



REGIONAL CENTRE FOR URBAN & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, LUCKNOW

(MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS, GOVT. OF INDIA)

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The Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) Lucknow, established in 1968 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, is one of four such centers in the country. It provides expertise, advisory, and consultancy services to urban local bodies and parastatal agencies. Having completed over 50 years of service, RCUES Lucknow continues to uphold its role as a Centre of Excellence, driving progress in urban governance and development.

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ORIENTATION TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF UTTAR PRADESH UNDER SBM 2.0

BACKGROUND

The Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES), Lucknow has been actively engaged in building capacities of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) 2.0. With the renewed focus of SBM 2.0 on sustainable sanitation, solid waste management, and inclusive urban development, the role of elected representatives has become more vital than ever. In alignment with the mission's objectives, RCUES Lucknow organized an Orientation Training Programmes for elected representatives from ULBs across Uttar Pradesh from 8-9 April 2026.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

- To familiarize elected representatives with the provisions, goals, and revised guidelines under SBM 2.0.
- To enhance understanding of critical urban sanitation components including solid and liquid waste management, FSSM, and legacy waste handling.
- To promote participatory planning and community engagement in urban sanitation efforts.
- To encourage effective leadership in the implementation of SBM initiatives at the city level.



- To share best practices and facilitate peer learning among elected representatives.

TRAINING PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

- Each training programme comprised focused sessions on the following key thematic areas:
- Overview of SBM 2.0: Mission components, policy framework, and expected outcomes.
- Solid Waste Management (SWM): Rules, door-to-door collection, segregation at source, and scientific disposal.
- Fecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM): Decentralized solutions and compliance requirements.
- Used Water Management: Greywater reuse and urban water recycling initiatives.
- Material Recovery Facility (MRF): Its functioning, financial viability, and role in reducing landfill dependency.
- Legacy Waste and Plastic Waste Management: Strategies and innovations for sustainable clean-up.
- Garbage Free Cities: Indicators and roadmap for achieving GFC status.
- Community Participation and IEC: Strengthening public awareness, behavior



change, and citizen engagement.

- PPP Model Implementation: Leveraging private sector efficiencies for mission execution.
- Open Dialogue: Field-level experiences, implementation bottlenecks, and solution sharing.

PARTICIPANTS

A total of eight elected representatives from various Urban Local Bodies of Uttar Pradesh attended the training. The interactive sessions enabled them to gain clarity on their role as enablers of sustainable sanitation in their respective cities and towns.

COORDINATION

The Training was coordinated by Assistant Directors Mr. Himanshu Chandra and Dr Nasruddin.



WEBINAR ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SANITATION

BACKGROUND

Sanitation workers play a critical role in safeguarding public health and ensuring the continuity of essential urban services. Despite the importance of their work, sanitation workers are frequently exposed to a range of occupational hazards, including biological, chemical, physical and psychosocial risks. Unsafe working conditions, inadequate use of personal protective equipment, exposure to hazardous environments and limited awareness of safety protocols can have serious implications for their health, safety and dignity.

Recognising the need to strengthen awareness and institutional capacities around Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in sanitation, the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES), Lucknow, in association with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), New Delhi, organised a Curtain Raiser Webinar on “Occupational Health and Safety in Sanitation” on 15 June 2026.

The webinar served as an introductory platform for the comprehensive two-day training programme on OHS in sanitation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WEBINAR

The webinar was organised with the following objectives:

- To introduce the concept and importance of Occupational Health and Safety in sanitation services.
- To familiarise participants with the regulatory framework, compliance requirements and institutional responsibilities related to sanitation worker safety.
- To highlight occupational hazards faced by sanitation workers across different activities and work environments.
- To promote safe working practices for sanitation workers involved in toilet operation and maintenance, masonry, desludging, FSTP/STP operations and related activities.
- To sensitise participants to critical safety concerns such as confined spaces and the safe reuse of treated water and biosolids.

- To highlight the importance of mental health and well-being of sanitation workers.
- To introduce hazard identification and assessment approaches that can support safer sanitation operations.
- To provide participants with an overview of the forthcoming two-day training programme and encourage deeper engagement with OHS practices.

WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS

The two-hour webinar covered key aspects of Occupational Health and Safety through a focused sequence of technical sessions and participant interaction.

The webinar commenced with welcome and opening remarks by **Mr. Ajit Mishra, Assistant Director RCUES Lucknow**. He warmly welcomed the resource persons, participants, and representatives from various Urban Local Bodies and stakeholder organizations. In his address, he introduced the theme of the webinar and highlighted the importance of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in the sanitation sector. Ms. Mahreen Matto, Team Lead Sanitation Capacity Building Platform (SCBP), National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, shared insights on occupational health and safety requirements in sanitation, highlighting the need for systematic approaches to protect sanitation workers through awareness, capacity building, and institutional mechanisms. Mr. Praveen Nagaraja, WASH Institute, discussed practical aspects of workplace safety across the sanitation value chain, including safety measures for sanitation workers, confined space operations, hazard identification, and adoption of appropriate safety practices.

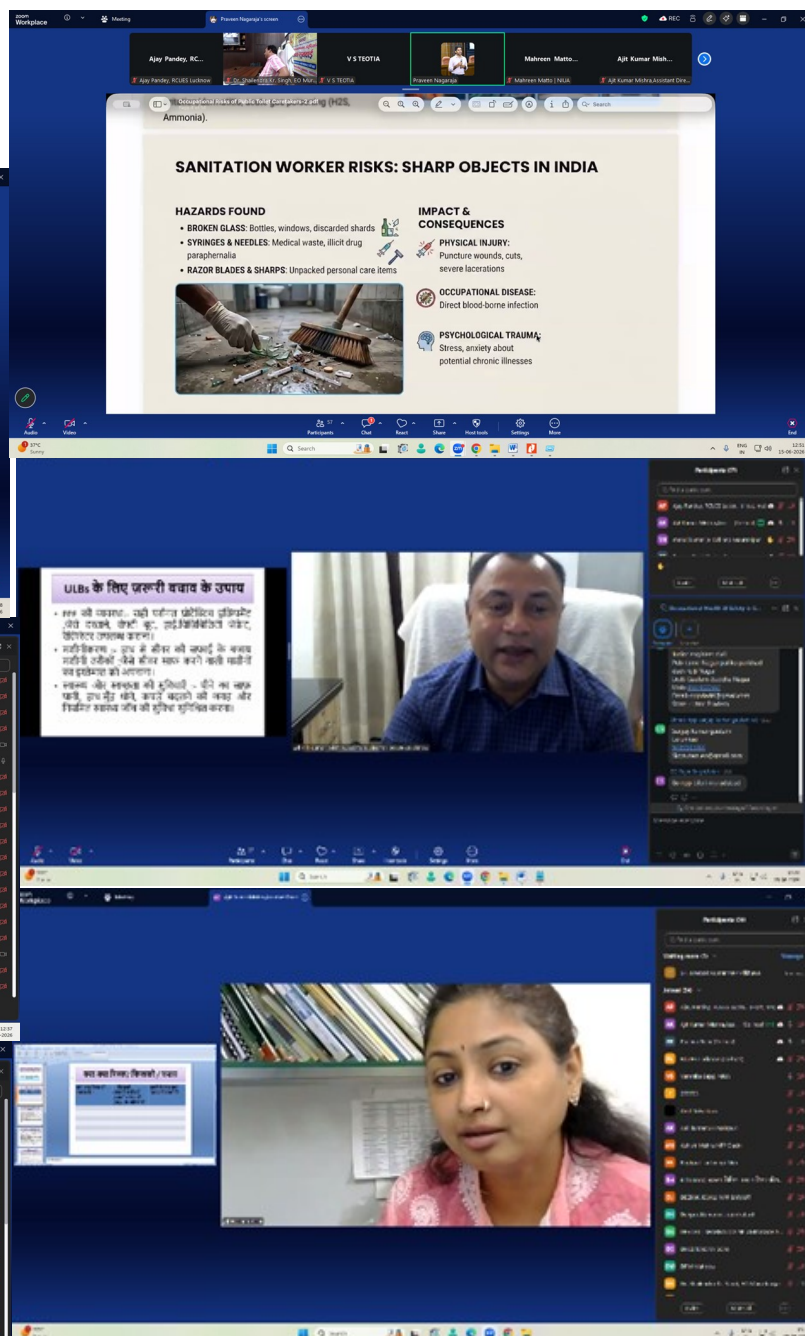
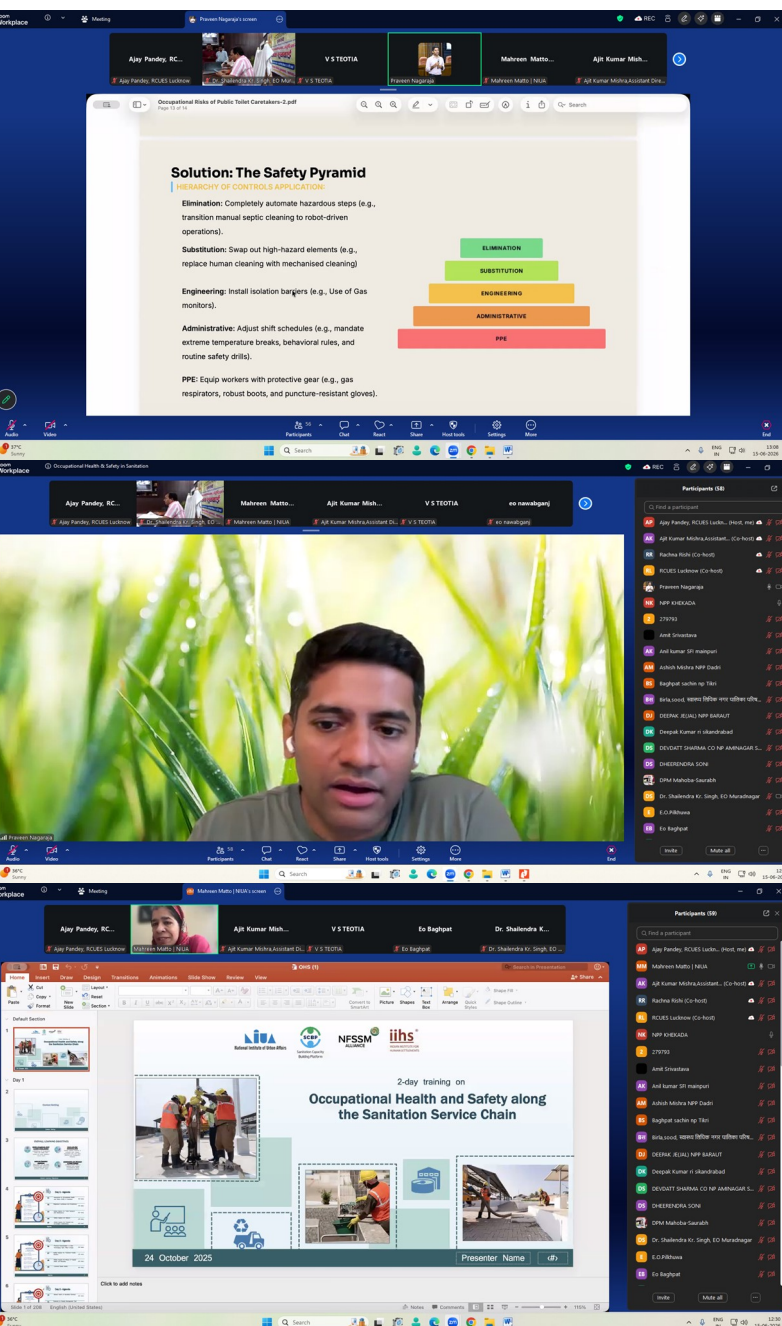
PARTICIPANTS

The webinar brought together 38 stakeholders associated with urban sanitation and capacity building, including: Officials and functionaries of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Sanitation and Public Health Engineers, Swachh Bharat Mission functionaries, Sanitation supervisors and managers

COORDINATION

The webinar was coordinated by Mr. Ajit Kumar

Mishra, Coordinator, with Ms. Rachna Rishi, Co-Coordinator, supporting the planning and coordination of the programme.



WEBINAR ON GENDER, EQUITY, DISABILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GEDSI) IN SANITATION

BACKGROUND

The Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES), Lucknow, in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), New Delhi, organized a webinar on “**Gender, Equity, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in Sanitation**” on 22 June 2026. The webinar served as a curtain raiser to the two-day training programme on GEDSI in Sanitation organized on **21–22 July 2026**.

Urban sanitation systems do not affect all sections of society in the same manner. Women, children, persons with disabilities, elderly citizens, sanitation workers and marginalized communities often face specific barriers in accessing safe, affordable, accessible and dignified sanitation services. Integrating GEDSI principles into urban sanitation planning and service delivery is therefore essential for creating inclusive and equitable cities.

The webinar provided an introductory platform to sensitize stakeholders on the importance of gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and socially equitable approaches in sanitation. It also highlighted the need for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to incorporate the needs and perspectives of diverse groups into planning, financing, infrastructure development and service delivery.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WEBINAR

The webinar and subsequent training programme aimed to:

- Introduce participants to the concepts of **Gender, Equity, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)** in the context of urban sanitation.
- Enhance understanding of the barriers experienced by vulnerable and marginalized groups in accessing sanitation services.
- Promote inclusive and gender-responsive approaches to urban Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).
- Familiarize participants with financing and institutional mechanisms for inclusive sanitation initiatives.
- Sensitize stakeholders to issues related to **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** and sanitation.

- Strengthen understanding of inclusive city-wide sanitation planning.
- Highlight the role of ULBs in ensuring equitable, accessible and citizen-centric sanitation services.
- Facilitate practical learning and exchange of experiences among urban sector stakeholders.

WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS

The webinar brought together experts and practitioners to introduce participants to key dimensions of GEDSI in sanitation.

The programme commenced with **Welcome and Opening Remarks by Ms. Mahreen Matto, NIUA, and Ms. Rachna Rishi, RCUES Lucknow**.

Dr. A. K. Singh, former Deputy Director, RCUES Lucknow, provided insights into **Introduction to GEDSI in Sanitation** and subsequently discussed **Financing and Institutional Perspectives**, highlighting the importance of institutional commitment and appropriate financing mechanisms for advancing inclusive sanitation.

Ms. Vanshika Bajaj, NIUA, addressed the themes of **Inclusive Urban WASH and Service Delivery** and **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and WASH**, drawing attention to the differentiated needs and vulnerabilities of various social groups and the importance of incorporating safety, dignity and inclusion into sanitation planning.

The session on **Planning for Inclusive Cities** was delivered by **Shri Ajit Kumar Mishra, Assistant Director, RCUES Lucknow**, focusing on the role of urban planning and local institutions in creating inclusive urban environments.

The webinar concluded with an **Interactive Discussion and Q&A**, providing participants an opportunity to raise questions, share experiences and discuss challenges related to implementation of GEDSI principles in urban sanitation.

The webinar highlighted that inclusive sanitation goes beyond the creation of physical infrastructure. It requires a people-centred approach that addresses issues of **accessibility, safety, dignity, participation and equity**. The discussions also

emphasized the principle of **“Leave No One Behind”** as a guiding approach for inclusive urban service delivery.

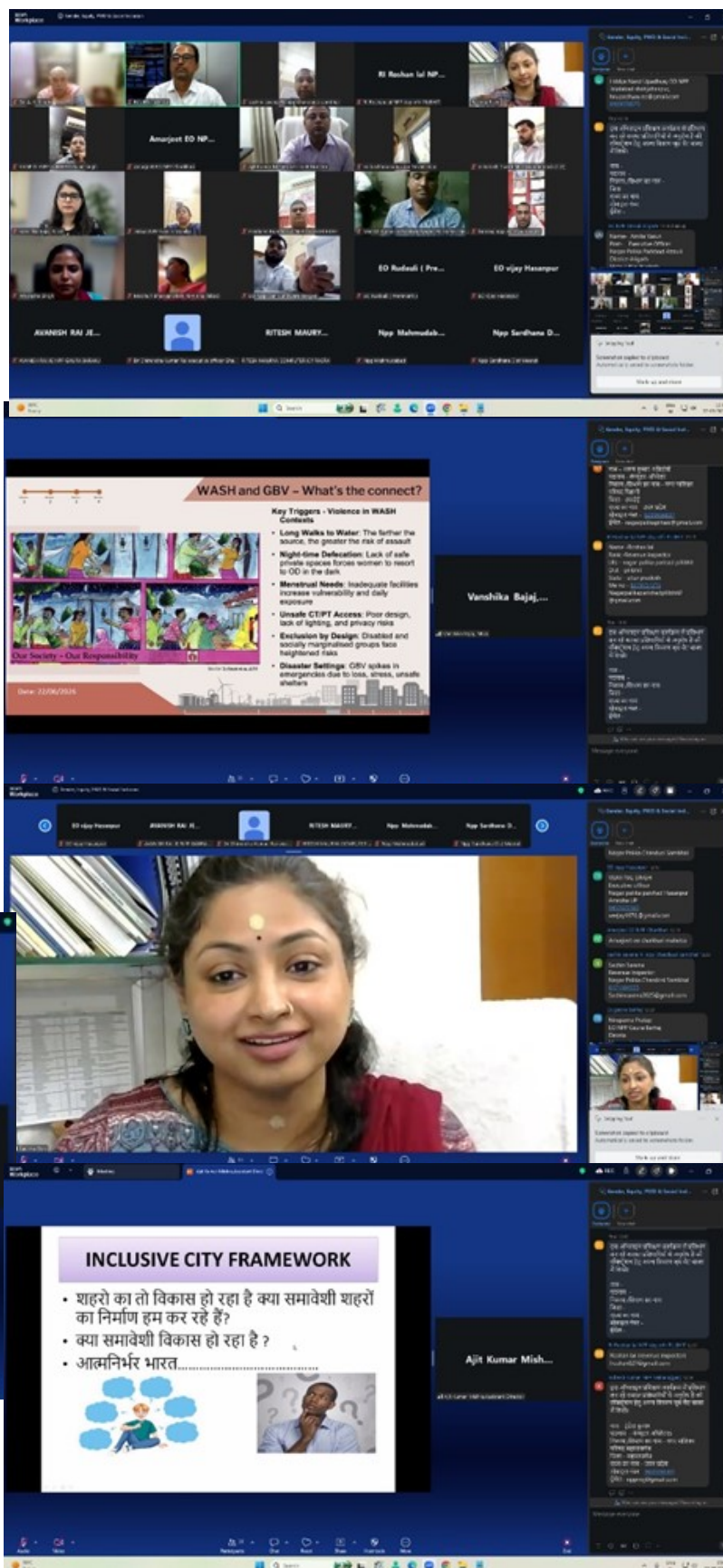
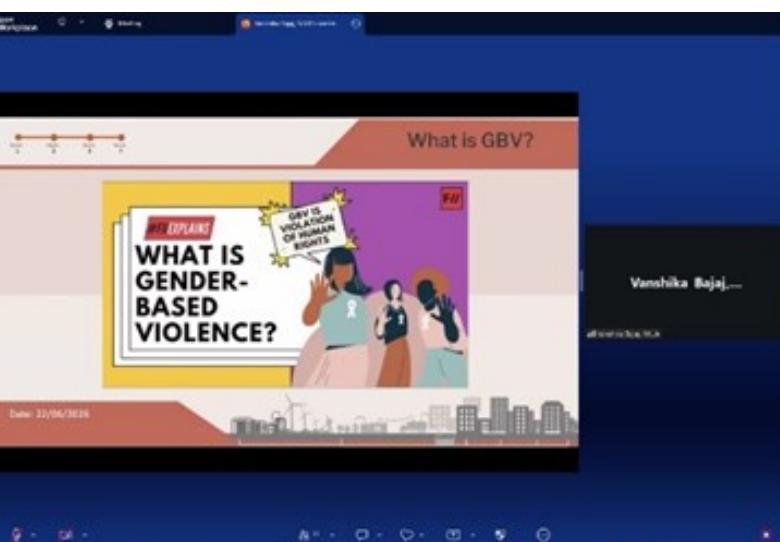
The webinar subsequently paved the way for the detailed two-day training programme on GEDSI in Sanitation held on **21–22 July 2026**, which provided participants with deeper conceptual understanding, practical approaches and opportunities for experiential learning.

PARTICIPANTS

The webinar was designed for a diverse group of urban sector stakeholders, including: Executive Officers, City Mission Managers, Urban Planners, Sanitation and Public Health Officials, Gender and Social Development Professionals. A total of 26 participants attended the webinar.

COORDINATION

The programme was coordinated by **Shri Ajit Kumar Mishra, Assistant Director, RCUES Lucknow**, with **Ms. Rachna Rishi, Publication Officer, RCUES Lucknow**, serving as Co-Coordinator.



TRAINING PROGRAMME ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SANITATION

BACKGROUND

Sanitation workers play a critical role in maintaining public health, environmental sustainability and urban cleanliness. However, their work often involves exposure to significant occupational hazards, including toxic gases, biological contaminants, hazardous chemicals, physical injuries, confined spaces, ergonomic risks and psychological stress. Inadequate access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), unsafe work practices and limited emergency preparedness can further increase these risks.

Recognizing the importance of safe and dignified sanitation work, the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES), Lucknow organized a two-day Training Programme on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in Sanitation on 29–30 June 2026 at RCUES, Lucknow. The programme focused on strengthening the capacity of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to institutionalize occupational safety, promote mechanization and ensure compliance with relevant laws, policies and Standard Operating Procedures.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

The training aimed to:

- Enhance understanding of OHS principles and occupational hazards in sanitation.
- Familiarize participants with relevant legal, policy and institutional frameworks, including the NAMASTE Scheme, the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their

Rehabilitation Act, 2013, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

- Strengthen knowledge of safe operating procedures, PPE use, mechanized sanitation and confined-space safety.
- Build capacities for emergency preparedness, rescue procedures, hazard identification and risk management.
- Promote occupational health monitoring, preventive healthcare and worker welfare.
- Encourage ULBs to institutionalize safety protocols and foster a culture of dignity, accountability and risk prevention.

TRAINING PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The programme adopted a participatory and practice-oriented approach, combining expert-led technical sessions, interactive discussions, case studies, practical demonstrations and experience sharing. Experts from RCUES Lucknow, NIUA, Regional Labour Institute, Kanpur, The WASH Institute, Urban Management Centre, Jal Sansthan and SUEZ India Services contributed to the sessions.

Key themes included occupational hazards across the sanitation value chain, confined-space safety, mental health, treatment facility operations, reuse of treated wastewater and biosolids, legal compliance, hazard management and worker safety.

A key highlight was the practical demonstration on “Safe Desludging: Spot, Map & Equip”, which familiarized participants with risk identification,





appropriate PPE, essential equipment and safe desludging practices. A participatory Hazard Identification and Risk Management Exercise further enabled participants to apply OHS principles to real-life sanitation situations.

The two-day training programme offered a comprehensive learning experience covering occupational health and safety across the sanitation value chain.

The programme commenced with an inaugural and context-setting session, wherein Shri Anuj Kumar Jha, IAS, Director, RCUES Lucknow, emphasized the importance of protecting the safety, dignity and well-being of sanitation workers and strengthening the capacity of Urban Local Bodies to institutionalize safe sanitation practices.

The first day focused on building a strong foundation in Occupational Health and Safety

(OHS). Participants were introduced to occupational hazards across sanitation operations and the regulatory and compliance framework governing worker safety. Sessions also covered safety considerations in the reuse of treated wastewater and biosolids, safe operation and maintenance of community and public toilets, and the often-overlooked aspect of mental health of sanitation workers, including workplace stress, stigma and occupational insecurity.

The second day adopted a more practical and occupation-specific approach. A key highlight was the demonstration on “Safe Desludging – Spot, Map & Equip”, which provided participants with practical insights into site assessment, equipment selection, PPE and safe supervision of desludging operations. This was followed by sessions on occupational safety for treatment facility workers, masons, emptiers and desludgers (Safaimitras).

Special emphasis was placed on confined-space

safety, with participants learning about risk assessment, atmospheric testing, ventilation, supervision, emergency preparedness and safe entry procedures for septic tanks and sewers. The programme concluded with an interactive Hazard Management Exercise, facilitated by NIUA experts, through which participants identified workplace hazards, assessed risks and developed appropriate mitigation measures.

The training was delivered by experts from RCUES Lucknow, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Regional Labour Institute, Kanpur, The WASH Institute, Urban Management Centre (UMC), Jal Sansthan and SUEZ India Services. The combination of expert presentations, practical demonstrations, interactive discussions and participatory exercises enabled participants to connect policy and technical knowledge with field-level sanitation operations.

Overall, the programme reinforced the message that occupational safety must be embedded in every stage of sanitation service delivery—from planning and supervision to field operations and emergency response. It also highlighted the collective responsibility of ULBs, contractors, supervisors and service providers in creating safe, healthy and dignified working environments for sanitation workers.

PARTICIPANTS

The programme was attended by 27 officials representing 25 Urban Local Bodies from 18 districts of Uttar Pradesh. The participants included 14 Executive Officers, 4 Junior Engineers (Jal), 4 Sanitary & Food Inspectors, 2 District Project Managers/Project Officials, 1 Safai Inspector and 1 Jalkal Supervisor.

The diverse representation of administrative, technical and sanitation functionaries provided a valuable platform for peer learning and exchange of field experiences from across Uttar Pradesh.

KEY OUTCOME

The training strengthened participants' understanding of occupational risks and practical safety measures and highlighted the critical role of ULBs in creating safer sanitation workplaces. Through knowledge

sharing, practical demonstrations and interactive learning, the programme reinforced the importance of mechanization, risk prevention, PPE, emergency preparedness, legal compliance and worker welfare in building safe, dignified and sustainable sanitation systems.

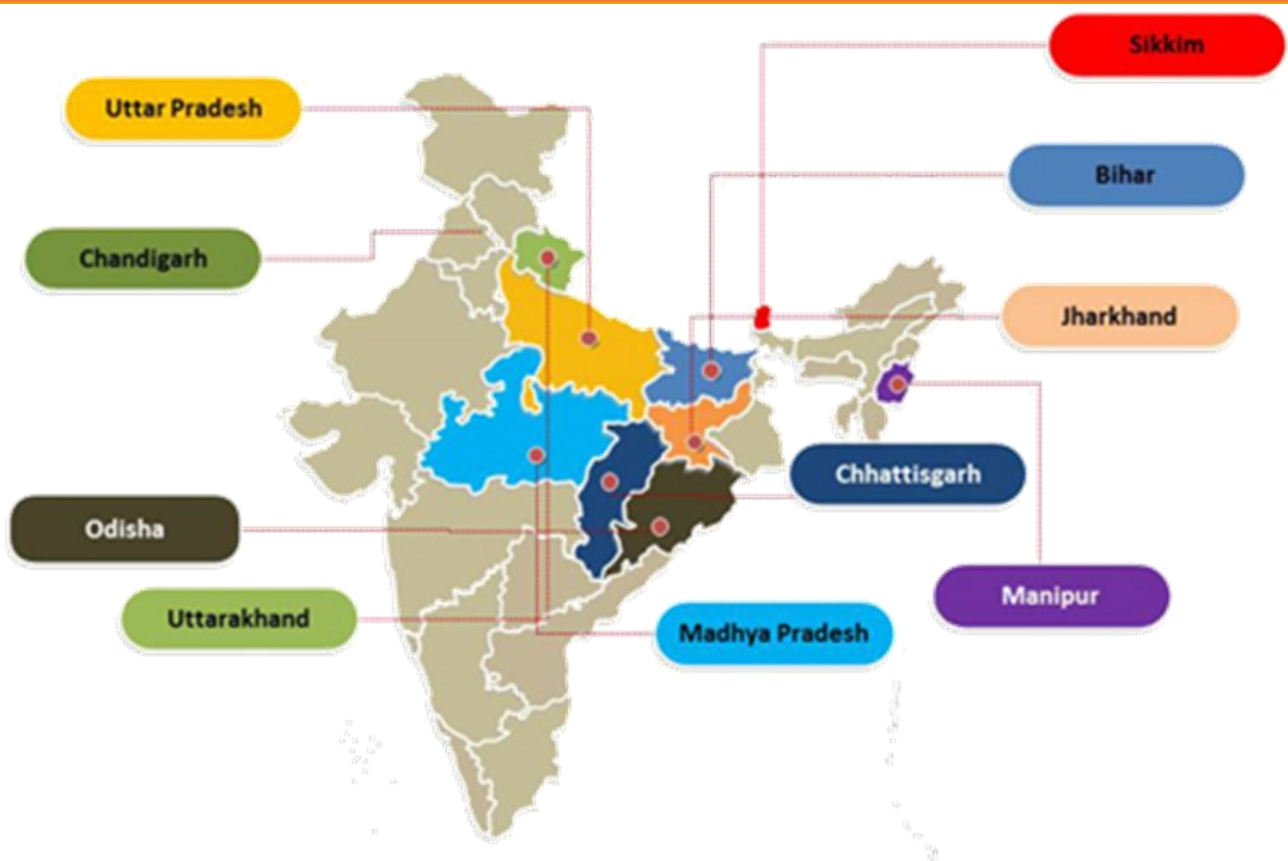
COORDINATION

The programme was coordinated by Shri Ajit Kumar Mishra, Assistant Director, RCUES Lucknow, with Ms. Rachna Rishi, Publication Officer, RCUES Lucknow, serving as Co-Coordinator.

Upcoming Campus of RCUES at Indira Nagar, Lucknow



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