

PRAGATI NEWSLETTER



**From Survival to Agency: Towards Strengthening Community Institutions
and Livelihood Pathways for Rural Transgender Communities**

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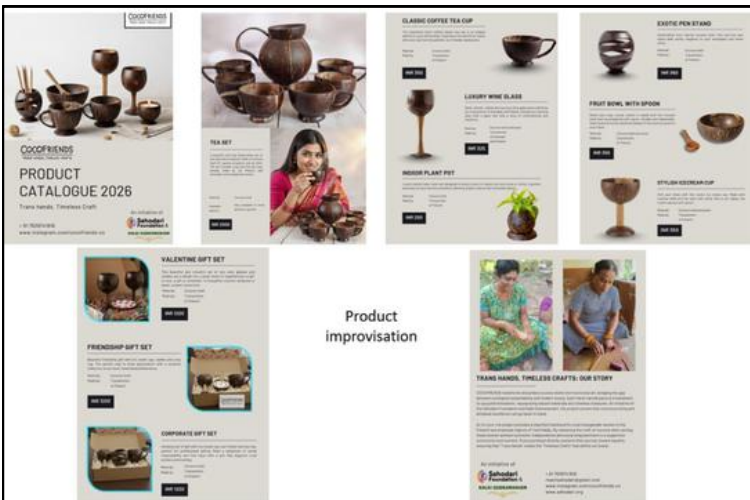
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From Survival to Agency: Towards Strengthening Community Institutions and Livelihood Pathways for Rural Transgender Communities

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CocoFriends catalogue featuring eco-friendly coconut shell products crafted by trained transgender entrepreneurs

Despite progressive legal recognition and policy commitments, transgender and gender-variant youth continue to face persistent exclusion from education systems, labour markets, and institutional support mechanisms, resulting in chronic livelihood insecurity.

In the year 2025 in particular, DDUGKY Resource Cell undertook two initiatives for identifying (i) the systemic and structural gaps that deter rural transgender persons from accessing and sustaining dignified and sustainable livelihood opportunities, (ii) the livelihood models that exist and have the potential to sustain and (iii) the key enablers that bridge policy with praxis.

The first project was conducted in collaboration with the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), and the second project was conducted in collaboration with the Canada Fund for



Tailoring and apparel production training

Local Initiatives (CFLI), of the Canada High Commission.

Project 1: Action Lab for the Inclusion of Transgender and Gender-Variant Youth in Mainstream Livelihoods

An Action Lab for the Inclusion of Transgender and Gender-Variant Youth in Mainstream Livelihoods was implemented under the Women, Youth and Rural Development Programme (WYRP) of CIRDAP to explore and strengthen inclusive, sustainable livelihood pathways for one of the most marginalised groups in rural and peri-urban contexts –transgender and gender variant persons.

The project was conceptualised as an Action Lab, combining community-led evidence generation, entrepreneurship-based livelihood pilots, and adaptive learning. Rather than relying on conventional skilling-to-employment models, the Action Lab prioritised practical, non-classroom-based livelihood interventions that

align with participants' lived realities, rural ethos, educational constraints, safety concerns, potential market demand, production cost, infrastructure and funding limitations and aspirations for dignified work of rural beneficiaries. It took a distinct note that the issues of rural-based transgender persons could be different from their urban counterparts, in terms of opportunities, constraints and social milieu.



Community consultation with transgender participants on inclusive livelihood opportunities

Implementation began with a Livelihood and Demographic Mapping Study in West Bengal, carried out through service camps and community-anchored data collection. Findings highlighted widespread educational exclusion, income precarity, livelihood aspirations and preference for practical, enterprise-oriented livelihoods, directly informing intervention design.

Based on this evidence, two Action Labs comprising five different skill-based interventions with 56 transgender members getting skill trained were piloted on entrepreneurship-based livelihood models. Action Lab One was implemented by NIRDPR directly in rural Tamil Nadu, a coconut shell-based entrepreneurship in Pollachi with Sahodari Foundation, focusing on value-added, resource-linked enterprise development with 11 members from two self-help groups, including one community leader.



Hands-on training in spice processing and entrepreneurship for sustainable livelihoods

Action Lab Two was implemented in West Bengal, in collaboration with PLEQSUS India Foundation. Here, four livelihood models were developed, viz., mushroom cultivation, spice processing, tailoring and apparel-based enterprises, and poultry, in which 45 members were trained. Infrastructure and training were completed for mushroom, spice, and tailoring models, with enterprise-building processes initiated, while poultry progressed through infrastructure development with training scheduled subsequently. A 25-day residential tailoring programme was conducted in collaboration with Usha International. Across regions, the project placed strong emphasis on capacity building beyond technical skills, exposure to markets and institutions, collective and SHG-based approaches, mentoring, and institutional convergence. Monitoring and review mechanisms were continuous and learning-oriented, enabling adaptive sequencing in



response to contextual constraints such as climate conditions, infrastructure readiness, and enterprise maturity.

Key findings and early outcomes indicated that practice-oriented, entrepreneurship-based livelihoods are more accessible and acceptable to rural transgender and gender-variant youth than classroom-based skilling or public-facing wage employment. NIRDPR recognised the centrality of the role of the CBO and the CBO leader to initiate, conduct and sustain livelihood intervention efforts. Early outcomes include improved skill confidence, enterprise readiness, collective capacity, and engagement with markets and institutions. The project also reinforced the interlinkages between skills and livelihoods, wellbeing, safety, and dignity, highlighting the importance of integrating health, documentation, and financial inclusion support into livelihood design.

The project provides a replicable framework and actionable insights for policymakers, rural development institutions, and practitioners across CIRDAP member countries, contributing to broader efforts to advance inclusive and dignified rural development.

Project 2: Advancing sustainable, wage-based livelihood opportunities for transgender and gender-diverse communities in rural India through consultations and policy advocacy with CFLI, Canada High Commission

This second project, conducted in collaboration with the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), was implemented across multiple regions of India through a combination of regional consultations, field engagement, and a national-level policy dialogue conducted in collaboration with community-based

organisations, civil society partners, government agencies, institutions, and departments, and various other stakeholders working on livelihood inclusion of transgender and gender-diverse communities. The project comprised eight activities with specific outcomes:

A.Strengthened evidence base on inclusive livelihood models:

Through field visits, consultations, and interviews with community leaders, employers, and civil society organisations, the project generated field-validated documentation of various categories of wage-based livelihood models for transgender and gender-diverse communities across India. This provides a structured evidence base of replicable and adaptable models for future livelihood programming.

B.Comparative analytical framework for future program design and scale-up:

A comparative analysis tool was developed to assess the strengths, limitations, scalability, sustainability, and adaptability of documented livelihood models and relevant policy instruments across sectors and geographies.

C.Improved policy insights and actionable recommendations for inclusive employment

Through mapping and analysis of national schemes, labour laws, sectoral programmes, CSR initiatives, and employment frameworks, the project produced a synthesised policy brief identifying policy gaps, convergence opportunities, and actionable entry points for promoting inclusive wage employment pathways for transgender and gender-diverse communities within existing development and skill-building frameworks.

D.Expanded data and evidence on livelihood aspirations and structural barriers:

The Pan-India Demographic, Aspirations,



Skills, and Livelihood Mapping Study generated an anonymised dataset of approximately 450 transgender and gender-diverse respondents, capturing employment status, skill profiles, livelihood aspirations, and key barriers to accessing sustainable employment opportunities. A significant proportion of respondents expressed strong interest in transitioning to wage-based employment in sectors such as beauty and wellness, hospitality, care services, retail, logistics, and administrative roles, highlighting both the aspirational shift toward formal employment pathways and the need for targeted skilling and employment facilitation programmes.

E. Development of practical tools for livelihood program implementation:

The project produced four practice-oriented knowledge products—an Operational Livelihood Model, Operational Guidelines, Stakeholder Engagement Framework, and an online Resource Repository—to support policymakers, implementers, and community organisations in designing and implementing transgender-inclusive livelihood programmes.

F. Introduction of technology-enabled livelihood counselling through Trans Aapti:

The project supported the development and deployment of 'Trans Aapti,' a web-based career interest assessment tool designed for transgender persons based on the globally recognised John Holland Interest Inventory framework. Building upon 'Kaushal Aapti,' an application developed by NIRDPR for the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY), the tool enables community-based organisations to conduct structured career and livelihood counselling,

helping align individual interests and skills with suitable employment sectors and training pathways.

G. Strengthened stakeholder engagement and emerging livelihood pathways:

Regional consultations and the national-level policy dialogue facilitated increased engagement between government institutions, sector skill councils, employers, CSR partners, and transgender community organisations. As immediate outcomes, two transgender persons were registered for skill training with RSETI following regional consultations, and sector stakeholders expressed interest in supporting inclusive employment pathways in sectors such as tourism and hospitality, care economy, and logistics and warehousing.

F. Emerging institutional interest in transgender-inclusive skilling and employment:

The consultations catalysed dialogue with sector stakeholders and government institutions. For instance, the Home Management and Care Giver Sector Skill Council recommended specific measures to MSDE to include transgender persons in skill development programmes such as PMKVY. Additionally, training providers expressed interest in exploring training, certification, and employment opportunities for transgender persons in sectors with growing workforce demand under DDU-GKY, which encourages the inclusion of vulnerable groups in skilling and placements.

I. Recognition of the need for capacity strengthening of community-based organisations (CBOs):

Through the regional consultations, field engagements, and policy dialogue conducted under the project, it became evident that community-based organisations working with

transgender and gender-diverse communities require structured capacity strengthening and long-term mentorship to effectively engage in livelihood programming and employment facilitation, as they often lack the institutional capacity, technical knowledge, and program management skills needed to design and implement livelihood initiatives at scale.

Therefore, a crucial next step that the centre proposes to take up is the capacity development and institutional mentoring of CBOs as a key priority for future interventions.

The national-level consultation marked the culmination of the project. Smt. Sumita Dawra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, delivered the keynote address in which she urged the community leaders, practitioners, activists, thinkers and other participants to leverage the various schemes and resources made available by the Government of India for supporting transgender livelihoods and unveiled Trans-Aapti, the aspiration mapping tool and the resource repository of livelihood models in the country.



Officials of DDUGKY RC, Senior Faculty of NIRDPR, gender activists, community leaders and experts during the review and planning consultation of transgender livelihoods initiatives

Training of Trainers on Individual Enterprise Loan Application (IELA) under DAY-NRLM



Participants of the ToT on Individual Enterprise Loan Application (IELA) with Dr Ravindra S. Gavali, Professor & Head, CNRM, CCDM, NIRDPR

The DAY-NRLM Resource Cell, NIRDPR organised two training of Trainers (ToT) programmes on Individual Enterprise Loan Application (IELA) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) from 3-5 June 2026 and 16-19 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad.

The programmes brought together officials, master trainers, and representatives from State Rural Livelihoods Missions (SRLMs) to strengthen their capacity to facilitate enterprise financing and improve access to institutional credit for Self-Help Group (SHG) members and rural entrepreneurs.

The training focused on building a comprehensive understanding of the IELA framework and its role in promoting rural entrepreneurship. Technical sessions covered the enterprise loan application process, appraisal procedures, documentation

requirements, digital application systems, credit assessment, and strategies for improving the quality and timely processing of loan applications. The programmes also emphasised the role of trainers in mentoring field functionaries, strengthening community institutions, facilitating convergence with financial institutions, and enhancing credit linkages.

Participants actively engaged in interactive discussions, case studies, practical exercises, and experience-sharing sessions that addressed field-level challenges and showcased effective implementation practices. The programmes served as a platform for knowledge exchange and capacity building, equipping participants with the skills required to support the effective implementation of the Individual Enterprise Loan Application (IELA) initiative and promote sustainable rural enterprises and enhanced livelihood opportunities under DAY-NRLM.

Hands-on Training on Making of Millets and Soya-based Products under Lakhpati Didi Initiative



Participants with Dr C. Kathiresan, Associate Professor & Head, CIAT&SJ, and Mr. Mohammad Khan, Senior Consultant, Rural Technology Park (RTP), NIRDPR

The Centre for Innovations and Appropriate Technologies for Skills and Jobs (CIAT&SJ), NIRDPR, organised a five-day hands-on training programme on "Making of Millets and Soya-based Products" for Self-Help Group (SHG) members and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) under the Lakhpati Didi Initiative from 09-13 June 2026 at the Rural Technology Park (RTP), NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

The training programme aimed to enhance the skills of SHG members and CRPs in preparing nutritious, value-added millet and soya-based products, while promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihood opportunities. Participants received practical training in the preparation, processing, packaging, quality control, hygiene standards, and storage of a variety of millet and soya-based food products. The sessions also covered basic aspects of branding, pricing, marketing, and business management to enable participants to establish or strengthen their micro-enterprises.

The programme combined classroom sessions with extensive practical demonstrations, allowing participants to gain hands-on experience in product preparation using appropriate technologies available at the Rural Technology Park. The training also highlighted the nutritional benefits of millets and soya, increasing consumer demand for healthy food products, and the potential of value addition in generating higher incomes for rural women.

Participants actively engaged in practical exercises and interactive discussions, gaining confidence to adopt the technologies and replicate them in their respective communities. The programme is expected to promote women-led enterprises, encourage value addition to locally available agricultural produce, and contribute to the objectives of the Lakhpati Didi Initiative by creating sustainable income-generating opportunities for rural households.

Training Programme on Business Diversification Opportunities and Best Practices of PACCSs



Participants of the Training Programme on Business Diversification Opportunities and Best Practices of PACCSs with Dr Aryashree Debapriya, Associate Professor, CPSDE, NIRDPR, Hyderabad

The Centre for PG Studies and Distance Education (CPSDE), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) organised a five-day Training Programme on "Business Diversification Opportunities and Best Practices of PACCSs" for Presidents/Boards of Directors (BoDs) and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies (PACCSs) and Large Area Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPCSs) from 08-12 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad. The programme was sponsored by the Department of Cooperation, Government of Odisha.

The training aimed to strengthen the capacities of cooperative leaders by exposing them to emerging business diversification opportunities and successful operational models of PACCSs and LAMPCSs. The sessions focused on expanding the role of cooperative societies beyond traditional credit services by exploring activities such as agri-input marketing, custom hiring centres, warehousing, value addition, food

processing, dairy, fisheries, and other rural enterprises.

The programme featured expert lectures, interactive discussions, case studies, and experience-sharing sessions on cooperative governance, business planning, financial management, digitalisation, and member-centric service delivery. Participants also discussed best practices adopted by successful cooperative societies across the country and explored strategies for improving operational efficiency, financial sustainability, and member participation.

The training provided a platform for cooperative leaders to exchange experiences and gain practical insights into strengthening the functioning of PACCSs and LAMPCSs. The knowledge and skills acquired during the programme are expected to help participants diversify business activities, improve service delivery, and enhance the contribution of cooperative institutions to rural livelihoods and local economic development.

ToT on Participatory Training Methodology and Training Design



Participants with Dr Ravindra S. Gavali, Professor & Head, CNRM, CCDM; Dr Jyoti Prakash Mohanty, Deputy Director, DAY-NRLM Resource Cell; and Shri R. Ravi Naidu, Mission Executive, NIRDPR

The DAY-NRLM Resource Cell, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Participatory Training Methodology and Training Design for Resource Persons under DAY-NRLM from 03-10 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad. The eight-day programme aimed to strengthen the capacities of resource persons by equipping them with participatory training methods, effective facilitation skills, and training design techniques for delivering high-quality capacity-building programmes under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

The programme brought together resource persons from different States to enhance their knowledge and practical skills in designing, planning, and conducting learner-centred training programmes. Sessions covered principles of adult learning, participatory training methodologies, communication and facilitation skills, training needs assessment, curriculum and session planning, preparation of training

materials, use of participatory tools, and techniques for assessing learning outcomes.

Participants actively engaged in group discussions, practical exercises, simulations, presentations, and peer-learning activities that enabled them to apply participatory approaches in real-life training situations. The programme also emphasised effective communication, experiential learning, feedback mechanisms, and the use of interactive methods to make training programmes more engaging and impactful.

The training provided a valuable platform for participants to exchange experiences, share best practices, and strengthen their capacities as trainers. The knowledge and skills gained during the programme are expected to enhance the quality of capacity-building initiatives under DAY-NRLM and contribute to the development of a strong pool of resource persons capable of supporting livelihood promotion and community institution strengthening across the country.

ToT on Climate Resilient and Carbon Neutral Planning for Gram Panchayats



Dr Ravindra S. Gavali, Professor & Head, CNRM, CCDM, and Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor & Head, CPRDP & SSD, NIRDPR with participants

The School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Climate Resilient and Carbon Neutral Planning for Gram Panchayats from 17-19 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad. The three-day programme aimed to build the capacities of resource persons and officials to support Gram Panchayats in integrating climate resilience and carbon neutrality into local development planning.

The programme brought together resource persons, Panchayati Raj officials, and development practitioners from different States to strengthen their understanding of climate change adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable rural development. The sessions focused on the concept of climate-resilient Gram Panchayats, carbon-neutral planning, climate risk assessment, natural resource management, ecosystem restoration, renewable energy, water conservation, waste management, and sustainable land-use practices.

Participants were introduced to planning tools and participatory

approaches for preparing climate-responsive Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs). The programme also highlighted the importance of community participation, convergence among government schemes, and the use of local resources to reduce carbon emissions while improving resilience to climate-related risks.

The training featured expert lectures, group discussions, practical exercises, and experience-sharing sessions, enabling participants to exchange ideas and learn from successful initiatives across the country. The interactive sessions encouraged participants to explore innovative solutions for addressing local climate challenges through effective planning and governance.

The programme provided a valuable platform for strengthening the capacities of trainers who will support Gram Panchayats in adopting climate-resilient and carbon-neutral development strategies. The knowledge and skills gained during the training are expected to contribute to sustainable natural resource management, enhanced climate resilience, and environmentally sustainable rural development across the country.

Training of Trainers on Risk-Based Internal Audit under DAY-NRLM



Participants of the ToT on Risk-Based Internal Audit under DAY-NRLM with Dr Ravindra S. Gavali, Professor & Head, CNRM, CCDM, NIRDPR

The Centre for Internal Audit in Rural Development (CIARD), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Risk-Based Internal Audit under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) from 22 to 26 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad. The five-day programme aimed to strengthen the capacities of officials and resource persons in adopting risk-based internal audit practices for improving governance, transparency, and accountability in DAY-NRLM implementation.

The programme brought together participants from State Rural Livelihoods Missions (SRLMs) and related institutions to enhance their understanding of risk-based auditing principles and internal control systems. The sessions covered risk assessment, audit planning, identification of operational and financial risks, internal control mechanisms, audit documentation, reporting standards, and follow-up

procedures. Emphasis was also laid on integrating risk-based approaches into internal audit processes to improve programme performance and ensure effective utilisation of public resources.

Participants actively engaged in expert lectures, case studies, practical exercises, group discussions, and experience-sharing sessions that focused on addressing field-level challenges in internal auditing. The programme also provided hands-on exposure to audit tools and methodologies, enabling participants to strengthen their skills in conducting systematic, evidence-based audits.

The training served as a platform for knowledge sharing and professional learning among internal audit practitioners and trainers. The knowledge and practical skills gained during the programme are expected to strengthen internal audit systems under DAY-NRLM, enhance financial accountability, and contribute to more effective programme implementation across States.

Leadership Development Programme for Elected Representatives and Officials of the Republic of Maldives



Elected Representatives and Officials from the Republic of Maldives participating in the Leadership Development Programme

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, is hosting a Leadership Development Programme for Elected Representatives and Officials of the Republic of Maldives from 21 June to 6 July 2026. The programme aims to strengthen the leadership and governance capacities of elected representatives and government officials while promoting the exchange of knowledge and best practices in local governance and sustainable development.

The programme has brought together representatives from various local councils and government institutions of the Republic of Maldives to enhance their understanding of democratic decentralisation, participatory governance, and inclusive development. Through a combination of expert lectures, interactive discussions, case studies, group exercises, and field visits, participants are gaining practical insights into India's rural development experience and innovative governance practices.

The training covers a wide range of themes, including leadership

development, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), local governance, Panchayati Raj, women's empowerment, climate change and resilience, natural resource management, participatory planning, community engagement, and sustainable rural development. Special emphasis is being placed on strengthening leadership competencies, improving public service delivery, promoting citizen participation, and integrating climate-responsive approaches into local development planning.

The programme is expected to enhance the leadership and managerial capabilities of the participants and equip them with practical knowledge to strengthen local governance and development initiatives in the Republic of Maldives. It also reinforces the longstanding partnership between India and the Maldives in the areas of capacity building, decentralised governance, and sustainable development through continued institutional collaboration.

Off-Campus Training at BIPARD, Gaya, on BDO Leadership for Bringing Saturation in Rural Development Programmes and Building Prosperous Blocks



Dr T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor & Head, CESD, NIRDPR, with participants of the off-campus training programme at BIPARD, Gaya, Bihar.

The Centre for Equity and Social Development (CESD), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, conducted a six-day residential training programme on 'BDO Leadership for Bringing Saturation in Rural Development Programmes and Building Prosperous Blocks' from 8-13 June 2026 at the Bihar Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (BIPARD), Gaya, Bihar.

A total of 17 Block Development Officers (BDOs) from the States of Bihar, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh participated in the programme. The training was designed to strengthen the leadership, management, planning, and governance capacities of BDOs for accelerating rural development through convergence, programme saturation, evidence-based planning, climate resilience, digital governance, and sustainable livelihood promotion.

In the inaugural session, Dr T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor & Head, CESD, NIRDPR, highlighted the critical role of capacity building in transforming BDOs into development leaders capable of driving inclusive and sustainable rural transformation at the block level. He emphasised the

need for visionary leadership, effective convergence, and result-oriented implementation to achieve the goals of prosperous, resilient, and inclusive rural communities.

The programme focused on redefining the role of BDOs from programme administrators to transformational development leaders. A total of 32 technical sessions, including a one-day field exposure visit to a village, were organised.

The programme covered a wide range of thematic areas designed to strengthen participants' knowledge and practical competencies in rural governance and development. The key sessions focused on transformational leadership and governance; rural development planning with an emphasis on convergence; financial management and resource mobilisation; climate resilience and sustainable development; livelihood promotion through community participation; digital governance, technology, and innovation; evidence-based planning and programme saturation strategies; and hands-on training in the YUKTADARA Portal for GIS-based planning.

The training adopted participatory and experiential learning approaches, including lectures, interactive discussions, case studies, role plays, group exercises, action planning, participant presentations, and field-based learning. These methodologies enabled participants to critically reflect on field challenges and develop practical solutions for effective programme implementation.

The programme was facilitated by a distinguished team of resource persons comprising Dr A.A.A. Faizi, Special Secretary Cum Director, Department of Minorities, Govt. of Bihar, Dr Shashi Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Rural Studies, Patna University, Bihar, Mr Partha Pratim Bhattacharjee, Assistant Professor of NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati. Mr Sanjit Kumar Ghosh, Sr. CPA, NIRDPR-NERC Guwahati, Dr Savita Kumari, Trainer on Livelihoods, Bihar, Mr Abdul Moid, Academic Consultant, NIRDPR-NERC; and Mr Tarkeswar Prajapathi, Young Professional-cum-Junior Faculty, BIPARD, Gaya, who shared their expertise on various aspects of rural development administration and leadership.

The training resulted in an enhanced understanding of the evolving role of BDOs in the contemporary rural development landscape, strengthened the pool of trained functionaries for knowledge dissemination, and enabled participants to prepare context-specific action plans for implementation in their respective blocks. Participants highly appreciated the practical relevance, interactive design, and field applicability of the programme.

The initiative is expected to contribute significantly to strengthening local governance systems, promoting convergence-based development, enhancing service delivery, and advancing inclusive, sustainable, and resilient rural development outcomes.

The programme was coordinated by Dr T. Vijaya Kumar, Head, CESD, NIRDPR, with the support of Dr Satya Ranjan Mahakul, Assistant Professor, CESD, and Mr Tarkeswar Prajapathi, Young Fellow-cum-Junior Faculty, BIPARD, who served as the Local Coordinator. Mr Saidi Reddy, Trainer Manager, CESD, facilitated the Training Management Portal.



Training Programme on Leadership Skills for Development Professionals of SRLM



Participants of the Training Programme with Dr R. Murugesan, Director, NIRDPR-NERC, and Dr Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor, CHRD, NIRDPR

The Centre for Human Resource Development (CHRD), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) organised a Training Programme on Leadership Skills for Development Professionals of State Rural Livelihoods Missions (SRLMs) from 22–25 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad. The four-day programme aimed to strengthen the leadership and managerial competencies of development professionals engaged in implementing rural livelihood programmes across States.

The programme brought together officials from various State Rural Livelihoods Missions to enhance their understanding of leadership in the context of rural development. Sessions focused on leadership styles, strategic thinking, team building, communication, conflict resolution, decision-making, emotional intelligence, motivation, and change management. Participants also explored the role of effective

leadership in strengthening institutions, improving programme implementation, and achieving better development outcomes.

The training featured interactive lectures, group discussions, case studies, role plays, and experiential learning activities that encouraged participants to reflect on their leadership practices and develop practical solutions to workplace challenges. The programme also provided opportunities for peer learning and experience sharing among participants from different States.

The programme served as a valuable platform for enhancing the professional capabilities of SRLM officials. The knowledge and skills gained during the training are expected to help participants lead teams more effectively, improve organisational performance, and contribute to the successful implementation of rural livelihood initiatives under DAY-NRLM.

Training Programme on Rural Development- Issues, Challenges, Interventions and Impacts for Officer Trainees of IES Batch 2026



Participants with Dr S. Jyothis, Professor & Head, CPGS & DE and Dr Partha Pratim Sahu, Course Director

The Centre for Entrepreneurship Development and Financial Inclusion (CEDFI), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) organised a five-day residential training programme on "Rural Development: Issues, Challenges, Interventions and Impacts" for Officer Trainees (OTs) of the Indian Economic Service (IES), Batch 2026, from 01-05 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad. Sponsored by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, the programme was designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of rural development, Panchayati Raj Institutions, livelihoods, social sector challenges, and the implementation of flagship programmes of the Ministries of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

The programme commenced with an inaugural session led by Dr S. Jyothis, Professor & Head, Centre for PG Studies and Distance Education (CPGS&DE), who highlighted the significance of rural development in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Dr Partha Pratim Sahu, Associate Professor & Head, CEDFI, the Course Director, introduced the objectives and structure of the programme. Throughout the programme, emphasis was placed on interactive learning through discussions, experience sharing, and critical analysis of key development issues.



Participants with Dr Sandhya Gopakumaran, Director, DDUGKY Cell and Dr Partha Pratim Sahu, Course Director

The training covered a broad spectrum of themes, including rural livelihoods, Panchayati Raj, poverty and inequality, nutrition, agriculture, labour regulations, skilling, climate change, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH), rural healthcare, social accountability, and women-led rural enterprises. Eminent experts from NIRDPR and other leading institutions delivered sessions on emerging development challenges, policy interventions, and evidence-based approaches to rural transformation. Participants also gained insights into the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in promoting financial inclusion and rural entrepreneurship, the importance of social audits in improving transparency and accountability, and the changing landscape of labour policies and the informal economy.

A key highlight of the programme was the visit to the Rural Technology Park (RTP) at NIRDPR, where participants were introduced to sustainable rural technologies, renewable energy systems, bio-sanitation, water recycling technologies, and livelihood-based enterprises such as beekeeping, honey processing, vermicomposting, and pearl processing. They also learned about cost-effective rural housing technologies and innovations that can strengthen rural livelihoods and local economies.



Glimpses from the interaction of participants with the Gram Panchayat functionaries at Thimmapur, Kandukur Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana

To provide practical exposure to grassroots governance, a field visit was organised to Thimmapur Gram Panchayat in Kandukur Mandal, Ranga Reddy district, Telangana. Participants interacted with elected representatives, Panchayat functionaries, and Self-Help Group members, gaining first-hand insights into the implementation of rural development programmes, local governance systems, waste management, water conservation, nursery development, and community-led initiatives. The visit also highlighted the Panchayat's efforts towards achieving Local Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) and demonstrated how convergence of schemes contributes

to improved service delivery and sustainable rural development.

The programme incorporated lectures, case studies, practical discussions, field exposure, pre- and post-training assessments, participant presentations, and feedback sessions to ensure an engaging learning experience. Twelve IES Officer Trainees participated in the programme as part of their probationary training. The programme concluded with certificate distribution and a discussion on key takeaways and future action plans.

The training provided participants with a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges in rural development and strengthened their appreciation of decentralised governance, evidence-based policymaking, and effective programme implementation. The exposure to field realities and interactions with experts are expected to help the officer trainees contribute meaningfully to policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation in their future roles as members of the Indian Economic Service.



Participants visiting the Rural Technology Park (RTP) on the NIRDPR campus

*(The write-up is prepared by **Ms Urja Raheja, IES Officer Trainee**, with inputs from **Dr Partha Pratim Sahu**)*

CMPRPED, NIRDPR Delhi Branch, Organises ToT Programme on Marketing Skills for CRP-EPs of Nagaland SRLM



Participants and resource persons of the ToT on Marketing Skills posing for group photo

The Centre for Marketing & Promotion of Rural Products and Entrepreneurship Development (CMPRPED), NIRDPR Delhi Branch, organised a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on Marketing Skills (Non-Farm) for Community Resource Persons-Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EPs) of Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission (NSRLM) from 22 to 24 June 2026 at the NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati. The programme was designed to strengthen the marketing capabilities of CRP-EPs and prepare them as Master Trainers who can further build the capacities of Self-Help Group (SHG) women entrepreneurs in Nagaland.

The programme was inaugurated with a welcome address by Course Director Shri Chiranji Lal, Assistant Director, CMPRPED, NIRDPR Delhi Branch. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the need to equip SHGs with contemporary marketing skills to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of rural enterprises. A total of 37 participants attended the residential programme.



Participants engaged in interactive discussions and practical learning activities

The training covered key aspects of enterprise marketing, including branding, product design and packaging, value chain management, sales communication, buyer psychology, e-marketing, social media promotion, financial inclusion, and taxation/GST issues. The programme adopted an interactive approach through lectures, group discussions, presentations, and practical exercises that enabled participants to analyse marketing challenges and prepare marketing plans for SHG products.

The sessions were delivered by a team of experienced expert comprising Dr R. Murugesan, Director & Head, NIRDPR - NERC; Dr M. K. Srivastava

, Assistant Professor, NIRDPR-NERC; Mr. Aswini Bhattacharya, National Resource Person; Dr Ratna Bhuyan, Assistant Professor, NIRDPR-NERC; Shri Adarsh Agarwal, Chartered

Accountant; Shri Chiranji Lal, Assistant Director, CMPRPED; Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, Research and Training Officer, NIRDPR Delhi Branch; and Shri Suresh Prasad, NIRDPR Delhi Branch.



Participants exposure visit to ARTFED, Guwahati

An important highlight of the programme was an exposure visit to Assam Apex Weavers & Artisans Cooperative Federation Ltd. (ARTFED), Guwahati, where participants gained first-hand insights into cooperative-led marketing, branding, retail management, and best practices in promoting handloom and handicraft products. The visit provided practical exposure to successful market-linkage models that can be adapted for SHG enterprises.

The programme concluded with a feedback session, and distribution of e-certificates. Participants appreciated the practical orientation of the training and its relevance to strengthening rural enterprises. The ToT is expected to enhance the capacity of CRP-EPs to mentor SHGs in areas such as branding, packaging, digital marketing, sales promotion, taxation, and market linkages, thereby contributing to the growth and sustainability of women-led rural enterprises in Nagaland.

Faculty Development Programme (Batch VI)



Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor & Head, CPRDP&SSD, NIRDPR, with participants of the Faculty Development Programme (FDP)

The School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) organised the Faculty Development Programme (FDP) – Batch VI from 15–19 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad. The five-day programme aimed to strengthen the academic, training, and research capabilities of faculty members and equip them with contemporary approaches to teaching, learning, and capacity building in rural development and Panchayati Raj.

The programme brought together faculty members from universities, training institutions, and organisations working in the field of rural development. The sessions covered a wide range of topics, including participatory teaching methodologies, curriculum design, case-based learning, digital tools for education, research methodologies, academic writing, and effective training techniques. The programme also emphasised learner-

centred approaches, outcome-based education, and the integration of technology into teaching and training.

Participants actively engaged in interactive lectures, group discussions, practical exercises, presentations, and peer-learning sessions. These activities provided opportunities to exchange ideas, share institutional experiences, and explore innovative practices for enhancing the quality of teaching, research, and training programmes.

The programme served as a platform for professional learning and collaboration among faculty members from diverse institutions. The knowledge and skills gained during the programme are expected to enhance the quality of teaching and capacity-building initiatives, contributing to stronger academic institutions and more effective human resource development in the rural development sector.

MJCET Strengthens Rural Education through UBA Outreach Initiative

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Dr Lakhan Singh, UBA Co-coordinator, NIRDPR, and faculty members of MJCET interacting with children and community members during the distribution of study materials in UBA-adopted villages under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

Muffakham Jah College of Engineering and Technology (MJCET), Hyderabad, a participating institution under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), continues to demonstrate its commitment to rural development through community outreach activities under the guidance of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR). One such initiative was the donation and distribution of essential study materials to children in UBA-adopted villages of Sangareddy district, Telangana, on 20 June 2026.

The outreach programme was led by the UBA Coordinators of MJCET, Dr Mohammad Sadak Ali Khan, Programme Coordinator, UBA Cell, and Dr V. Dharam Singh, Co-Coordinator, UBA Cell. They were supported by a dedicated team of faculty members comprising Dr Mohammad Viqar Mohiuddin, Dr Mohd Hasham Ali, Dr Shaik Irfan Sadak, Dr Mohammad Rafi, and Mr C. Ravinder, who actively planned and implemented the initiative. Dr Lakhan Singh, UBA Co-coordinator of NIRDPR participated in the programme, interacting with village representatives, school authorities, Anganwadi workers, parents and students, and encouraging stronger engagement between the institution and the rural communities.

The programme covered five UBA-adopted villages—Gudi Thanda, Tunikila Thanda, Hanuman Nagar, Dasugadda Thanda and Koyyagunda Thanda. Children studying in Government Primary Schools and Anganwadi Centres received notebooks, school bags, pens, pencils, drawing books, crayons and other essential learning materials. In addition to distributing educational materials, the faculty members interacted with students and parents, highlighting the importance of education, regular school attendance, cleanliness and personal development. The initiative improved access to essential educational resources for children from economically weaker families, strengthened community engagement, and advanced the objectives of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan by fostering meaningful partnerships between higher educational institutions and rural communities.

NIRDPR encourages UBA Participating Institutions to undertake such community-oriented initiatives that respond to local needs while strengthening institution-village partnerships. Outreach activities of this nature reflect the core philosophy of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan by translating academic engagement into tangible developmental outcomes for rural communities.

NIRDPR Celebrates International Day of Yoga 2026



Faculty members, officers, staff, trainees, and students participating in the International Day of Yoga celebrations on the NIRDPR campus

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) celebrated the International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2026 with enthusiasm at its Rajendranagar campus, Hyderabad. The programme witnessed the participation of faculty members, officers, staff, trainees, and students, reaffirming the Institute's commitment to promoting health, well-being, and a balanced lifestyle.

The yoga session was conducted by experienced instructors, who guided participants through a series of yoga asanas, breathing exercises (pranayama), and meditation techniques based on the Common Yoga Protocol prescribed by the Ministry of Ayush. Participants performed the exercises with great

enthusiasm, highlighting the importance of integrating yoga into daily life for improved physical fitness, mental well-being, and stress management.

Addressing the gathering, the Institute's officials underscored the significance of yoga as India's invaluable contribution to the world and encouraged participants to adopt it as a regular practice for holistic health. They also highlighted yoga's role in enhancing productivity, emotional well-being, and overall quality of life.

The programme concluded with a pledge by participants to embrace yoga as a way of life and promote its practice within their families and communities, reflecting the spirit of this year's International Day of Yoga celebrations.

30-Day Community Auditor Certification Programme



Participants with Mr. Chranjit Singh, Former Addl. Secy, MoRD; Dr Ravindra S. Gavali, Professor; Dr Jyoti Prakash Mohanty, Dy. Director; and Mr. R. Ravi Naidu, Mission Executive, DAY-NRLM Resource Cell, NIRDPR

The DAY-NRLM Resource Cell, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) organised a 30-Day Community Auditor Certification Program from 20 May to 24 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad. The programme aimed to develop a cadre of certified Community Auditors capable of strengthening transparency, accountability, and community-led monitoring under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

The month-long programme brought together participants from different States and focused on building their knowledge and practical skills in conducting community audits of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations. The training covered the principles of community auditing, financial management, bookkeeping, verification of records, audit procedures, reporting formats, compliance requirements, and the use of participatory approaches to promote transparency and

accountability within community institutions.

The programme combined classroom sessions with practical exercises, case studies, field-based learning, and hands-on audit practice. Participants were also trained in communication skills, ethics in auditing, report preparation, and methods for identifying and addressing financial and operational gaps. Interactive discussions and experience-sharing sessions enabled participants to learn from field experiences and strengthen their understanding of community-based monitoring systems.

The certification programme provided participants with the knowledge and confidence to undertake community audits in their respective States. The trained Community Auditors are expected to play an important role in improving financial discipline, strengthening community institutions, and supporting the effective implementation of DAY-NRLM through transparent and accountable governance.

National Workshop on Panchayat-led Rural Haat Management for Livelihoods, OSR and Inclusive Development



Participants of the Workshop with Shri Chranjit Singh, Former Addl. Secy, MoRD; Dr Ravindra S. Gavali; Dr S. Jyothis; and Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, NIRDPR

The School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR), NIRDPR, organised a National Workshop on Panchayat-led Rural Haat Management for Livelihoods, Own Source Revenue (OSR) and Inclusive Development on 11-12 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad. The workshop brought together representatives from State Panchayati Raj Departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), subject experts, policymakers, and development practitioners to deliberate on strengthening Panchayat-led management of rural haats as centres for economic growth and local governance.

The two-day workshop focused on the role of rural haats in promoting livelihoods, enhancing market access for local producers, and generating Own Source Revenue (OSR) for Gram Panchayats. Technical sessions highlighted best practices in rural haat planning and management, governance frameworks, infrastructure development, digital innovations, value chain linkages, and strategies for improving the participation of farmers,

women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), artisans, and other rural entrepreneurs.

Participants engaged in interactive discussions and experience-sharing sessions on successful models of Panchayat-managed rural haats from different States. The deliberations also explored policy interventions, institutional mechanisms, and convergence opportunities for strengthening rural markets as inclusive and sustainable economic spaces. Special emphasis was laid on enhancing transparency, improving service delivery, and enabling Panchayats to leverage rural haats as vibrant hubs for local economic development.

The workshop provided a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and identifying practical strategies for strengthening Panchayat-led rural haat management across the country. The recommendations emerging from the discussions are expected to support the development of sustainable rural markets, improve livelihood opportunities, increase Own Source Revenue (OSR) for Panchayats, and contribute to inclusive rural development.

Workshop on One Stop Facility (OSF) Implementation Strategy for National Resource Persons



Participants of the Two-day Workshop on One Stop Facility (OSF) Implementation Strategy with Dr Ravindra S. Gavali, Professor & Head, CNRM, CCDM, and Dr Jyoti Prakash Mohanty, Deputy Director, DAY-NRLM Resource Cell, NIRDPR

The DAY-NRLM Resource Cell, NIRDPR, organised a two-day Workshop on One Stop Facility (OSF) Implementation Strategy for National Resource Persons (NRPs) from 01-02 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad. The workshop was designed to build the capacities of National Resource Persons and equip them with the knowledge and skills required for the effective implementation and scaling up of the One Stop Facility (OSF) under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

The workshop brought together National Resource Persons, State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) officials, and programme functionaries from different States to deliberate on the implementation framework and operational strategies of the OSF initiative. The sessions provided an overview of the vision and objectives of the One Stop Facility and its role in facilitating enterprise development, improving access to financial and business development services, and strengthening support systems for Self-Help Group (SHG) members and rural entrepreneurs.

Technical sessions covered the key components of the OSF model, institutional arrangements, operational guidelines, digital platforms, monitoring mechanisms, and the roles and responsibilities of National Resource Persons in supporting implementation at the field level. Participants were also familiarised with strategies for strengthening convergence with financial institutions, government departments, and other stakeholders to ensure seamless service delivery and better outcomes for rural enterprises.

The workshop featured interactive presentations, group discussions, practical exercises, and experience-sharing sessions that enabled participants to exchange field experiences, discuss implementation challenges, and identify practical solutions. Emphasis was laid on developing a common understanding of the OSF implementation strategy, strengthening coordination among stakeholders, and enhancing the quality of support provided to rural entrepreneurs.

NIRDPR Observes World Environment Day 2026



Participants from Kerala with NIRDPR faculty and officials during the World Environment Day 2026 celebrations

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) observed World Environment Day 2026 on 5 June 2026 at its Rajendranagar campus, Hyderabad, in line with this year's official United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) theme, "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." Hosted globally by the Republic of Azerbaijan, the observance highlighted the urgent need for collective climate action and environmental stewardship. Participants from Kerala attending an ongoing capacity-building programme at NIRDPR actively took part in the celebrations, bringing valuable field experiences from communities facing the impacts of climate change.

The programme emphasised the importance of nature-based solutions in addressing climate change and building resilient communities. Participants discussed the growing challenges posed by rising temperatures, ecosystem degradation, and extreme weather events, while underscoring the need for sustainable lifestyles and community-led environmental action. The global campaign message #NowForClimate encouraged individuals and institutions to adopt meaningful measures for protecting the environment and promoting climate resilience.

A highlight of the celebration was the launch of "Gift a Plant", a new initiative

introduced at NIRDPR to encourage environmental responsibility through simple yet impactful actions. As part of the initiative, participants gifted saplings, symbolising their commitment to nurturing the environment beyond the event. The initiative is expected to become an annual tradition at the Institute, reinforcing the message that lasting environmental change begins with individual responsibility.

The programme also featured the screening of NIRDPR's Mission LiFE documentary, showcasing the Government of India's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) movement. The documentary highlighted the three key phases of Mission LiFE—Change in Demand, Change in Supply, and Change in Policy—and encouraged participants to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives. The screening generated lively discussions among participants on integrating LiFE principles into the activities of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) in their respective States.

The observance concluded with a renewed commitment to promoting environmentally responsible practices and strengthening climate action at the community level. Through initiatives such as "Gift a Plant" and the promotion of Mission LiFE, NIRDPR reaffirmed its commitment to fostering environmental awareness, sustainable lifestyles, and climate resilience as integral components of rural development.

Workshop on Preparation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)



Participants of the two-day Workshop on Preparation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) with Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor & Head, CPRDP&SSD and Tandra Mondal, Assistant Professor, NIRDPR

The School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR), National Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), organised a two-day Workshop on Preparation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) on 24-25 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad. The workshop brought together experts, faculty members, and officials to develop a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for strengthening the preparation and implementation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).

The workshop focused on standardising the GPDP planning process to ensure greater effectiveness, transparency, and community participation. Deliberations covered the various stages of GPDP preparation, including participatory planning, need assessment, resource

mapping, convergence of schemes, prioritisation of local development needs, and monitoring and evaluation. Participants also discussed institutional roles, timelines, and operational guidelines for improving the quality and consistency of planning across Gram Panchayats.

Technical sessions featured presentations, group discussions, and collaborative drafting exercises, enabling participants to review existing planning practices, identify implementation challenges, and recommend practical measures for developing a robust and user-friendly SOP. The workshop also emphasised integrating sustainable development, inclusive planning, and evidence-based decision-making into the GPDP process.

The workshop served as a collaborative platform for finalising key elements of the Standard Operating Procedure for GPDP preparation.

National Workshop on Own Source Revenue (OSR) Augmentation and Innovation Strategies



Participants of the National Workshop on Own Source Revenue (OSR) Augmentation and Innovation Strategies with Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor & Head, CPRDP&SSD, NIRDPR.

The School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR), National Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), organised a National Workshop on Own Source Revenue (OSR) Augmentation and Innovation Strategies on 22-23 June 2026 at the Institute's campus in Hyderabad. The two-day workshop brought together officials from Panchayati Raj Departments, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), subject experts, researchers, and development practitioners to deliberate on innovative approaches for strengthening the revenue generation capacity of Gram Panchayats.

The workshop focused on strategies for enhancing Own Source Revenue (OSR) through improved tax and non-tax revenue collection, effective management of Panchayat assets, user charges, and innovative local resource mobilisation practices. Technical sessions explored policy reforms, institutional mechanisms, digital solutions, and successful

models adopted by different States to improve the financial sustainability of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Participants engaged in interactive discussions, case study presentations, and experience-sharing sessions on strengthening financial management, improving transparency and accountability, and encouraging community participation in local revenue mobilisation. The deliberations also highlighted the importance of convergence, evidence-based planning, and capacity building in enabling Gram Panchayats to mobilise resources for local development.

The workshop provided a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and documenting innovative practices that can be adapted across States. The recommendations emerging from the discussions are expected to support Panchayats in strengthening their financial autonomy, improving service delivery, and promoting sustainable and inclusive rural development through enhanced Own Source Revenue.

Skill Over Migration: A Man Who Changed a Village's Mindset

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The author Mr Syamala Satish Kumar, PGDM-RM student, NIRDPR, interacting with the villagers during his visit to Kappatralla



Migrant skilled worker transforms the migrate villagers perspective

In the dry landscapes of Kappatralla, a small village in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh, life has never been easy. For many families, survival depended on a difficult choice that had become a tradition over the years—migration. Every season, men and women would leave their homes, travel to nearby towns and cities, and work as labourers just to earn enough money to support their families. Most villagers believed there was no other option. The village, they felt, did not have enough resources or opportunities to provide a stable livelihood. Therefore, nearly every household had at least one family member migrating for work every year.

When I visited Kappatralla as part of a livelihood study, I heard the same story repeatedly. People spoke about uncertainty, lack of local employment, and the need to move elsewhere to earn a living. Migration had become such a normal part of life that many villagers could not imagine another way forward. Yet, among these stories of struggle and movement, there was one person whose journey stood out. His story quietly challenged the belief that migration was the only path to survival. His name was Ramayya.

Ramayya was not originally from Kappatralla. He came from the Guntur district and, like many others, migrated seasonally in search of work. However there was something different about

him. Unlike most migrants who worked in construction sites or agricultural fields, Ramayya carried a skill with him—he was a tarpaulin stitcher and repair worker. Before learning this trade, he had been a farmer. But repeated losses in farming made it difficult for him to support his family. Instead of giving up, he learned a specialised skill that would eventually change his life.

When Ramayya arrived in Kappatralla, he noticed something important. Many houses in the village had temporary or semi-permanent roofs. Tarpaulin sheets were commonly used to protect homes, crops, and belongings from harsh weather conditions. These sheets often tore or became damaged, especially during the rainy season. While everyone needed repairs, very few people possessed the skill to provide them. Ramayya saw this not as a problem but as an opportunity.

Slowly, villagers began approaching him for help. He stitched torn sheets, repaired damaged covers, and ensured that families could protect their homes and harvests. His work was reliable, and word spread quickly. What started as a small service soon became a steady source of income. More importantly, he was solving a real need within the community. He was not just earning money; he was providing a valuable service that people depended on. The results were remarkable.



While many seasonal migrants earned around ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 a month through daily wage labour, Ramayya was earning nearly ₹30,000 a month through his skilled work. This income allowed him to cover his expenses comfortably, send money home to his family, and even save for the future. For many villagers, this was surprising. They had always assumed that migration meant struggling for low wages, but Ramayya showed that the right skill could create a completely different outcome.

His success was not a matter of luck. It stemmed from three key factors: he possessed a specialised skill, faced very little competition, and enjoyed consistent demand for his services throughout the year. Together, these factors helped him establish a stable and dignified livelihood. His story became a living example of how skill-based work can often be more rewarding than unskilled labour.

Over time, villagers began to look at migration differently. Many admitted that they had always believed leaving the village was the only way to survive. However, watching Ramayya succeed made them question that assumption. They started realising that opportunities could exist within rural areas if people had the right skills and support. His work encouraged discussions on vocational training, skill development, and finding solutions

that matched local needs.

Ramayya's journey also carried a deeper message. Migration itself is not necessarily a problem. What matters is whether it happens out of desperation or out of opportunity. For many families, migration is a response to hardship. But when people possess valuable skills, migration can become a choice rather than a necessity. It can offer dignity, financial security, and a better quality of life.

Today, Ramayya is remembered not for earning more than others, but for transforming the way his village thought. He proved that sustainable livelihoods are not built only on natural resources or government support. They are also built on skills, creativity, and the ability to meet local needs. One individual with determination and expertise was able to challenge long-standing beliefs and inspire an entire community to think differently about its future.

Kappatralla's story is not merely about migration—it is about unlocking hidden potential. It reminds us that rural communities often possess opportunities that remain unseen until someone takes the first step to discover them. Through his hard work and skill, Ramayya showed that sometimes the most powerful change begins with one person who dares to believe there is another way forward.

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



राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं
पंचायती राज संस्थान

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