDPR - 13
8. **Gender Kaleidoscope**- Root Cause Analysis of Nutrition Indicators under the Aspirational Blocks Programme - 14
9. XISS Ranchi Students Undertake Study Visit to NIRDPR, Hyderabad - 16
10. NIRDPR Students Unite for Cleaner Campus and Stronger Community - 17
11. Off-Campus Training on Up scaling Production System Technologies Held at TPSIPRD, Raipur - 18
12. National Writeshop on Social Media and Documentation in Watershed Programmes - 19
13. National Workshop on Skilling Rural India: Strategies for Inclusive Growth and Livelihood Generation - 20

14. NIRDPR Conducts ToT on Own Source Revenue for Gram Panchayats - 21
15. Capacity Building for Producer Groups and Enterprises under DAY-NRLM - 22
16. NIRDPR Conducts ToT on Development of Gender and FNHW Immersion Sites -23
17. Training of Trainers on LokOS Application under DAY-NRLM - 24
18. Training of Trainers on Gender Integration under DAY-NRLM - 25
19. National Level Training on Convergence of Schemes with Watershed Activities - 26
20. National Level Training of Trainers on Model Youth Gram Sabha - 27
21. NIRDPR Conducts Training of Trainers on Individual Enterprise Financing under DAY-NRLM - 28
22. Hindi Pakhwada Celebrated at NIRDPR - 29
23. NIRDPR Conducts 3rd Batch of Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme - 30
24. NIRDPR Conducts Tree Plantation Drive under Nationwide “Sewa Parv” Initiative - 31
25. NIRDPR PG Students Gain Hands-On Experience in Aquaponics - 32



The Impact of GST Reduction on SHG Women: A Step Toward Inclusive Economic Empowerment

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Photo Credit: ChatGPT

Introduction

The recent reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates across essential goods and production inputs marks a pivotal moment for India's grassroots economic landscape. Among the key beneficiaries are women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) – decentralised collectives that form the backbone of rural enterprise, household resilience, and women's empowerment. This essay examines the impact of these GST reforms through the lens of SHG women as consumers, producers, and entrepreneurs, emphasising their economic, social, and strategic implications.

SHG Women as Consumers: Reducing the Cost of Living

For SHG women—often representing low-income households in rural or semi-

urban settings—GST reductions on essentials such as toiletries, footwear, kitchenware, and basic medicines translate directly into monthly savings and enhanced dignity.

Items like toilet soap, hair care products, dental care items, and baby diapers, previously taxed at 12–18%, now attract only 5% GST. For a household spending ₹3,000/month on such goods, this shift yields monthly savings of ₹200–₹300—an amount that can support school fees, nutrition, or emergency needs. These savings increase disposable income, enabling a better quality of life, especially for women who bear the invisible burden of family health, hygiene, and caregiving.

SHG Women as Producers: Lower Input Costs, Higher Viability

A large number of SHGs engage in micro-production—textiles, handicrafts, processed foods, and coir-based products—where raw materials represent a significant cost share. With GST on many such inputs falling from 12–18% to 5%, producer SHGs experience an immediate reduction in production costs, boosting profitability.

Textile SHGs buying threads, yarns, laces, and embroidery materials benefit from 7–13% GST reduction on inputs. Handicraft SHGs working with bamboo, cane, wood, coir, or handmade paper now operate in a more cost-effective regime. Simulations show that a small SHG spending ₹8,000/month on inputs now saves ₹560 monthly, or ₹6,720 annually—a 5–7% margin increase that can be reinvested in expanding operations or improving quality.

SHG Women as Sellers: Competitive Edge in the Market

SHGs that produce for sale—whether food items like pickles and jams, textiles like hand-stitched clothing, or services like beauty parlours—face price-sensitive markets. Lower output GST allows SHGs to price their products more attractively or retain greater profit margins.

For example, output GST on handmade garments, traditional toys, or beauty services has reduced from 12–18% to just 5%. This makes it easier for SHG entrepreneurs to enter retail spaces, fairs, exhibitions, or even e-commerce platforms, as buyers become more price-responsive to tax-inclusive rates. Moreover, such changes encourage formalisation of SHG-led businesses into GST-compliant entities, which then enables access to credit, subsidies, and market linkages.

Structural Benefits and Long-Term Implications

The GST reform is not just a matter of numbers it signifies a recognition of

women's economic agency. For SHGs, the reduced GST rates:

1. Lower Entry Barriers: Affordable inputs and goods make entrepreneurship more feasible.
2. Promote Local Production: Lower tax burden promotes the 'Make in India' spirit at the village level.
3. Support Gender Equity: By reducing the financial burden on women as both homemakers and entrepreneurs, the reform addresses gender-disproportionate economic strain.
4. Encourage Formalisation: Lower tax rates and simplified compliance make SHGs more likely to register and engage in the formal economy.

Recommendations for Policy and Practice

To maximise the benefits of GST reductions for SHG women, the following steps are crucial:

- Targeted GST Education: Training modules for SHGs to understand input tax credit (ITC), compliance, and invoicing.
- Financial Inclusion Support: GST-linked microfinance products tailored for SHG entrepreneurs.
- Digital Enablement: Access to GST e-filing tools in vernacular languages to support digital compliance.
- Cluster-Based Procurement: Encourage bulk procurement of inputs to leverage lower rates and shared savings.

Conclusion

The GST rate reductions across essential goods and micro-enterprise inputs are more than fiscal tweaks—they are strategic enablers of inclusive development. For India's 8 million+ SHGs, primarily led by women, this change reduces vulnerability, increases agency, and stimulates entrepreneurship at the base of the pyramid. As these women grow from consumers to producers to market players, GST policy has provided them a ladder toward sustainable, dignified, and equitable livelihoods.

DoLR-Sponsored Off-Campus Training Programmes on WDC-PMKSY 2.0 Conducted Across States



The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, through its Centre for Natural Resource Management, Climate Change & Disaster Mitigation (CNRMCCDM), successfully coordinated a series of DoLR-sponsored off-campus training programmes on various themes under WDC-PMKSY 2.0 during August and September 2025. These programmes were organised in collaboration with state-level partner institutions in Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu, and were coordinated by Dr Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor, CNRMCCDM, NIRDPR.

The first training, on “Strategies for Up-Scaling Production System Technologies under WDC-PMKSY 2.0” was held from 18th to 22nd August 2025 at TPSIPRD, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, in collaboration with Shri Ajay Gurudiwan, Core Faculty, TPSIPRD. A total of 41 Watershed Development Technical Team members from various District Agriculture Departments participated. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Gayaram Latiya, Joint Director, Agriculture and Dy. CEO, SLNA, along with Shri Manoj Kumar, Joint Director, and Shri Manish Dubey, Monitoring Officer, SLNA. Technical sessions were handled by experts from



NIRDPR, IIM-Raipur, PRADAN, CGSRLM, and other partner institutions. Field visits were conducted in Durg District (Paton and Achoti Blocks), where participants interacted with beneficiaries from Gabdi and Bharar Gram Panchayats to understand field-level implementation of watershed projects, livelihood activities, and production system technologies.

The second training, on the same theme was conducted from 15th to 19th September 2025 at Telangana Institute of Rural Development (TGIRD), Rajendranagar, in collaboration with Shri Ch. Srinivas, Professor & Head, CNRM, TGIRD. The training was attended by 31 Watershed Development Committee members and user groups from various PIAs under WDC-PMKSY 2.0 across Telangana. The inauguration was graced by Shri Ch. Srinivas, Shri B. Raghavendra Rao, Head, CDRT, and Shri Steven Neel, Joint Secretary, CDS. The training featured lectures, group exercises, and exposure visits to ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) and ICAR-Directorate of Poultry Research, focusing on millet processing, value addition, and backyard poultry as sustainable livelihood options. Experts from NIRDPR, ICAR institutes, PVNR Veterinary University, and TGIRD led the sessions.



The third training, titled “Scope and Relevance of Convergence of Central and State Schemes with Watershed Activities for Maximising Investment under WDC-PMKSY 2.0”, was organised from 22nd to 26th September 2025 at RIRDPR, Pattukkottai, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu, in collaboration with Shri Asok Babu, Assistant Director, RIRDPR. A total of 35 participants, including NIRDPR, IIM-Raipur, PRADAN, CGSRLM, and other partner institutions. Field Watershed Development Technical Team members, User Groups, and GP Secretaries from seven project districts of Tamil Nadu, attended the programme.

The event was inaugurated by Shri Paramashivan, Joint Director & Principal, RIRDPR, along with Smt. Poongothai, Deputy Director (Agriculture), SLNA, Shri Gunaseelan, Assistant Engineer, SLNA, and Shri Asok Babu, Assistant Director, RIRDPR. Field visits were organized to Oarthanadu and Budalur Blocks in Thanjavur District, covering Panchanathikottai and

Chozhagampatti Gram Panchayats, where participants observed soil and water conservation activities, scheme convergence practices, and livelihood interventions.

Across all three training programmes, participants actively engaged in lectures, case discussions, best practice sharing, and field exposure visits, gaining hands-on insights into the implementation, challenges, and innovations under WDC-PMKSY 2.0. Each programme concluded with participant presentations, recap sessions, and assessments, providing a comprehensive understanding of watershed development and convergence strategies at the grassroots level.

These capacity-building initiatives, coordinated by Dr Raj Kumar Pammi, contributed significantly to strengthening the knowledge and skills of watershed functionaries, enhancing the effective implementation of WDC-PMKSY 2.0 across the participating states.

NIRDPR and NITI Aayog Host Workshop on Training Need Assessment for Aspirational Block Officials



Dignitaries including Dr G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, DG NIRDPR; Shri Rohit Kumar, Additional Secretary & MD, ABP, NITI Aayog; and Dr P. Kesava Rao, Head, CRTCN, along with faculty members and participants at the Workshop on Training Need Assessment & Stock Taking for Refresher Training of Aspirational Block Officials

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, in partnership with NITI Aayog, organised a two-day workshop on Training Need Assessment & Stock Taking for Refresher Training of Aspirational Block Officials on 19-20 September 2025 at the NIRDPR campus.

The workshop provided a platform to review two years of Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) implementation, with a focus on identifying gaps, strengthening delivery, and planning for future interventions. Key discussions centred on strategies for achieving indicator saturation and assessing sector-wise training needs in health, nutrition, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and social development.

The inaugural session was addressed by Dr G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR; Shri Rohit Kumar, Additional Secretary & MD, ABP, NITI Aayog; and Dr P. Kesava Rao, Head, Centre for Research, Training,

Coordination and Networking (CRTCN), NIRDPR. They highlighted the importance of capacity building and continuous learning for block officials to accelerate progress in aspirational blocks.

The sessions also focused on preparing a roadmap for refresher training of block-level officials, ensuring they are equipped with updated knowledge, practical skills, and innovative approaches to achieve measurable outcomes in their respective sectors. The workshop was coordinated and compered by Dr Ruchira Bhattacharya, NIRDPR, who emphasised the role of structured training in building effective governance systems and sustaining long-term rural transformation.

This initiative reflects the joint commitment of NIRDPR and NITI Aayog to advancing evidence-based governance and strengthening the Aspirational Block Programme as a model for inclusive and sustainable development.

Write-shop on Agriculture & Allied Services Training Module under the Aspirational Blocks Programme



Dr Nithya V. G., Assistant Professor, CAS, and Dr R. Aruna Jayamani, Assistant Professor, CGG&PA, with participants of the Write-shop on Agriculture and Allied Services Training Module under the Blocks Programme

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad in collaboration with NITI Aayog, organised a Write-shop on Agriculture and Allied Services Training Module under the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) on 22nd September 2025 at the NIRDPR campus, Hyderabad. The write-shop brought together experts, faculty members, and practitioners working in rural development and agricultural sectors to design and refine training modules for capacity building at the block level.

The objective of the write-shop was to develop practical, field-oriented training content that can support improved agricultural productivity, sustainable livelihoods, and income enhancement in aspirational blocks. Participants engaged in collaborative discussions to identify priority areas, innovative practices, and locally adaptable solutions for farmers and allied sectors.

Resource persons and faculty members from NIRDPR, along with representatives from NITI Aayog, shared valuable insights on integrating

agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and allied services for holistic rural development. The sessions focused on improving extension services, promoting agri-entrepreneurship, and encouraging convergence among departments.

The interactive format of the write-shop enabled participants to exchange ideas, review existing materials, and contribute to the development of comprehensive training modules. The collective effort underscored the importance of participatory content creation for effective field-level training and implementation.

The event concluded with remarks highlighting the need for continuous collaboration between institutions and field practitioners to strengthen agricultural livelihoods. The write-shop reaffirmed NIRDPR's commitment to supporting the Aspirational Blocks Programme in fostering inclusive and sustainable rural growth.

Write-shop on Refresher Training for Aspirational Block Officials



Block officials with Dr G. Narendra Kumar, DG, NIRDPR, and Dr R. Aruna Jayamani, Programme Coordinator, during the Refresher Training Programme

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Hyderabad organised a two-day Refresher Training Programme for Block Officials under the Aspirational Block Programme on 22-23 September 2025. The programme aimed to strengthen the capacities of block-level officials for effective planning, execution, and monitoring of development initiatives.

The programme brought together officials from across regions, fostering an environment of learning, discussion, and knowledge sharing. Participants engaged in interactive sessions, group exercises, and practical demonstrations, allowing them to relate the concepts discussed to their field experiences.

Key Highlights of the Programme:

- **Strengthening Governance and Service Delivery:** Sessions focused on improving administrative efficiency and enhancing accountability in block-level governance.
- **Improving Implementation Strategies:** Participants explored methods to implement rural development programmes more effectively, using evidence-based approaches and innovative practices.

- **Sharing Best Practices for Inclusive Growth:** Case studies from various regions were presented, encouraging participants to adopt strategies promoting equitable and inclusive development.

The training methodology combined expert lectures, case studies, group exercises, and role-playing activities. This practical approach allowed participants to connect theoretical concepts with field realities. Officials also engaged in peer-to-peer learning, exchanging ideas and solutions to common challenges faced in their blocks.

Towards the end of the programme, participants drafted block-specific action plans outlining strategies to implement the learnings in their respective regions. This ensured that the training outcomes were not limited to knowledge enhancement but translated into actionable steps for improved governance and service delivery.

The programme concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, where officials expressed appreciation for the comprehensive sessions and highlighted the value of such capacity-building initiatives in strengthening their roles as effective implementers of the Aspirational Block Programme.

Training of Trainers (ToT) on ABP Refresher Training Module on Health



Dr Sucharita Pujari, Assistant Professor, CPGDE and CHRD, and Dr Sonal Mobar Roy, Assistant Professor, CWEL, with participants of the Training of Trainers (ToT) on Refresher Training Module – Health Aspirational Blocks Programme

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) in collaboration with NITI Aayog organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Refresher Training Module – Health Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) on 25th September 2025 at the NIRDPR campus, Hyderabad. The programme brought together officials, trainers, and development professionals dedicated to improving health indicators in aspirational blocks across India.

The ToT aimed to strengthen the capacity of trainers and field functionaries who play a crucial role in implementing health-related initiatives in rural areas. The sessions covered a wide range of topics, including key health indicators, community-based health interventions, and innovative strategies for improving service delivery at the grassroots level.

Resource persons from NITI Aayog and NIRDPR conducted insightful sessions that focused on evidence

based approaches, inter-sectoral coordination, and participatory planning. Participants actively engaged in group discussions, case studies, and practical exercises designed to enhance their understanding of effective programme implementation.

The training also provided a platform for knowledge sharing among participants representing different states and regions. They exchanged ideas, shared field experiences, and discussed the challenges and opportunities in strengthening rural health systems under the Aspirational Blocks framework.

The programme concluded with an interactive feedback session, during which participants expressed appreciation for the comprehensive and practical nature of the training. The ToT reaffirmed NIRDPR's continued commitment to building institutional and human capacities for achieving equitable and sustainable development in rural India.

Write-Shop on Refresher Training Module – Health Aspirational Blocks Programme held at NIRDPR



Dr G. Narendra Kumar, DG, NIRDPR, with Dr Sucharita Pujari, Dr Sonal Mobar Roy, and participants of the Write-Shop on Refresher Training Module – Health under the Aspirational Blocks Programme, organised by NIRDPR and NITI Aayog

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) In collaboration with NITI Aayog, organised a Write-Shop on Refresher Training Module – Health under the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) on 24th September 2025. The programme aimed to develop and refine the refresher training modules designed for block-level functionaries working in the health sector across aspirational blocks.

The Write-Shop brought together experts from NITI Aayog, NIRDPR faculty members, and professionals from various thematic areas of health, education, nutrition, and governance. The main objective was to review and finalise training content that could strengthen the capacity of field officials in improving health outcomes at the grassroots level. Participants collaborated to align the training modules with the objectives of the Aspirational Blocks Programme, which focuses on enhancing human development indicators in the most underdeveloped blocks of the country.

During the sessions, participants engaged in intensive discussions and collaborative drafting exercises. The workshop focused on identifying key health priorities such as maternal and

child health, nutrition, sanitation, disease prevention, and community participation. Special emphasis was laid on designing participatory and learner-friendly modules that could effectively support frontline workers and local officials in implementing health initiatives at the block level.

Senior officials and resource persons from NITI Aayog highlighted the importance of evidence-based planning, convergence among departments, and capacity building to achieve measurable improvements in public health indicators. Faculty from NIRDPR shared their insights on integrating practical field experiences and community engagement strategies into the training content to ensure its relevance and applicability.

The Write-Shop concluded with a consensus on developing standardised, outcome-oriented training modules that can be replicated across different aspirational blocks. The initiative underscored NIRDPR's commitment to strengthening institutional and human capacities through collaborative partnerships with national bodies like NITI Aayog. The event served as a significant step toward empowering block-level functionaries to deliver impactful health interventions in rural and underserved areas of the country.

Writershop on Nutrition under the Aspirational Blocks Programme held at NIRDPR



Dr G. Narendra Kumar, DG, NIRDPR, with Dr R. Aruna Jayamani, Dr Ruchira Bhattacharya, Dr Sonal Mobar Roy, and participants of the Writershop on Nutrition under the Aspirational Blocks Programme, posing for the photo

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Root Cause Analysis of Nutrition Indicators under the Aspirational Blocks Programme

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Key Insights from RCA

- Nutrition outcomes are shaped as much by gendered time poverty and social norms as by programme logistics.
- Many bottlenecks arise from weak inter-departmental convergence and limited frontline capacity.
- Migration, myths, and data inconsistencies disrupt continuity in services.
- Strengthening community ownership and gender-sensitive delivery can accelerate the saturation of nutrition indicators.

The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), launched by NITI Aayog, aims to translate the principle of “saturation for transformation” into practice by addressing gaps in governance and service delivery at the block level. Within this framework, nutrition has emerged as one of the most crucial themes—reflecting both the developmental status of a block and the effectiveness of local systems in reaching the most vulnerable. A root cause analysis (RCA) of nutrition indicators reveals that the problem is not one of inadequate schemes but of fractured linkages—between departments, between policy and practice, and often between intent and implementation.

The analysis of seven core nutrition indicators—Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) coverage for children and women, growth monitoring efficiency, prevalence of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), and the availability of toilets and drinking water in Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)—offers insights into the multiple layers of causation that hinder progress. These range from structural and administrative constraints to deep-seated behavioural and gendered patterns within communities.

The first and perhaps most visible challenge lies in the low coverage of the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP). In many blocks, despite regular allocation of resources, attendance at Anganwadi Centres fluctuates sharply. Mothers, who are primarily responsible for child feeding, are often daily wage earners. Their working hours coincide with the feeding time at the centres, leaving them little opportunity to bring their children for hot cooked meals. The programme’s success, therefore, is tied not just to food supply but to women’s time poverty. In addition, irregular delivery of Take-Home Rations (THR), delays in procurement, and weak community oversight further affect coverage. The solution lies in introducing flexi-timing schedules, community-led monitoring through Self Help Groups (SHGs), and participatory awareness campaigns that emphasise the nutritional value of SNP.

Similarly, coverage among pregnant and lactating women suffers from a combination of cultural and logistical barriers. Many women do not register their pregnancies in the early months due to fear, stigma, or traditional beliefs, which delays their enrolment in the programme. Seasonal migration disrupts service continuity, while myths around the THR—such as the belief that certain foods can cause miscarriage—discourage consumption. Strengthening

convergence between ICDS and the health department, tracking migrant women through Anganwadi-NRLM linkages, and engaging local champions in behaviour change campaigns are critical steps in addressing these gaps.

The efficiency of growth monitoring, another vital indicator, depends on both the skill and motivation of frontline workers. In several blocks, weighing scales are either defective or unavailable, MUAC tapes are not used consistently, and the digital tools of the Poshan Tracker are underutilised due to limited digital literacy. AWWs often juggle multiple administrative tasks, leaving little time for regular anthropometric measurement. Instituting fixed Poshan Diwas every month, providing hands-on refresher sessions, and establishing peer-learning circles among AWWs can help ensure that growth monitoring becomes a reliable and continuous process rather than a periodic formality.

When we look at the prevalence of Severe and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (SAM and MAM), the RCA highlights both systemic and social causes. Children often go undetected until the condition becomes severe, partly due to irregular monitoring and partly because of parental stigma associated with the SAM tag. In tribal and remote areas, limited access to Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) further delays recovery. Food insecurity, poverty, and gender bias exacerbate the issue—especially for girl children, who are often fed last and least. Solutions here require a mix of technology and trust: early flagging of at-risk children through digital tracking, community kitchens that provide nutritious meals locally, and gender sensitisation among Anganwadi workers to promote equitable feeding within households.

At the infrastructure level, the availability of toilets and drinking water in AWCs continues to influence the overall hygiene environment and attendance rates. Many centres either have incomplete toilet construction or non-functional facilities due to a lack of maintenance and water connection. This

directly impacts adolescent girls and women who attend Anganwadi events but face discomfort and embarrassment due to the absence of basic sanitation. Assigning maintenance responsibility to SHGs or PRI committees, linking AWCs with SBM-G and Jal Jeevan Mission for infrastructure support, and publicly displaying the functionality status of toilets and water sources can create a sense of local accountability.

The RCA also underscores a less visible but equally critical factor—the gendered nature of the frontline workforce. Anganwadi workers, mostly women, operate within multiple burdens: professional responsibilities, domestic work, and community expectations. Without adequate training, mobility support, or recognition, their ability to deliver consistently is compromised. Investing in their capacity, dignity, and digital inclusion is therefore not just a managerial imperative but a gender justice issue.

Taken together, the root cause analysis transforms the understanding of nutrition from a purely technical challenge into a social and governance issue. The findings point towards the need for convergence-driven, gender-sensitive, and community-led solutions. Many blocks have begun institutionalising innovations such as Care Group Leaders (CGLs), mother support groups, and “Tithi Bhojan”-style local feeding events, which bridge the gap between households and service centres. These approaches resonate with the ABP’s philosophy—focusing on behavioural shifts and community ownership rather than short-term campaigns.

Ultimately, improving nutrition outcomes is not just about increasing coverage or reducing percentages. It is about ensuring that no woman has to choose between earning a wage and feeding her child, that no child is denied a meal due to migration or stigma, and that every Anganwadi centre becomes a space of dignity, safety, and care. The ABP’s root cause analysis thus offers a mirror to our governance systems—reminding us that sustainable change begins when we look beyond the numbers to the lived realities of women and children at the grassroots.

XISS Ranchi Students Undertake Study Visit to NIRDPR, Hyderabad



Prof. S. Jyothis, Professor & Head, and Dr Debapriya Aryashree, Associate Professor, Centre for PG Studies and Distance Education, NIRDPR, with Prof. Niranjana Sahoo and students from Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi

A group of 25 MBA (Rural Management) students from the Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi, led by Prof. Niranjana Sahoo, visited the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, on 16 September 2025 as part of their academic exposure programme. The visit was designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of rural development processes, policy frameworks, and technological interventions being implemented across India.

During the visit, students engaged in insightful discussions with eminent faculty members – Prof. S. Jyothis, Dr Debapriya Aryashree, Dr Pranab Kumar Ghosh, and Dr C. Kathiresan – who provided a comprehensive overview of the evolving rural economy, gender dimensions, and the role of youth in rural transformation. The sessions explored key issues such as migration, unemployment, agrarian distress, and climate change, while highlighting new opportunities emerging through digital inclusion and green technologies.

The faculty emphasised the alignment of rural development efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and discussed flagship government programmes, including MGNREGA, NRLM, PRIs, and Viksit Bharat initiatives. Students were encouraged to view rural

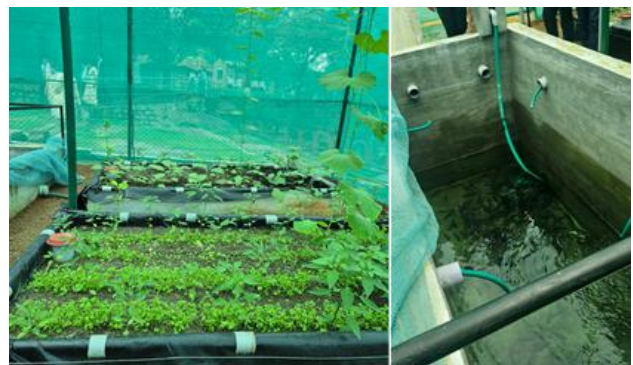


PMAY-G Model House

development as an integrated process that balances economic growth with inclusivity, gender equality, and sustainability.

The visit also included a practical exposure to the Rural Technology Park (RTP), where students observed demonstrations of innovative technologies such as hydroponics integrated with fish farming, eco-friendly housing models, and apiculture units promoting rural entrepreneurship. These experiences illustrated how modern science and local innovation can work together to enhance livelihoods and promote sustainable rural development.

Concluding the visit, students expressed that the experience deepened their appreciation of rural realities and reinforced their commitment to contributing to India's development goals. The study tour not only expanded their academic learning but also inspired them to pursue impactful careers in rural management and development.



Hydroponics integrated with Fish

NIRDPR Students Unite for Cleaner Campus and Stronger Community



PGDRDM and PGDM-RM students during the campus cleanliness drive organised by the Student Volunteer Committee at NIRDPR, Hyderabad

Students from the PGDRDM (2025-26) and PGDM-RM (2025-27) batches of the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, have come together to form the Student Volunteer Committee, an initiative dedicated to holistic development, leadership, and community engagement.

The committee's first major activity—a campus-wide cleanliness drive held on 7th September 2025—demonstrated the spirit of collaboration and social responsibility that defines NIRDPR. Spanning five key venues across the campus, including the backside of Mahatma Gandhi Block, Vindhyachal Block, RTP Outlet, and the Front Entry Gate, the drive brought together students, faculty, staff, and security personnel in a collective mission to create a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

The drive resulted in the collection of over 10 bags of waste, serving as a powerful reminder that meaningful change begins with small, united actions. What started as a student initiative soon turned into a community-wide movement, with professors rolling up their sleeves, staff members actively participating, and security personnel lending their support. The event beautifully reflected NIRDPR's ethos of shared responsibility and participatory action.

The volunteers noted, "This initiative is just the beginning. We envision a campus where students lead with purpose, and every activity contributes to personal and collective growth." The committee plans to extend its efforts to include awareness campaigns, sustainable campus activities, and outreach programmes that nurture leadership and civic engagement.

Off-Campus Training on Up scaling Production System Technologies Held at TPSIPRD, Raipur



Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor, CNRMCCDM, NIRDPR, with participants of the DoLR-sponsored off-campus training programme on “Strategies for Up-scaling Production System Technologies under WDC-PMKSY 2.0

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Hyderabad, through its Centre for Natural Resource Management, Climate Change & Disaster Mitigation (CNRMCCDM), coordinated a DoLR-sponsored off-campus training programme on “Strategies for Up-scaling Production System Technologies under WDC-PMKSY 2.0” from 18th to 22nd August 2025 at TPSIPRD, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor, CNRMCCDM, NIRDPR, along with Shri Ajay Gurudiwan, Core Faculty, TPSIPRD.

A total of 41 Watershed Development Technical Team members from various District Departments of Agriculture under WDC-PMKSY 2.0 across Chhattisgarh participated. The inaugural session was addressed by Shri Gayaram Latiya, Joint Director, Agriculture and Dy. CEO, SLNA, Chhattisgarh, who highlighted the importance of production system technologies and implementation challenges under the programme. Other dignitaries present included Shri Manoj Kumar, Joint Director, and Shri Manish Dubey, Monitoring Officer, SLNA.

The five-day training included lectures, group work, case discussions, best practices, video films, and field

visits. Resource persons included Dr Raj Kumar Pammi (NIRDPR), Shri Ajay Gurudiwan (TPSIPRD), Ms Shivani (IIM-Raipur), Shri Rajesh Kumar Gupta (READS-Jashpur), Shri Saheb Halder (PRADAN), Shri Dinesh Singh (SoEPR), Shri Manish Dubey (SLNA-Raipur), and Shri Pradeep Pandey (CGSRLM).

Field visits were organized to WDC-PMKSY 2.0 project areas in Durg District (Paton and Achoti Blocks), where participants interacted with beneficiaries in Gabdi and Bharar Gram Panchayats. They observed production systems, technology adoption, soil and water conservation, livelihood activities, and entry-point initiatives. The visits offered firsthand insights into field-level implementation, challenges, and best practices.

Sessions covered topics such as the introduction and guidelines of WDC-PMKSY 2.0, upscaling production system technologies, integrated farming systems, crop water budgeting, and water security planning. The programme concluded with participant presentations, pre- and post-assessments, and recap sessions, providing practical exposure and a deeper understanding of WDC-PMKSY 2.0 implementation at the grassroots level.

National Writeshop on Social Media and Documentation in Watershed Programmes



Prof. DVR Murthy, Vice Chancellor, Andhra Kesari University, Programme Coordinator Dr Akanksha Shukla, and participants of the National Writeshop on Social Media and Documentation of Best Practices in Watershed Programmes posing for a group photo

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, organised a two-day National Writeshop on the Effective Use of Social Media and Documentation of Best Practices in Watershed Programmes from 23-24 September 2025.

The writeshop was inaugurated with a keynote address by Prof. DVR Murthy, Vice Chancellor, Andhra Kesari University, who emphasised the importance of community ownership in sustaining watershed assets. Faculty members, including Dr Suresh Babu, Dr Krishna Lohi Das, and Dr Vanishree Joseph also joined the inaugural session, underscoring the critical role of communication in advancing watershed development.

The event focused on bridging the gap between grassroots innovations and effective communication strategies. While watershed projects under WDC-PMKSY 2.0 have generated significant community-led solutions, many of these success stories remain undocumented and underrepresented. Over the course of two days,

Participants engaged in hands-on sessions on digital storytelling, social media use, and case study documentation. Activities included the creation of templates for photo stories and videos, development of a five-day training curriculum on documentation and communication, and the design of a digital toolkit, incorporating emerging tools such as AI-based applications for watershed management. A model campaign for wider outreach was also conceptualised.

The writeshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including government officials, watershed committees, PRIs, NGOs, communication experts, filmmakers, and social media professionals. Their collective insights helped shape a roadmap for ensuring that impactful grassroots practices are widely shared, replicated, and scaled.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Akanksha Shukla, Programme Coordinator, highlighted the importance of storytelling in rural development: “Effective documentation motivates communities, creates transparency, and influences policy through powerful narratives.”

National Workshop on Skilling Rural India: Strategies for Inclusive Growth and Livelihood Generation



Dr Jyothis Sathyapalan, Chair Professor, S.R. Sankaran Chair, NIRDPR, with distinguished dignitaries Ms Sumita Dawra, Former Secretary, MoLE; Dr Poonam Sinha, DG, NIESBUD; Ms Hari Chandana, IAS, District Collector, Hyderabad; Ms Usha Rani, IAS (Retd.), Former DG, MANAGE; Dr Preet Deep Singh, VP, Apna Co; and Ms Sita Pallacholla, CEO, WeHUB Telangana, along with participants of the National Workshop on Skilling Rural India

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Hyderabad, inaugurated a two-day National Workshop on “Skilling Rural India: Strategies for Inclusive Growth and Livelihood Generation” on 11-12 September 2025 at the SK Rao Conference Hall, NIRDPR Campus. The workshop was organised by the S.R. Sankaran Chair on Rural Labour.

The programme brought together a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including representatives from government, academia, think tanks, start-ups, incubation centres, and civil society organisations. The central objective was to explore strategies for aligning skill development with emerging economic opportunities, ensuring inclusivity, and building sustainable livelihood models for rural India.

In the inaugural session, Dr Jyothis Sathyapalan, Chair Professor, S.R. Sankaran Chair, NIRDPR, welcomed the participants and outlined the workshop’s objectives. The Keynote Address was delivered by Ms. Sumita

Dawra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE), who stressed the importance of integrating skilling with infrastructure development and the digital economy.

Special addresses were delivered by Dr. Poonam Sinha, Director General, NIESBUD, and Ms. Hari Chandana, IAS, District Collector, Hyderabad, who shared insights on scaling up skilling interventions and creating enabling environments for rural entrepreneurship.

The event was further enriched by the participation of distinguished dignitaries including Ms. Usha Rani, IAS, Former DG, MANAGE; Dr. Preet Deep Singh, Vice President, Apna Co; and Ms. Sita Pallacholla, CEO, WeHUB Telangana, who contributed their perspectives on entrepreneurship, innovation, and gender-inclusive skilling.

The workshop is structured around three interlinked tracks – Demand, Resource Mobilisation, and Innovation – covering nine thematic areas ranging from skills demand analysis and market linkages to ICT-enabled solutions for rural livelihoods.



NIRDPR Conducts ToT on Own Source Revenue for Gram Panchayats



Participants of the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on Generation and Mobilisation of Own Source Revenue for Gram Panchayats with Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor & Head, CPRDP&SSD

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Hyderabad, through its School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj, successfully organised two back-to-back Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes on “Generation and Mobilisation of Own Source Revenue for Gram Panchayats” from 8-10 September 2025.

The ToTs brought together participants from multiple states, representing diverse experiences in Panchayati Raj governance. The primary objective was to strengthen the capacity of Gram Panchayats to mobilise and generate their own source revenue (OSR), thereby enhancing financial independence and reducing reliance on external funds.

Sessions focused on local revenue mobilisation strategies, effective management of Panchayat finances, and innovative approaches for

resource generation. Special emphasis was placed on property tax, user fees, and service charges, as well as developing sustainable financial frameworks aligned with local needs and priorities.

Resource persons shared successful case studies and best practices from across states, highlighting how Panchayats have innovatively increased revenue streams while ensuring transparency and accountability. Interactive discussions and group exercises allowed participants to contextualise these models for their regions.

By equipping trainers with knowledge and practical skills, the programme aims to create a ripple effect, enabling capacity building at the state and district levels. This will help Gram Panchayats strengthen their financial autonomy and deliver more effective and sustainable local governance.



Capacity Building for Producer Groups and Enterprises under DAY-NRLM



Participants of Governance, Management, and Business Plan Development for Producer Groups and Enterprises with Programme Coordinator Shri Jyoti Prakash Mohanty, Deputy Director, NRLM-Resource Cell, NIRDPR,

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Hyderabad, conducted a three-day training programme on “Governance, Management, and Business Plans Development for Producer Groups and Producer Enterprises for AP-SERP” from 1-3 September 2025. The programme was conducted under the aegis of the DAY-NRLM Resource Cell.

The training was designed to strengthen the capacities of participants in enhancing governance structures, management practices, and financial planning within Producer Groups (PGs) and Producer Enterprises (PEs). By focusing on these critical aspects, the programme sought to improve the efficiency and sustainability of community-based enterprises supported under DAY-NRLM.

Participants were trained on preparing viable and sustainable business plans, understanding the role of governance in ensuring

accountability, and adopting professional management practices for scaling up operations. The sessions combined technical inputs, interactive discussions and practical exercises, allowing participants to apply concepts to real-world scenarios.

Resource persons highlighted the need for PGs and PEs to act as catalysts of rural entrepreneurship, generating livelihoods, and strengthening the economic base of rural communities. The training also addressed challenges in managing producer collectives, developing market linkages, and integrating digital solutions into enterprise management.

The programme was coordinated by Shri Jyoti Prakash Mohanty, Deputy Director, NRLM-Resource Cell, NIRDPR, who emphasised the importance of equipping grassroots-level institutions with managerial and financial skills to ensure their long-term sustainability.

NIRDPR Conducts ToT on Development of Gender and FNHW Immersion Sites



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

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Development of Gender and Food, Nutrition, Health & WASH (FNHW) Immersion Sites under DAY-NRLM from 2-3 September 2025. The programme was organised by the DAY-NRLM Resource Cell and brought together participants from across the country.

The objective of the two-day training was to equip trainers with the knowledge, skills, and tools required to conceptualise, design, and strengthen gender and FNHW-focused immersion sites. Such immersion sites serve as demonstration and learning platforms for state and district-level functionaries, helping them understand the practical integration of gender, nutrition, health, and hygiene into rural livelihood programmes.

Sessions covered key themes including gender sensitisation, women's empowerment, maternal and child nutrition, primary health practices, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Trainers were encouraged to adopt participatory and community

led approaches, ensuring that these elements are embedded into the planning and implementation of rural development initiatives.

The programme included interactive discussions, case studies, and group work to facilitate peer learning. Participants were also introduced to successful models of gender and health-focused immersion sites from different states, enabling them to draw inspiration and replicate best practices in their local contexts.

Speaking at the training, faculty highlighted that immersion sites not only enhance learning but also create spaces for reflection and dialogue on how social and health issues intersect with livelihoods. By promoting experiential learning, these sites help practitioners move beyond theory and gain a first-hand understanding of community realities.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Vanishree Joseph, Assistant Professor & Head i/c, Centre for Gender Studies and Development (CGSD), and Director, NRLM, who underscored the importance of integrating gender and FNHW into DAY-NRLM interventions to ensure holistic and sustainable outcomes for rural communities.

Training of Trainers on LokOS Application under DAY-NRLM



Participants at the Training of Trainers on the LokOS Application under DAY-NRLM with Programme Coordinator Dr. Jyoti Prakash Mohanty, Deputy Director, NRLM Resource Cell, NIRDPR

The Centre for Geo-Informatics Application in Rural Development (CGARD), NIRDPR, through its DAY-NRLM Resource Cell, hosted a four day Training of Trainers (ToT) on the LokOS Application from 16–19 September 2025. The programme was designed to strengthen the digital readiness of resource persons and enhance their ability to support the implementation of rural livelihoods programmes.

LokOS, a dedicated digital platform, plays a pivotal role in ensuring effective monitoring, management, and reporting of initiatives under DAY-NRLM. By enabling real-time data entry, streamlined tracking, and improved oversight, the application has become an indispensable tool for promoting accountability and transparency in programme delivery.

Over four days, the training enhanced the participants' technical understanding and practical skills in operating the application. Sessions included hands-on demonstrations,

guided practice modules, and case-based exercises, ensuring that participants could not only navigate the platform but also train others in its effective usage.

The ToT also highlighted the broader role of digital solutions in advancing good governance, accountability, and inclusivity within rural livelihood programmes. Discussions focused on how LokOS can be leveraged to monitor self-help group activities, track financial inclusion, assess livelihood interventions, and evaluate outcomes at scale.

By equipping trainers with advanced knowledge of the platform, NIRDPR has created a multiplier effect, ensuring that state- and district-level resource persons can further disseminate these skills to grassroots functionaries. This will ultimately contribute to stronger monitoring, improved programme implementation, and better outcomes for rural households under DAY-NRLM.

Training of Trainers on Gender Integration under DAY-NRLM



Participants of the Training of Trainers on Gender Integration with Programme Coordinator Dr. Vanishree Joseph, Assistant Professor & Head (I/c), CGSD, and Director, NRLM, NIRDPR

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Gender Integration, Institutional Mechanism, and Immersion Sites under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) from September 4 to 7, 2025. The four-day programme was hosted by the DAY-NRLM Resource Cell of the Institute.

The training programme aimed at strengthening the capacities of professionals engaged in rural livelihoods to integrate gender perspectives more effectively into policies, programmes, and field-level interventions. By focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment, the programme sought to ensure that livelihood initiatives under DAY-NRLM become more inclusive and responsive to the needs of all sections of society.

During the sessions, participants were introduced to a range of concepts and practices related to gender integration, institutional mechanisms, and immersion site strategies. Resource

persons highlighted the significance of gender-sensitive planning, implementation, and monitoring of rural development initiatives. Case studies and interactive exercises helped participants gain practical insights into addressing gender-related challenges in rural communities.

The ToT also provided a platform for experience sharing and peer learning, enabling participants to exchange best practices and innovative approaches adopted across states. Special emphasis was laid on developing strategies that not only promote women's participation but also empower them to take leadership roles in community institutions and decision-making processes.

The programme concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to applying the knowledge and skills gained during the training in their respective work areas. NIRDPR, through such initiatives, continues to reinforce its role as a national centre of excellence in capacity building and knowledge sharing, working towards the vision of an equitable and inclusive rural development process.

National Level Training on Convergence of Schemes with Watershed Activities



Officers, faculty, students, SHG members, and staff of NIRDPR taking the mass pledge as part of Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan in front of Ambedkar Block

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, through its Centre for Natural Resource Management, Climate Change & Disaster Mitigation, organised a National Level Training Programme on the “Scope and Relevance of Convergence of Central and State Schemes with Watershed Activities for Maximising Investment under WDC-PMKSY 2.0” from 15th to 19th September 2025 at Hyderabad.

The programme brought together a wide range of officials and practitioners from across the country to strengthen their understanding of convergence strategies and to explore ways of optimising investments in watershed development. The discussions and sessions focused on ensuring that watershed activities are better integrated with ongoing national and state-level schemes,

enabling a more coordinated and resource-efficient approach to rural development.

Key highlights of the programme included:

- ◆ Convergence of watershed activities with central and state schemes for improved planning and resource use.
- ◆ Strategies to maximise investments in rural water management, natural resource conservation, and livelihood enhancement.
- ◆ Capacity building of officials and practitioners, equipping them with tools and techniques for the effective implementation of WDC-PMKSY 2.0.

Participants shared their experiences, exchanged best practices, and worked on action-oriented plans that would help translate policy objectives into impactful results at the grassroots level.

National Level Training of Trainers on Model Youth Gram Sabha



Participants of the National Level Training of Trainers on Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS), Batch I & II posing for photo

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad organised the National Level Training of Trainers on Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS), Batch I & II, on 11–12 September 2025, under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

The training programme was designed to provide trainers and stakeholders with a comprehensive understanding of the Model Youth Gram Sabha concept and its significance in promoting youth engagement within Panchayati Raj Institutions. Over the two days, participants took part in detailed sessions covering the structure and functioning of MYGS, strategies to mobilise youth at the village level, and methods to encourage active participation in local governance.

Interactive workshops and practical exercises allowed attendees to gain hands-on experience in planning and

conducting Youth Gram Sabha activities effectively. Discussions focused on building leadership skills, fostering democratic values, and creating platforms for young people to voice their opinions and contribute to community development initiatives.

The programme witnessed participation from trainers, government officials, and representatives from various stakeholder organisations, highlighting a collaborative approach towards strengthening youth participation in rural governance.

Through this initiative, NIRDPR reinforced its commitment to empowering rural youth, equipping them with the skills and confidence to play an active role in decision-making processes, and supporting the broader goal of inclusive and participatory governance in villages across India.

NIRDPR Conducts Training of Trainers on Individual Enterprise Financing under DAY-NRLM



Trainers attending the Training of Trainers on Individual Enterprise Financing posing for photo

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, successfully conducted the Training of Trainers (ToT) on Individual Enterprise Financing under DAY-NRLM from 09-12 September 2025.

The four-day programme aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of trainers in promoting enterprise financing solutions for rural entrepreneurs. It focused on equipping participants with practical tools, methodologies, and strategies to implement and scale up livelihood-based enterprises effectively in rural areas. Sessions covered a range of topics, including assessment of enterprise viability, financing mechanisms, risk management, and monitoring frameworks, aligned with the objectives of DAY-NRLM to foster sustainable livelihoods and income-generating opportunities for rural communities.

The programme combined interactive lectures, group discussions, and hands-on exercises, which enabled participants to not only understand theoretical concepts but also practice their application in real-life situations. Trainers engaged in case studies and role-play activities that reflected challenges commonly faced by rural entrepreneurs, allowing them to develop practical problem-solving skills.

A strong emphasis was placed on enhancing the capacity of trainers so that they can serve as effective facilitators for rural beneficiaries. The sessions highlighted strategies to guide communities in identifying viable business opportunities, preparing business plans, and accessing formal financial institutions. Particular attention was given to strengthening financial inclusion mechanisms, ensuring that marginalised groups, especially women, have equitable access to credit and enterprise support services.

Hindi Pakhwada Celebrated at NIRDPR



Participants from various departments and PG students taking part in the Hindi Pakhwada competitions

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, celebrated Hindi Fortnight (Hindi Pakhwada) from 14th to 28th September 2025 in accordance with the directives of the Government of India. The celebration aimed to promote the use of Hindi as the official language and encourage officers, staff, and students to enhance their proficiency in it.

As part of the observance, a series of competitions was organised for the officers, staff, and PG students of the Institute. The events included a Hindi Sulekh (Handwriting) Competition for Group 'C' employees, a Hindi Solo Singing Competition, a Hindi Elocution.

Competition, and Hindi Essay Writing Competitions for both staff and PGDRDM/PGDM-RM students. The program was coordinated under the guidance of Smt Anita Pandey, Assistant Director (OL).

The competitions saw enthusiastic participation from members across various departments and students. Participants showcased their linguistic and creative abilities, reflecting their appreciation for Hindi as a unifying language of administration and culture. The competitions not only encouraged the use of Hindi in everyday communication but also created an atmosphere of learning and appreciation for the language.



NIRDPR Conducts 3rd Batch of Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme



Participants of the 3rd Batch of the Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme (RK-LSJSP) with Programme Coordinator Dr Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor, CHRD, NIRDPR

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad conducted the 3rd Batch of the Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme (RK-LSJSP) on 13th September 2025 at the NIRDPR Campus, Rajendranagar. The programme was organised under the stewardship of the Centre for Human Resource Development (CHRD), School of Development Studies & Social Justice, NIRDPR, and was coordinated by Dr Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor, Centre for Human Resource Development (CHRD)

The capacity-building initiative was specifically designed for employees belonging to Group A and Group B (Academic and Non-Academic) cadres of NIRDPR, aiming to foster efficiency, service orientation, and a stronger sense of commitment to public service delivery. As part of the Rashtriya Karmayogi Mission, the programme aligns with the national vision of nurturing a competent, citizen-centric, and accountable workforce.

The sessions placed emphasis on strengthening professional competencies, encouraging participants to adopt

innovative approaches in governance, and building a culture rooted in accountability and transparency. Employees were engaged in discussions on aligning individual performance with broader institutional and national goals, ensuring that their work contributes meaningfully to the Institute's mission of rural development and Panchayati Raj.

Key modules included training on effective service delivery mechanisms, communication skills, leadership development, problem-solving techniques, and innovative strategies for improving institutional efficiency. The interactive format, blending lectures, group discussions, and case studies, encouraged participants to share their experiences and reflect on how they could translate the learnings into daily professional practice. The RK-LSJSP also provided a platform for cross-learning among academic and non-academic staff, enhancing collaboration and mutual understanding within the Institute.

NIRDPR Conducts Tree Plantation Drive under Nationwide Sewa Parv Initiative



Faculty members, staff, and students of NIRDPR participating in the tree plantation drive organized on the campus as part of the Nationwide Plantation Drive during Sewa Parv.

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj NIRDPR, organized a Tree Plantation Drive on 25th September 2025 at the rear side of the Aravali Guest House as part of the Nationwide Plantation Drive initiated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) during Sewa Parv (17th September – 2nd October 2025).

The objective of the initiative was to inspire citizens to plant trees, promote environmental awareness, and strengthen the national resolve for a green and clean India. The campaign aimed to blend emotional commitment with ecological restoration, creating a visible people's movement for sustainability across the country.

Faculty members, officers, staff, and students of NIRDPR enthusiastically participated in the plantation event. The drive witnessed active engagement from all departments, symbolising the Institute's dedication to environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The plantation programme was coordinated by Dr Pranab Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Registrar (E) i/c, with necessary arrangements made under the supervision of the Executive Engineer and the Garden Superintendent. The event was supported by various wings of the Institute to ensure successful execution.

NIRDPR PG Students Gain Hands-On Experience in Aquaponics



PG students at the RTP Aquaponics Unit with Dr. C. Kathiresan, Associate Professor & Head, Centre for Innovations and Appropriate Technology for Skills and Jobs, during their field exposure

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, organised a field visit for its Post-Graduate students to the Rural Technology Park (RTP) Aquaponics Unit on 30 September 2025. The visit offered students practical exposure to innovative and sustainable farming practices.

At the Aquaponics Unit, students observed how integrated aquaponics systems combine fish farming with vegetable cultivation, creating a resource-efficient and climate-resilient model. The demonstration showcased the potential of aquaponics to contribute to food security, water-use efficiency, and sustainable livelihoods in rural India.

The session was led by Dr. C. Kathiresan, Associate Professor & Head, Centre for Innovations and Appropriate Technology for Skills and Jobs, who provided expert guidance on the principles and applications of aquaponics. His insights helped students link theoretical learning with real-world practices in sustainable agriculture.

This exposure visit reinforced NIRDPR's emphasis on blending academic instruction with practical field-based learning, preparing students to contribute meaningfully to rural transformation through innovation and technology.

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



राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं
पंचायती राज संस्थान

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL
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