



Australian Government

Supported by Australian High Commission, New Delhi



Capacity Building Workshop on Urban Governance Improving City Governance through Enhancing Knowledge of Urban Local Bodies

May 25, 2023 | Jaipur

Event Report



Background

Today, over half of the world's population lives in urbanised areas. India is urbanising at a rapid pace, with the urban population rising at a much faster rate than the total population. The level of urbanisation has increased from 17 percent in 1951 to 31 percent in 2011. The urban population in India, which was nearly 377 million in 2011, is poised to grow to 600 million by 2031. Urban areas contribute 62-63 percent of India's gross domestic product (GDP), estimated to reach 75 percent by 2030.

Such a rise in the urban population implies increased demand for goods and services and efficient urban planning, management, and governance systems. Therefore, addressing urban development and transformation, urban inequalities, and bringing suitable reformation within the urban governance system to address these changes is India's most important political and intellectual challenge.

In the case of Rajasthan, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are heavily dependent on funds from the Central and State government. These local bodies have limited capacity to raise resources through their sources of revenue and taxes and are all working under severe financial constraints. The inability of ULBs to raise resources has limited the growth of municipal income.

About the Project

CUTS is working towards improving urban governance in Rajasthan through its various interventions and has an MoU with the Department of Local Self-Government, Rajasthan, for capacity building of elected representatives and officials of ULBs since 2016.

CUTS strengthens urban local governments by providing capacity building on better financial management. It enlightens officials about instruments like municipal bonds that can come to their aid to raise resources for long-term financing projects, such as infrastructure development. Besides, it is vital to support them with training workshops and conferences related to urban issues like effective management of solid waste, sustainable transportation systems, and engaging communities including marginalised social and economic groups.

In this series of initiatives, CUTS is implementing a project titled "Improving City Governance through Enhancing Knowledge of Urban Local Bodies in Rajasthan" with the support of the Australian High Commission, New Delhi and active collaboration of the City Managers' Association of Rajasthan (CMAR).

The project's main objective is to promote knowledge, information, and capacity building on issues like solid waste management, sustainable transportation, wastewater, and financial instruments such as municipal bonds among Rajasthan's ULBs. Along with this objective, CUTS tries to improve the understanding of critical themes related to urban government in chosen cities within the project state and to assure these bodies' effective functioning.

Training Programme

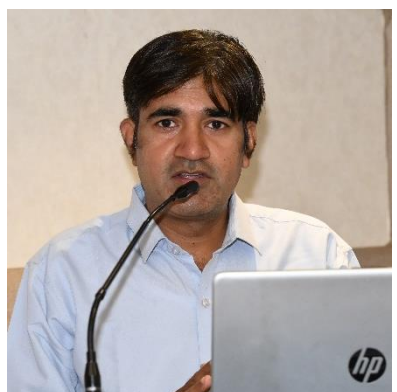
CUTS is organising training workshops for the officials of ULBs in Rajasthan. Workshops have been organised in Jodhur, Kota, Bharatpur and Ajmer which were attended by the officials of the ULBs from concerned divisions. The fifth training programme for municipal officials was organised at Jaipur on May 25, 2023, to sensitise the officials on the topics of municipal finance, solid waste management, sustainable transportation and community participation. Officials from Jaipur Municipal Corporation Heritage and Greater participated in the training workshop.



In the inaugural session of the training programme, **Amar Deep Singh**, Senior Programme Officer, CUTS greeted all guests and participants. He gave a brief overview of the event's objectives and presented a detailed explanation of effective ways of working in urban governance including all accomplishments and obstacles. He mentioned CUTS is working towards improving urban governance in Rajasthan through its interventions like MyCity for citizen engagement; Rajasthan City Mayors Learning Platform (RCMLP);

Knowledge Enhancement workshops for Municipal Officials and various studies across the state on urban governance. CUTS has an MoU with the Department of Local Self-Government, Rajasthan for capacity building of officials and elected representatives of ULBs since 2016. He also shared the details of project activities.

Amrat Singh, Director, CUTS delivered opening remarks and said ULBs in Rajasthan are also heavily dependent on funds from the Central and State Governments. These local bodies also have limited capacity to raise resources through their sources of revenue and taxes. To address the issue of capacity, CUTS is organising capacity-building workshops with the support from Australian High Commission, New Delhi in selected four cities of the State in consultation with the concerned department.



Kamaldeep Sharma, State Nodal Person, 15th Finance Commission, Department of Local Self Government, Rajasthan delivered a speech on the financial condition of ULBs of Rajasthan and suggested measures to improve it. Municipalities are running short of resources and unable to generate them. He said urban governance is a critical area of concern for the 15th Finance Commission, as the rapid urbanisation of India has brought new challenges related to urban development and management. The Commission

recognises the need to strengthen urban governance by improving the financial, administrative, and institutional capabilities of ULBs.

The 15th Finance Commission recognises the critical importance of strengthening urban governance to ensure that India's cities can meet the growing demands of urbanisation and provide their citizens with a high quality of life. He further suggested and described the methods for increasing the revenue of ULBs such as municipal bonds, corporate social responsibility projects, public-private partnerships (PPPs), advertisement taxes etc. However, there are several challenges. ULBs of Rajasthan are in deficit for the last several years. There is no policy for collecting advertisement taxes. Octroi is banned in the state since 1998.

Himani Tiwari, City Managers' Association of Rajasthan (CMAR), Department of Local Self Government, Government of Rajasthan explained the relevant government schemes and programmes on urban governance. She discussed the following schemes in detail: Smart City Mission (Jaipur, Udaipur, Kota, and Ajmer), Deendayal Antyodaya National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Indira Rasoi Yojana Indira Credit Card Scheme Indira Shehri Rojgar Guarantee Yojana Rajasthan Smart City Scheme, Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Programme (RUIDP) and Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water and Sewerage Infrastructure Development Cooperation (RUDSICO) Solid Waste Management. She emphasis on increasing the revenue of ULBs and said that now waste management has become a model for revenue generation.



Sessions

D Sudhakar Rao, Expert Urban Management, Hyderabad as lead resource person delivered the main four topics, i.e. municipal finance, solid waste management, sustainable transportation and community participation in the workshop. His sessions were mainly interactive and he discussed local issues with participants.

Topic 1: Municipal Finance

Urbanisation is a major trend in India, with a rapidly growing population and economic development leading to the growth of cities and urban areas. This has brought about many challenges and opportunities for India's urban areas, as well as for the country as a whole.

India is experiencing rapid urbanisation, with the urban population growing at a faster rate than the rural population. According to the 2011 census, about 31 percent of India's population lived in urban areas, and this is expected to reach 40 percent by 2050. Many of India's urban areas are facing overcrowding, with high population densities and a shortage of affordable housing. This has led to the development of informal settlements, such as slums, which often lack basic services and infrastructure.

The urban scenario in India is complex and dynamic, reflecting the country's rapid growth and development, as well as the many challenges and opportunities that come with urbanisation. To address these challenges and make the most of the opportunities, India will need to focus on developing innovative and sustainable solutions for its urban areas, including investments in infrastructure, education, and innovation.

The following topics were discussed in detail: property tax (assessment and collection, vacant lands), advertisement tax, water charges, sewerage charges, trade licence fee, and PPP, (corporate social responsibility and municipal bond).

Topic 2: Solid Waste Management

Solid waste management refers to the processes and strategies involved in the collection, transportation, treatment, and disposal of solid waste, which includes garbage, refuse, and other discarded materials generated by households, businesses, and industries. Effective solid waste management is important for public health, environmental sustainability, and resource conservation. Some common methods of solid waste management include landfilling, incineration, composting, and recycling.

Solid waste management in India is a major challenge due to rapid urbanisation, increasing population, and changing consumption patterns. The management of solid waste in India is primarily the responsibility of local bodies, such as municipal corporations, which are often understaffed and under-resourced. As a result, much of the waste ends up in open dumps or landfills, causing environmental pollution and health hazards.

However, the Indian government has taken various initiatives to address this issue, including the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), which aims to improve solid waste management practices and increase awareness about cleanliness and hygiene. The mission has led to the construction of new sanitary landfills, the installation of waste-to-energy plants, and the promotion of composting and recycling.

Additionally, several private companies have entered the waste management sector, introducing new technologies and practices. Despite these efforts, solid waste management remains a significant challenge in India, and further investment and collaboration among stakeholders are necessary to address the issue effectively.

During the session, the following topics were discussed in detail: MSW Rules 2016, Solid Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2019, Solid Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2020, The 7Rs of Recycling, and Wastewater Management.

Topic 3: Sustainable Transportation

Sustainable transportation refers to the movement of people and goods in a way that is environmentally, socially, and economically responsible, both in the short and long term. It involves reducing the negative impacts of transportation on the environment, such as greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, air and noise pollution, and resource depletion. It also considers the social impacts of transportation, such as accessibility, equity, and safety, and the economic viability of transportation systems.

Sustainable transportation solutions include the use of low-emission vehicles, such as electric or hybrid cars, buses, and bicycles, and the promotion of alternative modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, and public transport. Other approaches involve the optimisation of transportation systems to reduce congestion, improve efficiency, and minimise waste, as well as the use of smart technology, such as real-time traffic management, to enhance mobility and safety. Sustainable transportation is a critical component of achieving global sustainability goals, such as the reduction of carbon emissions and the promotion of sustainable development.

Sustainable transportation in India is an urgent and significant challenge due to the country's rapidly growing population, urbanisation, and increasing motorisation. The transportation sector is a major contributor to GHG emissions and air pollution, which poses significant health and environmental challenges. However, several initiatives are being taken to promote sustainable transportation in India. The government is investing in the expansion of public transportation, such as metro rail and bus rapid transit systems, as well as the promotion of non-motorised transportation, such as cycling and walking. In addition, there is a growing trend of car-sharing and bike-sharing services being introduced in many cities.

Several cities in India have also implemented sustainable transportation initiatives, such as the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation's (BMTCL) Intelligent Transport System (ITS) and Delhi's odd-even car scheme. Moreover, private sector initiatives, such as Ola Electric and Revolt Motors, promote the use of electric vehicles.

Despite these initiatives, significant challenges to promoting sustainable transportation in India remain, including inadequate infrastructure, high costs, and lack of public awareness. However, with continued efforts and investment, sustainable transportation can become a reality in India, leading to a healthier environment and better quality of life for its citizens.

During the session following topics were discussed in detail: Green Transportation – Cycle Track, Cycling Rules in India, various cycling tracks built across India, and National Urban Transport Policy 2006.

Topic 4: Community Participation

The active participation of citizens in urban governance can improve the quality of urban life, increase accountability and transparency, and create a sense of ownership and responsibility for the development of their communities. Community participation can take various forms, such as public consultations, community meetings, participatory budgeting, and citizen advisory groups.

Many cities around the world have adopted community participation as an essential component of urban governance. In India, the government has introduced several policies and programs to encourage community participation in urban governance, such as the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), which mandates the involvement of citizens and community groups in the planning and implementation of urban infrastructure projects.

During the session, the following topics were discussed in detail: Public Participation in SWM Systems, challenges of community participation, and theory and practice of community participation.

Conclusion

The programme was well appreciated. Participants were enthusiastic to put what was learnt into practice. A total of 29 participants including officials from Jaipur municipal corporation (Heritage) Jaipur Municipal Corporation (Greater) and selected representatives of organisations working on urban issues attended the workshop. Participants shared their feedback by filling up the feedback forms.

In the concluding session, certificates of participation have been awarded to all participants. Amar Deep Singh, CUTS proposed a vote of thanks to all the guest speakers, resource persons and participant officials for their active participation in the workshop.

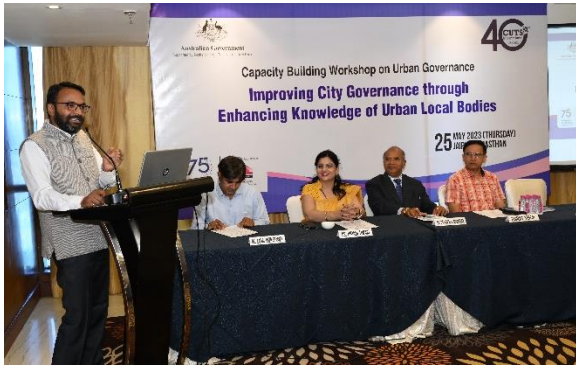
Programme Schedule

10:00 -10:30 hrs	Registration & Welcome Tea
10:30-11:00 hrs	<p><i>Inaugural Session</i></p> <p>Welcome Address & Overview of Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amar Deep Singh, Senior Programme Officer, CUTS <p><i>Opening Address:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amrat Singh, Director, CUTS International
11:00-11:20 hrs	<p><u>Preliminary Session:</u></p> <p><i>“Financial status of Rajasthan ULBs and how it can be improved”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Kamal Deep Sharma, State Nodal Officer, 15th Finance Commission, Department of LSG, Government of Rajasthan <p><i>“Flagship Schemes-GoR & GoI”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Himani Tiwari, CMAR, Dept. of LSG, GoR
11:20 – 11:30 hrs	Tea Break
11:30- 12:30 hrs	<p><i>Topic 1: Municipal Finance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Dachepally Sudhakar, Lead Resource Person, Former Executive Engineer (Retd.), GHMC, Hyderabad
12:30-13:30 hrs	<p><i>Topic 2: Solid Waste Management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dachepally Sudhakar, Lead Resource Person, Former Executive Engineer (Retd.), GHMC, Hyderabad
13:30 -14:30 hrs	Lunch Break
14:30 -16:00 hrs	<p>Topic 4 & 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Sustainable Transportation</i> ▪ <i>Community Participation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dachepally Sudhakar, Lead Resource Person
16:00 – 16:15	<p>Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificates Distribution to Participants • Summing up & vote of thanks: Amar Deep Singh, Senior Programme Officer, CUTS
16:15 onwards	Tea & Departure

List of Participants

S.No.	Name	Designation and Organisation
1	Kamlesh Kumar Jaiman	Executive Engineer, Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Heritage
2	Yogesh Sharma	Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Heritage, HO
3	Anita Mittal	Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Heritage
4	Narendra Mishra	AEN, Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Greater
5	Manish Kumawat	AEN, Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Greater
6	Tejveer Singh	JEN, Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Greater
7	Pradeep Kumar	JEN, Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Greater (Garden)
8	Ashok Kumar Meena	JEN, Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Greater (Garage)
9	Anushree Doolar	Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Greater (Garage)
10	Sanju Choudhary	JEN, Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Greater (Garage)
11	Vividh Badaya	Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Heritage
12	Vikram Singh	Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Heritage
13	Chhagan Yadav	OSD, Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Heritage
14	Manisha Yadav	Deputy Commissioner, Karmike
15	Vinod Kumar Sharma	Awareness Training and Motivation for Action (ATMA), Jajmalpura, P.- Jorpura, Jobner, Jaipur
16	Rajesh Malakar	Vikasonmukh Sansthan, Jaipur
17	Narendra Garwa	Kishangarh Renwal, Distt.- Jaipur
18	Nikita Sharma	Nalini Foundation, Jhalana Doongari
19	Dr Amit Kumar	B- 190, University Marg, Bapu Nagar, Jaipur
20	Sunita Devi	Mahesh Nagar, Jaipur
21	Abhishek Pareek	Pehchan, Janpath, Shyam Nagar, Jaipur
22	Sweta Chahal	Jaipur
23	Seema Joshi	Maulik Foundation, Banipark, Jaipur
24	Anmol	CFAR, Jaipur
25	Hemlata Pareek	CFAR, Jaipur
26	Harish Chandra Sharma	Hardev Shikshan evam Jan Kalyan Sansthan, Jaipur
27	Dr D. Sudhakar (Resource Person)	Former Executive Engineer (Retd.), GHMC, Hyderabad
28	Dr Kamal Deep Sharma (Resource Person)	State Nodal Officer, Department of Local Self Government, Rajasthan
29	Dr Himani Tiwari (Resource Person)	Coordinator, CMAR Department of Local Self Government, Rajasthan
30	Amrat Singh	CUTS International
31	Amar Deep Singh	CUTS International
32	Rajdeep Pareek	CUTS International

Glimpses



कट्स का अधिकारियों का क्षमतावर्धन कार्यक्रम आयोजित



हेडलाइन न्यूज़। कोटा

'कट्स'द्वारा शहरी निकायों की क्षमतावर्धन कार्यक्रम राजस्थान स्वायत्त शासन विभाग तथा आस्ट्रेलियाई उच्चायोग नई दिल्ली

दशक से शहरी सुशासन और शहरी निकायों के क्षमतावर्धन के लिए कट्स कार्य कर रहा है। कट्स स्वायत्त शासन विभाग के साथ एक सहमति पत्र के अन्तर्गत शहरी निकायों के

के सहयोग से जयपुर में आयोजित किया गया। कट्स के अमर दीप सिंह वरिष्ठ कार्यक्रम अधिकारी ने बताया कि विगत एक

क्षमतावर्धन हेतु विगत वर्षों से कार्य कर रहा है। इस गैर वित्तीय सहमति पत्र के अनुसार जनप्रतिनिधियों एवं अधिकारियों की क्षमतावर्धन हेतु कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन किया जाता है। जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य शहरी निकायों के ज्ञानवर्धन के द्वारा आम नागरिकों की जीवन शैली में सुधार करना है। कार्यक्रम के प्रारम्भ में कट्स के निदेशक अमृत सिंह ने परियोजना के उद्देश्य एवं कार्यशाला के विभिन्न उद्देश्यों के बारे में जानकारी दी। डा कमल दीप शर्मा स्टेट नाडल आफिसर ने

अपने उद्बोधन के दौरान सभी अधिकारियों को मुंसिपल फाइनैस पर ज्यादा ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता जताई। कार्यक्रम में डा हिमानी तिवारी ने देश में चल रहे अच्छे प्रयासों को समझ कर उन्हें अपने अपने क्षेत्र में अपनाने पर जोर दिया। उन्होंने बताया कि देश में हैदराबाद मुंसिपल कारपोरेशन बहुत अच्छा काम कर रहा है तथा राजस्थान से अधिकारियों ने वहां की कार्यप्रणाली देखी है जिसको हम राजस्थान में लागू करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं एवं काफी हद

तक सफल भी रहे हैं। परंतु हमारे यहां किये गये कार्यों का सही ढंग से दस्तावेजीकरण नहीं हो पा रहा है जिससे हम राष्ट्रीय रैंकिंग में पीछे रह रहे हैं। हैदराबाद के डा डी सुधाकर ने विभिन्न मुद्दों पर सभी प्रतिभागियों का क्षमतावर्धन किया। उन्होंने कार्यक्रम में प्रतिभागियों को सम्बोधित करते हुए कहा कि शहरी निकायों में सुधार के लिए हमें आम जनों के व्यवहार परिवर्तन पर भी ध्यान देना चाहिए। कार्यक्रम में जयपुर नगर निगम हेरिटेज एवं ग्रेटर से लगभग 35 अधिकारियों ने भाग लिया।