REPORT ON
NATIONAL URBAN CONCLAVE

Celebrating Urban India’s Transformation with Data and Capacity
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The National Urban Conclave, a pivotal gathering convened on October 31, 2023, World Cities Day, brought together a diverse audience of urban practitioners, government experts, academic leaders, tech innovators, and civil society enthusiasts. At the heart of its discourse was the interplay between capacity building and the strategic utilisation of data and technology. Emphasising the reciprocal relationship between these elements, the conclave illuminated the transformative potential of a data-driven approach in empowering urban practitioners with the knowledge and tools needed to tackle complex challenges. It underscored the critical role of capacity-building initiatives, which, when infused with data-centric approaches, enable individuals to harness the power of data for continuous improvement and innovation. The event showcased data as the linchpin for evidence-based decision-making in urban planning, resource allocation, and environmental sustainability. Simultaneously, it portrayed capacity building as the cornerstone for empowering practitioners with skills to navigate the complexities of modern urban landscapes, encompassing technical competencies and innovative problem-solving. The conclave aligned with the midpoint of SDG achievement, advocating for accelerated actions through data-driven insights, illustrating how enhanced skills amplify the effective use of data.

The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), in collaboration with the Urban Outcomes Framework (UOF) and the National Urban Learning Platform (NULP), organised the Conclave on the theme ‘Empowering Progress: The Synergy between Data and Capacity Building’. The conclave featured:

1. ‘Urban Nexus’ covered critical topics such as building sustainable data ecosystems, engaging dialogues with industry leaders, and interactive city case studies demonstrating data-driven solutions for urban service delivery. These sessions provided a focused platform for experts from diverse fields to engage in detailed discussions, disseminate knowledge, and co-create solutions.

2. The ‘Community Mingle’ segment spotlighted the challenges i.e. Mapathon, Datathon and Learnathon which were conducted as a pre-event. It fostered a spirit of innovation and creativity while celebrating the power of data and capacity building, encouraging participants to actively contribute to the collective growth of geospatial data and innovative solutions for urban challenges.

3. A captivating AI Art Exhibition showcasing community-crafted data visualisations through different AI software.

The National Urban Conclave witnessed a diverse and vibrant participation, bringing together 500+ urban practitioners from the industry, smart city SPVs, state governments, academia, start-ups, along with members of the civil society. The engaged and varied participation set the stage for rich discussions, collaborative learning, and the sharing of insights across different sectors and perspectives. The conclave, held with resounding success, served as a dynamic platform for exploring the future of urban analytics and digital capacity-building initiative.
Inaugural Session

The inaugural session set the stage for a series of enlightening conversations and collaborative endeavours aimed at advancing urban data utilisation, inclusivity, and capacity-building initiatives for future-ready urbanisation. It underscored the celebration of collective achievements and the fostered mutual growth in addressing urban challenges. The conclave helped in recognising the imperative to establish this as an annual tradition and offered an opportunity to support, learn and collaborate. The data being the backbone for transforming cities into inclusive, resilient, and green spaces, there is a need to address the use of data intelligently to identify vulnerable sectors. The transformative nature of cities is urging a thoughtful approach to challenges while leveraging history and tradition. The call resonates for every city to become smart, promoting better governance, monitoring, citizen collaboration, and adaptability to confront uncertainties using data, technology, interdisciplinary teams and strategic investment.

The conclave also featured several noteworthy launches, unveiling learning journeys, groundbreaking data initiatives including AMPLIFI 2.0 and the DeCode challenge, the culmination of the urban Learnathon and the introduction of dashboards like UMMEED for urban practitioners.

Launch of NULP 3.0
Redefining the approach of capacity building, NULP is an on-demand skilling tool to build India’s largest digital learning community of Urban practitioners. As a part of its Scale-up and Sustainability (S&S) phase, NULP launched its new version 3.0 with several features such as Discussion Forums, Monitoring Dashboard, and Voting Tool to name a few; and additional learning journeys along with essential programs.

Launch of Learning journeys
NULP launched two learning journeys as comprehensive training programs in the domains of Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Urban Planning. The SWM learning journey is curated with the knowledge products of the SCIAP project, and comprises three distinct levels: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced. The learning modules aim to empower individuals and professionals in the field of waste management, equipping them with the skills and expertise necessary to drive sustainable, and solutions for solid waste management in urban areas. The Urban Planning learning journey is a training program offered by NULP, curated with content from CEPT University and industry partners like ESRI, SAIARD etc. This educational journey is structured into three progressive levels: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced, curated to provide comprehensive insights and knowledge in the field of town planning.

E-module on Form-based Codes
NIUA launched an online program on the National Urban Learning Platform that facilitates Urban Reforms through the Form-based Codes approach. It starts with creating Character Based Area Layout Plans and Urban Form Regulations, and further introduces plot-wise Property Development Cards as a simplified tool to implement FBC. This e-learning program will be disseminated to the granular level aiding in the creation of resilient and sustainable cities.

New Name Competition on MyGov
The New Name for NULP Competition on MyGov launched on 31st October at the Conclave, and culminated on the 30th November 2023. NIUA on its quest to redefine and democratise urban learning launched a competition seeking a new identity for the flagship initiative of capacity building - NULP. By participating in the "NULP Renaming Challenge- Your Urban Wisdom, Our New Name" the citizens can propose a distinctive name that encapsulates the spirit of urban knowledge and learning in India.

AMPLIFI (Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Livable, Inclusive, and Future-Ready urban India)
Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Livable, Inclusive, and Future-Ready urban India, (AMPLIFI), was conceived with a vision to centralise comprehensive city-level datasets. Upon the successful implementation of AMPLIFI, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs along with the National Institute of Urban Affairs have introduced AMPLIFI 2.0 - India’s Urban Data Bank. The platform serves as a repository and analytical sandbox.
for 442 data points for 250 plus cities across 14 sectors. This platform facilitates in-depth analyses across data points, offers downloadable access for all the datasets, streamlines the data collection process from the city administration/urban local bodies, and provides a channel to the user to offer feedback.

**DeCODE: Deciphering City Outcomes through Data Exploration**

The DeCODE Challenge presents an opportunity to leverage data for deriving meaningful insights and support data-driven decision-making. The data in AMPLIFI 2.0 has been collected through multiple assessment frameworks of Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) including Ease of Living Index, Municipal Performance Index, Data Maturity Assessment Framework, Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework and Urban Outcomes Framework and other datasets. The assessments were pioneered to enable research, analysis, and evidence-based policymaking for Government, Citizens, Academia and Industry.

**NUDM’s Dashboard: UMEED (Urban Monitoring for Efficient and Effective Decision-making)**

NUDM’s Dashboard offers a comprehensive and interactive platform that empowers stakeholders with invaluable insights into the urban landscape. It works on real-time data aggregation from various urban sectors and its drill-down capability empowers users to delve deeper into specific aspects of urban service delivery, facilitating effective problem-solving. The Dashboard is designed to provide city administrators with valuable multi-sectoral insights and predictive analytics for informed decision-making.

**Felicitation of winners of the Urban Learnathon**

The ‘Urban Learnathon’ was launched on 13th March 2023 by the Hon’ble minister Shri. Hardeep Singh Puri (MoHUA and MoPNG). The 60 day national challenge aimed to collect, share and consume best practices / urban solutions created by city champions. The evaluation process was based on the NULP’s principle of “share, consume and mentor.” This means that solutions were created and shared on NULP by the municipal community itself and the top-most solutions were identified based on the public voting. To recognize the efforts of these cities and state officials like sanitary inspectors, executive engineers, accountants and other departments MoHUA and NIUA leadership is extremely necessary.

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>Plastic Waste Management in Kedarnath, Uttarakhand</td>
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<td>1. Redevelopment of Three Parks</td>
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<td>Other Cities</td>
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<td>1. Redevelopment of Three Parks</td>
<td>Water Treatment Plant with PPP model</td>
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<td>2. Working Women Hostel</td>
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Learnathon Award in the category of State/Parastatal Bodies presented to representatives of UADD Uttarakhand
Learnathon Special Mention Award presented to representatives of MPSEDC

Learnathon Special Mention Award in regional language presented to representatives of Alnavar Municipal Council

Learnathon Award in the category of Other Cities presented to representative of Anupgarh Municipal Corporation

Learnathon Award in the category of Other Cities presented to representative of Commissioner of Municipalities Rajkot

Learnathon Award in the category of Smart City SPVs presented to representatives of New Town Kolkata Smart City

Learnathon Award in the category of Smart City SPVs presented to representatives of Sagar Smart City

Learnathon Award in the category of Union Territories presented to representatives of Silvassa Smart City

Learnathon Award in the category of Union Territories presented to representatives of Chandigarh Smart City

Learnathon Special Mention Award presented to representatives of MPSEDC

Learnathon Special Mention Award in regional language presented to representatives of Alnavar Municipal Council
Plenary Session

The connection between data and capacity building is reciprocal and mutually beneficial. It emphasised that data as a valuable resource, plays a pivotal role in decision-making and problem-solving when effectively utilised. Concurrently, capacity building enhances skills and knowledge, ensuring optimal leverage of data. This symbiotic cycle elucidates how data propels expertise development, while capacity building guarantees its effective utilisation, thereby fostering growth and innovation across diverse sectors. The session highlighted the significance of a robust data and AI ecosystem in the urban landscape, portraying it as a dynamic, value-based platform. These platforms, in turn, contribute to systems that facilitate capacity building at various levels. The session concluded by outlining strategies and principles applicable to Indian cities, emphasising the critical nature of data-driven policymaking and capacity building within municipal communities.

Shri. Kunal Kumar
Joint Secretary and Mission Director (Smart Cities Mission), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

- Every city has to become a smart city where we need to govern better, monitor better, collaborate with our citizens, and be adaptive to small or big challenges. We need to use the data and technology with interdisciplinary teams and investment as it gives us the mechanisms to combat any uncertain future.
- The urban and governance context is fragmented in India, making it necessary to have an integrated outlook towards data and governance. There is a need to zoom into a sector and then zoom out to seek solutions that are multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary instead of being siloed. Data and capacity building have to be looked at from multiple dimensions focussing on multiple stakeholders.

Ms. Hyun Hee Ban
Chief of Social Policy, UNICEF India

- Data is the backbone of transforming a city into an inclusive, resilient, and green space. There is a need to use data smartly to identify the most vulnerable sectors.
- The importance of looking at data globally to understand the stark difference in service delivery for children in urban and rural areas giving the example of zero-dose cases resulting in increasing intra-urban and rural-urban disparities.
- Strong data systems are needed to capture differences between the formal and informal settlements. Data depicts intra-urban differences, where many people are left behind when we think about a green or digital economy without the option to upskill.
- There is a need for large scale national and state level social protection programmes and the importance of delivering it to the people who need it the most while using strong data systems.

Mr. Pushkal Upadhyay
Financial Advisor, New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC)

- Our cities are transforming. With our history and tradition, how we transform to meet the next set of challenges, taking full cognisance of our past and future is perhaps the biggest challenge.
- The immortality of data in today’s world is well known; the difficult part is why, what and how to engage with data. There is a need to generate data awareness to understand where the data is dispersed, where data is available and how data can be collected.
- Data is so well integrated with IT, that it is seen as an IT responsibility to collect and manage data on ground, whereas data orientation has to become a culture involving all stakeholders. With the increasing demand for data transparency, capacity building and data needs to be interlinked.

Mr. Hitesh Vaidya
Former Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)

- The National Urban Conclave is a celebration of our collective achievements and a platform for mutual growth and collaboration in addressing urban challenges. We recognise the need to establish this as an annual tradition as it not only serves as a moment to revel in our journey and successes but also as an ongoing opportunity to support, learn, and contribute to each other’s work.
3.1 Parallel Session - 1A : NULP Unleashed: Self-paced, Bite-sized Capacity Building Revolution

Left to Right: Mr. Utsav Choudhury, Dr. Mahreen Matto, Ms. Sreenandini Banerjee, Mr. Manish Sharma, Dr. Victor Shinde

Session Summary:
The session delved into how NULP, the capacity-building arm of NIUA, is poised to revolutionise urban learning in India with self-paced, bite-sized capacity building. The panellists, leading various NIUA programs shared their experiences, underscoring that NULP stands as a critical solution for scaling learning and incorporating diverse formats that resonate with a wide spectrum of stakeholders. The platform’s prowess in eliminating costs associated with traditional capacity building sessions and its role as a collaborative space for co-curating training content were underscored by the panellists.

Key Takeaways:

- NULP’s approach goes beyond learning; it’s about active participation, shifting design towards a more people-centred, inclusive, and resilient perspective for sustainable urban development.
- There is a potential to leverage the NULP platform for making the critical subject of urban planning inclusive, by emphasising on ‘participation as a precursor to inclusion’, with an ‘understanding the learner’ approach which helps inform the creation of related capacity building modules and miscellaneous content formats.
- The aspects of inclusion such as social, digital, economic and spatial inclusion are an integral part of the work under BASIIC project, and NULP offers several advantages including wider and faster reach to stakeholders, greater flexibility and broad scope of topics to attract learners, self-paced learning, cost-effectiveness when compared with in-person training, advancing technical and digital literacy, and providing continued learning opportunities.
- The learnings translated into practice, citing Varanasi’s multiple projects related to inclusive planning and accessible infrastructure.

Dr. Mahreen Matto
Team Lead - Sanitation Capacity Building Program (SCBP)

- In the realm of accessibility and inclusion, NULP and Sanitation Capacity Building Platform operate nationally, collaborating with academia and a diverse network of partners. With 21 training modules developed on Used Water and Faecal Sludge Management, the vision prioritises online and peer-to-peer learning, ensuring a tremendous outreach.
- Optimal content curation was in fact devised using a ‘Watch-Think-Do-Explore’ test framework. Additionally, content quality assurance is achieved through vetting carried out by 30 partners. There is also further technical support provided to learners.
- Efforts are presently being taken to vernacularise the modules, incorporate more languages for expanding reach in the global south. The way forward is to expand outreach of SCBP to rural areas and further dialogues and interactions related to sanitation.

Mr. Manish Sharma
Product Manager - UPYOG, NUDM

- While NUDM is a ready-to-use platform, its challenges include limited resources for working with applications. The provision of national-level training, both online and offline, will play a crucial role in overcoming these obstacles.
NULP and e-learning courses have been leveraged to build capacities of stakeholders for tailoring and customising the ready-to-use UPYOG platform to their concerned context. And it is important given that states and cities possess scarce resources to maintain the platform.

331 users since enrolled with 200 certified professionals till date. Offline training was also conducted in June 2023, with 250+ officials across states and UTs, and also two offline training sessions at IPP Bengaluru for KMDS, CSG and BBMP for 46 officials, however the assessments were conducted through NULP.

Dr. Victor Rana Shinde
Head - Climate Centre for Cities (C-Cube)

NMCG recognized the value of leveraging NULP in capacity building, focusing on the niche area of Urban River and River Management. Recalling the NMCG event from 2019, where the Hon. PM stressed the need for new thinking to river city planning well beyond pollution control, their Capacity Building Program, in collaboration with the National Ganga Council, emphasised the need for innovative thinking beyond pollution control.

Taking cue for the call for a systems thinking approach, capacity building for urban river management was taken forward through NULP. Two certification modules involved, including managing urban rivers, and making masterplans river sensitive.

NULP offers benefits in specific context to the nature of the subject, these include the self-paced approach of the courses, greater accessibility, and different ways of learning courtesy varied engagement formats.

The value of content marketing is high with NULP and its importance in building partnerships as well, citing the example of ADB’s intention to collaborate and design a joint-certification program.

Key Takeaways:

Mr. Sanjiv Jha
Lead Architect - Government, AWS

- The transformative potential of traditional intelligent systems (AI) in enhancing various aspects of data management, including collection, quality, and pipeline efficiency. The labour-intensive nature of levelling data and the need for establishing robust harvesting techniques and deep learning models to generate synthesised data efficiently.
- The Digital Twin concept was spotlighted as a powerful driver of impact, leveraging synthetic data sets to create substantial advancements. It is imperative to tap into existing open source data, such as building footprints on platforms like Google Maps or OpenStreetMap, which boast 75% to 80% accuracy, as a valuable starting point for accumulating vast amounts of data for urban planning.
- Additionally, simplifying technology adoption for the general public is the need of the hour, with a new approach to make technology more accessible and user-friendly.

Mr. Vamsi Yeturu
Senior Scientist, GISE, IIT Bombay

- At GISE, the research initiatives and capacity building are executed with the State government departments, not purely research based initiatives, but solving the actual problem using data and technology.
- Data ecosystem handling is multi-generational efforts. Digitisation is the key process for either operationalisation or administrative purposes, bringing the context for shaping or format of the system.
- Creation of an integrated and holistic data ecosystem is a time-taking and resource consuming process. The challenges in transportation, including those extending to neighbouring vertices, are transformed into a mathematical context. This iterative process involves the translation of real-world issues into technical problems and vice versa, enabling a comprehensive analytical approach.
- The social impact and ecosystem is what we really have to understand because when we build products and while deploying the ramifications must be foreseen, in addition.

3.2 Parallel Session - 1B : Cities Unbound: Foundation Models and Synthetic Open Data Democratising Urban Planning

Session Summary:
The session highlighted the significance of synthetic data in overcoming limitations in data access for efficient urban system development, advocating for a user-friendly integration approach. The session also addressed the current absence of legislation governing the utilisation of open-sourced and crowd-sourced data from mobile devices, which presents a substantial untapped resource for addressing data scarcity. Leverage of existing technology for urban issues like pollution control and waste management was highlighted, with an emphasis on using resultant data for monitoring and operationalising these solutions, ultimately contributing to an improved quality of life. The importance of data visualisation through dashboards and the utilisation of gamification techniques for enhanced comprehension of data were also highlighted.
The data that has been collected at city level is either operational data or administrative data. A greater comprehension of the forthcoming data analytics analysis is anticipated, leading to enhanced insights and outcomes.

While performing any planning exercise, proper inter-departmental co-ordination is required to have a holistic approach, data from departments should be integrated for effective planning exercises.

Digitalisation and data capturing from multiple sources plays a pivotal role in consistent monitoring and updation frequency of the data.

There is lack of legislation about the utilisation of the open-sourced data or crowd-sourced data from mobile phones, which in general paves a huge potential to solve the lack of data availability.

A smart city is one, if it is able to develop a good solution which can reach at least 70 people when there are 100 people.

Smart cities should focus on defining their priority areas and develop an ecosystem of using technology and data for making sustainable habitat conditions.

The technology has provided immense opportunities for solving the urban problem, be it pollution monitoring/controlling or waste management, the existing technology shall be implemented. The data from these technology can be used for monitoring and operationalisation of these technology, which enables the good quality of living.

The comprehensive nature of the data domain extends beyond mere creation or capture processes. A holistic and well-analysed dataset, enriched with meaningful insights is significant to complete the data ecosystem.

Approximately 30 to 40% of information content crucially originates from satellite or numeric-based images. In order to provide a holistic understanding of the ground scenario and overcome the inadequacy of data from a single source, integrating data from allied sources plays a pivotal role which is essential for meaningful decision-making processes.

City officials should actively engage with and take ownership of data available from diverse sources, such as satellite imagery from ISRO. The full potential of this data can only be realised through proper integration, facilitating a more comprehensive and insightful approach to decision-making.

Data is pivotal in driving transformative change in the urban sector. There is a dire need to propel inclusive development through increased discourse on inclusion. Presently, there are visible gaps in data, especially concerning children and adolescents, which hinder comprehensive assessments and contribute to unaccountability among researchers and practitioners. To address this, there is a critical need to disaggregate data, examine the key features of the data, and focus on marginalized groups to anticipate their unique needs.

There is also a dearth of health data at government bodies, underscoring the necessity of robust datasets for effective policymaking. Lack of appropriate data sources, difficulties in analyzing incomparable data points, and a reliance on single-age data further add to challenges in designing targeted health programs. Inadequate sample sizes were also identified as a significant hurdle, impeding the understanding of diverse group needs.

The need for comprehensive data collection on various urban classifications, a clear urban-rural bifurcation, and standardized definitions for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) are essential components to overcome these challenges.

The overarching goal is to bridge the gaps in data, ensure inclusivity in assessments, and create a foundation for comprehensive policymaking that addresses the unique needs of diverse urban populations.
The conspicuous gaps in the landscape of data concerning children and adolescents pose significant challenges for researchers and practitioners, resulting in a lack of accountability due to insufficient information on scale and nature. There is an imperative to focus on disaggregating data at all feasible levels to comprehend determinants and associational characteristics, which are crucial for envisioning inclusive development.

Data needs to be made available on various dimensions, including slum-non-slum, urban poor, non-urban poor, and informal settlements. Additionally, a clear urban-rural bifurcation is deemed essential for formulating effective programs and policies.

Variations in the definition and types of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) across different data sources make it challenging to truly effectively enumerate the target population. There is an overarching need for comprehensive data on all aspects of development, with a focus on making informed policy decisions.

The deficiency in data hampers the development of comprehensive inclusive frameworks and in turn impacts the mapping of the needs and aspirations of marginalized groups, particularly persons with disabilities, in the context of budgetary considerations. Existing policy frameworks need to be reevaluated to facilitate comprehensive progress towards inclusion. The limitation in data disaggregation based on disability across all levels of governance, compounded by the absence of a standard definition of disability, social stigma, and challenges in data collection techniques, further complicates the enumeration process.

The Washington Groups of questions, a tool consisting of six questions for identifying persons with disabilities, is a potential solution for institutions. The disparity between meeting the aspirations of persons with disabilities and the reality on the ground emphasises the need for accountability in translating disability data into inclusive development.

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Mr. Vikas Aggarwal
Partner, Ernst and Young

- Urban learning is enhanced with topics like sustainability and social inclusion being added to older topics like water management to modernise our thinking. In creating the platform, we needed to understand the diverse backgrounds and the diverse learning requirements of participants, the learning requirements in terms of structure and certification, and the management of the platform. One cannot just hand out logins and expect a platform to work, you must have governance and ways to create active users.
- As we move forward what we realised is that we were trying to achieve a paradigm shift in the way capacity building works, with self-paced interactive learning, a semi-moderated marketplace, and peer to peer learning.

Mr. Monojeet Chakravorty
Technical Advisor, Mission Karmayogi

- In the realm of education, IGOT's innovative approach is a beacon of light, illuminating pathways from knowledge to competency. IGOT is bridging the gap between self-paced learning and true mastery, one course at a time.
- Self-paced learning doesn't necessarily produce high levels of competence in the participants, and discussed the structure of the system used by the Indian government, IGOT. This capacity building platform has progressively more involved courses that allow for learners to gain competency in their desired fields.
- This system also has systems to encourage further participation, but various asymmetries between content production and consumption are an issue that still needs to be addressed.

Dr. Haimanti Banerji
Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur

- The responsibilities of IITs in the capacity building system include the preparation of learning materials, decisions about what need based content to produce.
- The NULP needs ways to attract resource persons, including mentors, updated databases of experts, foreign experts, and international institutions. Attracting participants could involve an interactive portal, periodic problem solving sessions, the incentivization of ULB officials, domain specialisation recognition.
- A working financial model might take the form of a NULP and NULP+ system, where basic content is free, but advanced courses and certification are behind a paywall.

3.5 Parallel Session - 2B: From Data Silos to Urban Insights: Power of Repositories

Session Summary:
The session delved into the technical aspects of transitioning from data silos to centralised repositories in urban planning and development. It explored the challenges encountered during the integration of diverse data sources, the methodologies to mitigate these challenges and strategies for addressing interoperability issues to achieve a comprehensive data ecosystem. It also equipped the participants with actionable strategies to ensure scalability and establish institutional arrangements.

Key Takeaways:

Mr. Nilesh Rajadhyaksha
Programme Director, Urban Strategy Unit and Head- U20 Technical Secretariat

- NIUA has initiated extensive collaboration with various institutions to create a comprehensive map of Delhi which delves into intricate details of old settlements, culturally and socially significant spaces and even designated evacuation areas.
- At the macro level, these mapping endeavours encompass a multifaceted approach, particularly focusing on five crucial aspects of data: granularity and scale, multiple datasets, microdata, frequency, and dynamic data.

Dr. Saikat Saha
Director (Tech), NASSCOM AI

- The intricate process of unlocking urban data involves standardising data from multiple cities across various sectors with the ultimate goal of driving data-driven policies, cleaner services, and improved public transport access. However, data quality issues, data silos and data security pose hurdles in achieving effective urban data governance.
To ensure seamless integration and data utilisation in urban planning and governance, spatial alignment in data and the management of large files plays a significant role, especially during the migration process.

Mr. Gaurav Godhwani  
Founder, Civic Data Lab

- The data utilisation should be promoted through enhanced user engagement, the strategic application of machine learning and increased citizen involvement.
- The appropriate operational scale should be determined which involves assessing factors like zone boundaries and city limits.
- To enhance the performance in each ward, citizen complaints should be utilised to refine service delivery through ward-wise reports.
- The process of harnessing urban data, enriched by inputs from private entities, civic society, and other stakeholders involves collaborative efforts to co-create data insights and implement capacity-building exercises for ward engineers.

Dr. Anant Maringanti  
Director, Hyderabad Urban Lab

- Indian cities thrive on their vibrant energy and self-reliant communities, showcasing a strong inclination to innovate and address a multitude of challenges through shared community spaces. This dynamic spirit makes a city truly thrive.

Ms. Meera K  
Managing Trustee, Oorvani Foundation

- Numerous challenges arise in an urban environment but with the right tools, information and understanding, these challenges can be effectively addressed. One of the initiatives like storytelling plays a pivotal role in fostering the belief that a positive change is achievable.
- The initiatives to explore data and learning should be promoted to encourage residents of different neighbourhoods to unite and gain valuable insights into city planning and the importance of data interoperability. The individuals also collaborate to strengthen their community and take proactive steps in data-driven initiatives.
- An Open City Urban Data Portal (https://data.opencity.in/pages/about) drives innovative data and ensures data accessibility. It further enhances visibility and transparency in urban data contributing to more informed decision-making.

Mr. Chand Kaushil  
Head (ICT – Innovations and Solutions), UN

- There are challenges in tracking daily generated data such as the complex landscape of UPI payments in India and in managing and hosting critical datasets due to significant cost associated with it. Other challenges are concerned to system maintenance and crashes, security and data quality.
- Since consistent data flow is vital, it is essential to ensure data backup. Artificial intelligence aids in data management and to be viewed holistically it has to be stored in platforms like data warehouses, lakes, tech marts, data cubes and RDMS.
- Knowledge sharing can play a crucial role in handling and maintaining large data sets focusing on the key areas of data preparation frameworks and applications.

3.6 Parallel Session - 2C : InnovX: Startups Driving Solutions to Urban Challenges

Session Summary:
In the dynamic landscape of urban development, startups have emerged as pivotal players, injecting innovation, agility, and transformative solutions into the urban sector. This session featured an engaging panel discussion, during which, innovative start-ups showcased their groundbreaking initiatives, revolutionising the approach to addressing complex urban issues.

Key Takeaways:

Ms. Vyshali Sagar  
Lead, Start-ups and Sustainability, AWS

- Leveraging data and real-time analysis will be critical for the public sector to solve the various challenges cities face today.
- The role of youth in the startups across the country in the urban domain is very important and irreplaceable.

Mr. G V Sreeramam  
CEO & Founder, NeoGeo technologies

- Cities have a multitude of underground and over-ground components which constantly generate vast quantities of data. In today’s ecosystem, all data is collected and not
just what is required and hence, the unavailability of data cannot be a valid claim any more.

- The accuracy of data, particularly geospatial data, that can be generated and collected has increased significantly. This will help officials deliver urban services and, in the event of a disaster, help in reduction, readiness, response and recovery.

- Further, the reduction of costs associated with data generation and the development of data in the third dimension has been a game changer in the field. These developments have enabled the work into the development of digital twins of cities, which can enable the integration of real-time dynamic data within the operations of urban systems, significantly improving efficiency and quality of service delivery. An example of this is integrating geospatial data with property tax collection systems, which has led to a 100% to 200% increase in tax collection.

Mr. Chinnayya Math  
CEO & Founder, Nimble Vision

- While there is abundant data on water supply in cities, there is a paucity of data related to water usage among people and the government. Consequently, overuse, misuse and other forms of losses are not always captured and addressed.

- Poor and non-scientific water usage is one of the main contributors to water shortage in cities today. This is compounded by the outdated water and sewage infrastructure in most cities, which tend to break down in events of stress like natural disasters.

- The smart manhole technology developed by Nimble Vision is a safe and cost-effective way to collect real-time data on the quality and quantity of flow within. This will be useful for tracking the harmful build-up of gases within the manholes and predicting potential breaches and overflows in real-time.

- Similarly, Ni-The Water Saviour helps make overhead water storage smart by monitoring consumption on a real-time basis, checking water quality, monitoring leaks and controlling water pumping. While technological solutions will help manage systems better, these will need to be complemented with effective, rewarding mechanisms, like water credits, to incentivise the right actions by people.

Mr. Krishang Thakur  
Product Manager, Logic Ladder

- With a vision of developing unified climate action, Logic Ladder has developed various products, including TSC Energy, TSC, Water, TSC Enviro, TSC NetZero, and ‘The Sustainability cloud’.

- The dashboard enables real-time monitoring of pollutants, energy use and other parameters, offering decision-makers the ability to notice violations in real-time and conduct comparisons with other similar users.

- Such a real-time monitoring and correction system, one of the first in the world, has contributed significantly to the reduction in pollution from industries and the direct discharge of pollutants into the Ganga.

3.7 Parallel Session - 3A: NULP अर्बन Learnathon Endeavours: Unveiling Scalable Solutions & Peer-Powered Progress

Session Summary:
Mr. Kunal Kumar chaired the presentation session by all the representatives of NULP अर्बन Learnathon winner cities presenting a short 5-minute presentation covering the challenges faced, a digital solution used by the city to solve it, and the revenue generated from implementing the solution. Takeaways for the session included the importance of learning and knowledge sharing, actionable content to the people, and efficient decentralised learning. The session included presentations from the winners of the Urban Learnathon.

Key Takeaways:
The key highlights of each of the presentations is mentioned below:

- **State Category - UDD, Uttarakhand (Kedarnath): Plastic Waste Management in Kedarnath, Uttarakhand**

  Representative: Mr. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Director, Urban Development

  The digital deposit refund initiative involves printing QR codes on plastic wrappers. When these wrappers are returned, a refund of 10 rupees is provided, with the cost borne by the polluter or producer. The local high court has urged the city to formalise this initiative as a policy, which is currently in the drafting phase.

- **State Category - UDD, Uttarakhand (Haldwani): Formulation of Baini Sena for various Urban Sanitation Solutions in Haldwani, Uttarakhand**

  Representative: Pankaj Kumar Upadhyay, Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam Haldwani- Kathgodam

  Project Baini Sena under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), which has achieved impressive results,
including a 100% waste collection and the complete collection of single-use plastic waste. The project utilises WhatsApp groups and supervisors to effectively coordinate its operations.

- **Smart City SPV Category - Sagar Smart City Limited: Redevelopment of Three Parks and Working Women Hostel**
  
  **Representative: Rajendra Shukla, Sagar Smart City Limited**

In Sagar, various initiatives under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) were discussed. These included waste collection, elimination of single-use plastics, generating revenue from solid waste management, and empowering women through the “Baini Sena” program. Sagar used WhatsApp groups and supervisors for effective implementation. Additionally, the provision of facilities like the Working Women Hostel was taken up by the city.

- **Smart City SPV Category - New Town Green Smart City Corporation Limited: Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC) in New Town Kolkata**
  
  **Representative: Ms. Meghna Pal Mukherjee, CEO, New Town Kolkata Green Smart City Corporation Limited.**

The city has worked on developing green spaces, improving safety, and generating revenue through a working women’s hostel, city stadium, and other sources. The cities are accumulating and processing data to maintain protocols and norms, including using technology like SCADA for water supply and more than 1000 CCTV cameras for traffic management and crowd control.

- **Union Territory Category - Chandigarh, Powered by Solar Energy**
  
  **Representative: Arul Rajan, Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science & Technology Promotion Society (CREST)**

The city is actively pursuing sustainability, with a focus on solar energy and striving to become carbon neutral/ negative by 2030. They have developed policies for renewable energy and are actively promoting cycling through various incentives and tracking mechanisms.

- **Union Territory Category - Silvassa, Silvassa’s Cycle2Work Campaign**
  
  **Representative: Ms Charmie Parekh, CEO, Silvassa Smart City Limited**

Silvassa’s Cycle2Work Campaign was an adaption from the existing Bengaluru model with changes to fit Silvassa-it promotes cycling for commuting to work and school. It includes a dashboard to track cycling, and quantifies fuel savings, on a daily and timely basis other incentives include offering subsidies and is considered a best practice model for other cities. Employers provide bicycles, and performance is monitored on a dashboard. An extension of the campaign called the “Cycle2 School” initiative included training of teachers and students to sustain the initiative.

- **Other Cities Category - Anjar Municipal Council- Reuse and Recycle of Wastewater**

  **Representative: Dhimant Kumar Vyas, Municipal Commissioner, Regional Commissioner of Municipalities, Rajkot**

The presentation highlighted Anjar’s successful water recycling strategy due to water scarcity. They used a successful PPP model with a private company, recycling, and a sustainable generating revenue model. Treated water was mainly used for supply and gardening, with sludge repurposed as manure. Lastly, all Consultants preparing DPRs were mandated to include a literature study that was uploaded to NULP, thus enhancing the knowledge-sharing platform.

- **Special Mention Category - Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (MPSEDC) - ALPAS System**

  **Representative: Abhijit Agrawal, IAS, Managing Director, MPSEDC, Government of Madhya Pradesh**

MPSEDC presented the Automated Layout Process Approval and Scrutiny System (ALPAS), a GIS enabled system. A single window system for Land Use and Layout Approval for citizens. Instant and online generation of GIS-based Land use certificates for citizens.

- **Special Mention Category - Alnavar Town Council**

  **Representative: Mr. Prakash Magadum, Chief Officer, Town Council Alnavar**

Anjar town’s water supply problem resulted from the absence of a perennial water source and geographical water source issues, which farmers were unwilling to share. Solution: Anjar overcomes this challenge by sourcing water from Kalinadhi, located 50 km away, ensuring 24/7 water availability. This improved real estate prices and service benchmarks, with a SCADA-operated Water Treatment Plant. A citizen dashboard and a QR-based payment system were introduced, generating revenue ranging from 2.5 to 6 lakh.

**3.8. Parallel Session 3B: Data Powerplay: Striking the Balance Between Access and Profit**

Left to Right: Mr. Purushottam Kaushik, Shri. Rahul Kapoor, Shri. Sameer Unhale, Mr. Padam Vijay
Session Summary:
The panel discussion explored the evolving data landscape within smart cities and emerging technologies, particularly the challenge of reconciling data monetization with privacy. The contemporary landscape of data utilisation as a digital good presents a complex interplay of ethical considerations and privacy challenges. The session highlighted the need for striking a delicate balance between data monetisation and safeguarding individuals’ privacy emerges as a pivotal challenge for both businesses and policymakers. The rise of digital platforms and marketplaces, facilitating the exchange of data as a commodity, requires the establishment of transparent ecosystems to govern the buying and selling of datasets. The panel stressed on advocating for a comprehensive regulatory framework, with governments playing a crucial role in shaping responsible and ethical data commodification practices.

Key Takeaways:

Mr. Purushottam Kaushik
Head, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, World Economic Forum

- With the proliferation of smart cities and emerging technologies like AI, more diverse data is being created which has immense value in terms of productivity, management and business opportunities.
- The balance between data monetisation and privacy is still an emerging discourse which is globally being approached with much sensitivity.
- Data can create non-monetary values but challenges of privacy and safety arise from data sharing and integrating AI with data.

Shri. Rahul Kapoor
Joint Secretary, DAY-NULM & PM SVANidhi, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

- To strike a balance between data monetisation and data privacy it is important to understand the concerns of all actors in the data loop, including users, providers, and subjects.
- Specific concerns of data providers regarding intellectual property rights, data users seeking cost-effective access, and subjects expressing privacy worries about data sharing and behavioural influence need to be addressed proactively.
- There is a need for a ‘legal-ethical’ framework that comprehensively addresses these concerns, laying the foundation for a balanced ecosystem. This framework should focus on the rights of data subjects, data sharing, free flow between systems, trust, cooperation, and fostering data innovation.
- The concept of ‘10x’ benefits encapsulated in overarching data regulations, emphasising fairness in treating stakeholders, system accuracy, and data integrity can be helpful in this aspect.
- A dynamic, circumstance-adaptive, and transparent legal-ethical framework needs to be advocated to achieve a balance between access and profit in the ever-evolving data landscape.

Mr. Padam Vijay
Technical Advisor, NIUA

- Technological advancements would only further widen the gaps in terms of accessing digital goods and services.
- Stress needs to be put on the role of innovations, strategic solutions and approaches to be incorporated within it, for ensuring inclusion and to the benefit of vulnerable urban communities lacking access to digital goods and services.
- It is crucial to create an inclusive ecosystem & dialogue to foster social responsibility in technology sector.

3.8 Parallel Session - 4A : Building Impactful Urban Data Ecosystems

Shri. Sameer Unhale
State Joint Commissioner, Municipal Administration, Urban Development Department, Maharashtra

- For cities, unique and contextual approaches to overarching frameworks and innovations in the data landscape need to be explored.
- The Digi-Thane initiative in Maharashtra, which garnered 15 million uses during the pandemic is a good example of evolution of data collection in municipal structures, from manual methods to app-based platforms.
- There can be ethical dilemmas while monetizing city data. Some municipal functions, primarily centred around citizen health and wellness, should not monetize their data.
- Existing legal policy terrain favours privacy and advocates for municipalities to align with broader legal frameworks, ensuring effective service delivery, data anonymity, and non-disclosure of personal information.

Session Summary:
As cities strive for greater efficiency, sustainability, and inclusivity, the establishment of robust data ecosystems becomes imperative. The session set the stage for a comprehensive exploration of the significance of building data ecosystems in the urban sector, with a specific focus on dashboards as powerful tools for navigating the complexities of urban governance and transformation. The session showcased the key features and learnings from dashboards like NUDM’s Urban Monitoring for Efficient and Effective Decision-making (UMEED) Dashboard, Assessment and Monitoring Platform.
for Livable, Inclusive, and Future-Ready urban India (AMPLIFI) Data Dashboard and Climate Data Observatory Dashboard, emphasising their role in driving urban transformation in cities.

Key Takeaways:

**Shri. Kunal Kumar**  
Joint Secretary and Mission Director (Smart Cities Mission), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

- Data isn’t just numbers; it’s about uncovering the real reasons. The essence of Smart Cities and what smart solutions mean can vary for different stakeholders in different contexts.
- Data and capacity together can pave the way for an informed and empowered society.
- Platforms like NULP and UMEED can pave the way towards urban transformation. There needs to be a call to leverage the power of peer-to-peer learning to drive the future of our cities.

**Dr. Debjani Ghosh**  
Team Lead UOF & NULP, NIUA

- Dashboards can be harnessed to propel urban transformation through the case of AMPLIFI; also now being called as India’s urban data bank.
- Conceived by MoHUA & NIUA, this dynamic dashboard houses up-to-date multisectoral data with 442 data points from over 250 cities across 14 sectors in India and is set to emerge as a one-stop shop for India’s urban data needs.
- The dashboard aims to democratise data by making available key features such as downloadable access for all the datasets, streamlining of the data collection process from the city administration/urban local bodies, cumulative outcomes of multiple data assessment frameworks and providing a channel to the user to offer feedback.

**Ms. Vaishnavi T. G. Shankar**  
Lead, Climate Centre for Cities

- Data plays a pivotal role in informed decision-making for addressing the climate concerns.
- Ensuring data quality, accessibility, shareability, interchangeable formats, granularity and tools for visualisations are key to tackling urban challenges.
- The synergy between data and analytical tools is vital for risk-informed decision-making. The CSCAF 2.0 has been framed with 28 diverse indicators with 100 points each across five thematic areas namely Energy and Green Buildings, Urban Planning, Green Cover and Biodiversity, Mobility and Air.

**Mr. Rahul Sharma**  
Business Analyst, NUDM, NIUA

- The Urban Monitoring for Efficient and Effective Decision-making (UMEED) dashboard developed on UPYOG platform showcases the power of real-time urban insights.
- Acting as a Consolidated Decision Support System, the dashboard offers a holistic view of the key metrics of urban service delivery across the nation, such as Property Tax, Water and Sewerage Connection, Miscellaneous Collections, Public Grievance Redressal.
- The dashboard aims to emerge as a beacon of efficiency, transparency, and empowerment for our Cities, States and UTs and is set to emerge as a game-changer for urban governance in India.

**Mr. Manpreet Singh**  
Chief Program Officer, NUDM, NIUA

- UMEED is transforming urban governance, with real-time data from 12 States/UTs live on the dashboard.
- While building national-level dashboards, pertinent questions on challenges, scope, utility and inclusivity need to be addressed.
- National, State and other data-driven dashboards can be a useful tool in reshaping our cities.

**Dr. Kalpana Viswanath**  
CEO, Safetipin

- Democratisation of data can promote gender inclusive perspectives and can be used to further our efforts in this direction.
- Data availability, especially disaggregated data, is crucial to address issues like gender digital divide and solve complex problems of the society using urban data.
- Efforts of creating a central data repository like AMPLIFI are important first steps. However, one needs to understand that data is not only numbers, but there are also stories behind them.

**Mr. Rakesh Kumar**  
Executive Director, Advisory, PwC

- Data is the holy grail of everything we do in cities.
- The primary focus when it comes to data, lies in the adaptation and response to contextual challenges, both in terms of capacity and technology.
The YuWaah initiative by UNICEF is a good example of a project bridge existing gaps using an ecosystem approach through a scalable platform.

Mr. Manish Dubey  
**Chief Practice, IIHS**

- Trust and imagination of the data and the data user are two core challenges pertaining to urban data dashboards.
- Data and technology has been a great enabler in solving issues like urban sanitation in Tamil Nadu.
- Government capacities need to be enhanced to handle and manage urban data, the bigger target shall be to augment the capacity to imagine the usage of the data produced or captured and leverage the same to guide the journey of urban transformation.

3.9 Parallel Session - 4B : Feedback Looping: Understanding the User’s Perspectives on Efficacy of Digital Capacity Building Platforms

**Session Summary:**
In the ever-evolving landscape of digital capacity building, user feedback is paramount. This parallel session delved into the core of user experiences, insights, and feedback that contribute to the efficacy of capacity-building platforms. The session investigates the efficacy of existing practices, identifies areas requiring refinement, and proposes collective measures to augment digital learning, thereby fostering more impactful outcomes.

**Key Takeaways:**

Mr. Harpreet Singh Arora  
**Administrative Fellow, The Nudge Institute**

- There is a need for feedback and to comprehend the intended user base of an e-learning platform is crucial. It is essential to build the capacities of inflexible learners. E-learning data sets and information are used to evaluate the calibre of e-learning.
- The importance of capacity building and feedback oriented learning in urban context. About 3 to 4% of program cost is allotted to capacity building in every implementation. Online learning platforms are the most effective tool for accessible capacity building and the outcomes it generates for users.

Mr. Salil Mehta  
**Partner, Ernst and Young**

- Interventions were made after understanding users’ feedback like onboarding in Tier 2/3 cities and addressing specific learning needs, enhancing digital capacity, Peer to Peer connect and domain specific capacity building.
- Learning needs analysis is important at pan India level and domain specific capacity building is much needed. The development of learning journeys is also necessary. Understanding user needs is crucial, and NULP has provided various interventions to respond to NULP users’ feedback.

Ms. Anubhuti Gupta  
**Lead Coordinator, Leaders in Climate Change Management, World Resources Institute**

- NULP was essential in the balancing of the program by working on both program administrator perspective and Learner/participant perspective.
- There are certain challenges, like technology, time spent on LMS, and motivation for e-learning. These challenges are resolved by NULP through tutorials (pdfs, webinars, 1:1 help), improved learning journey on LMS, Certificate and sense of competition in cohort.

Dr. Sandeep Goyal  
**Additional Project Director, MPSEDC, MP**

- Introduced audience to e-Shiksha- a learning management system- developed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh along with the key features such as portal-Enrolment, content, customisation, quiz & assessment, certification, report/ monitoring, training (online/offline), helpline services, learning manuals and videos. The e-shiksha platform also provides analytics and dashboards for data analysis and visualisation to advance capacity building.

Dr. Himani Tiwari  
**Coordinator, Directorate of Local Bodies, Rajasthan**

- The Government officials from top to grass root level were hugely benefited by NULP learning platform and wishes that this participation continues in the future.
- The journey of NULP and Rajasthan started with the initial MoU signing in 2022, followed by a state activation workshop in which around 240 ULBs had participated. NULP organised various state level training programs for all the divisions of the state. A State initiative: A flagship scheme Indira Rasoi on NULP platform has been a successful capacity building program. Impact and efficacy of capacity building platforms of NULP, both at state level and in 282 ULBs.
The valedictory session commenced with the welcome of the dignitaries, followed by the address from Mr Martin Petersen, Head of the Political and Economic Section at the Royal Danish Embassy in India. The session also featured the announcement of winners in various challenges viz., the AI Art Challenge, Mapathon Challenge, and Dataathon Challenge, recognizing individuals and teams from across the country for their outstanding contributions. Further, Mr. Christian Kapfensteiner, Director & Cluster Coordinator, Sustainable Urban and Industrial Development (SUID), GIZ, addressed the gathering with the significance of the event as a benchmark for individuals and organisations dedicated to a digital and sustainable future in the urban sector. The valedictory session continued with Mr. Shombi Sharp, RCO, UN Resident Coordinator, expressing his appreciation towards NULP & the UOF teams and overall NIUA for organising the National urban Conclave focused around data-driven decision-making for sustainable and resilient development.

The session was concluded by Dr. Debjani Ghosh, Team Lead NULP and UOF, NIUA, who expressed gratitude to all participants, underscoring the importance of collaboration for addressing urban challenges and creating more intelligent and inclusive cities.

Mr. Martin Petersen
Head of the Political and Economic Section at the Royal Danish Embassy in India

- The Cool Cities Hub established as part of the India Urban Cooling Program by NIUA in collaboration with the Government of Denmark and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was highlighted as actively supporting India in achieving its green transition goals.
- The Government of Denmark with its abundant wind power and water management potential is expanding its cooling technology capabilities. Innovative technologies have been developed to ensure comfort during cooler weather. Cooling initiatives also pose a significant emissions risk, which makes the journey towards sustainability a notable challenge.
- Successful implementation of these initiatives heavily relies on the interest and commitment of city leadership. The ambitious plan involves scaling up these efforts to include approximately 100 cities across India, marking a new and promising chapter in Denmark – India partnership.

Mr. Christian Kapfensteiner
Director & Cluster Coordinator, Sustainable Urban and Industrial Development (SUID), GIZ

- GIZ places the partnership with SCM and NIUA as highly valued and looks forward to utilising digital technology to achieve sustainable development. Empowering citizens is achievable through initiatives focused on capacity building and robust data governance. Data serves as the catalyst for well-informed decision-making.
The ethos of collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity is currently grappled with by cities as they strive to create more intelligent and inclusive cities.

- Collaboration is emphasised as the pivotal approach for addressing urban challenges.
- Cities currently grapple with day-to-day challenges, making the comprehension of data complexities a non-trivial task. However, the vision is to undertake the responsibility of capacity building through unique programs and competitions.
- The ethos of collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity is envisioned to be carried forward to shape the landscape of tomorrow.

### Launches and Felicitation that took place during the Valedictory session of the National Urban Conclave

**E-learning course of SUDSC II:**
In collaboration with GIZ, as a part of the SUD-SC 2 project, NIUA launched an e-learning course on ‘Empowering cities towards data analytics and visualisation’ which would be made available for consumption on NULP. The Data Analytics and Visualisation (DAV) module comprises a series of three training modules. The first module delves into exploring data types and formats, conducting statistical analysis of single datasets, employing visualisation for data analysis. The second module encompasses sessions on Spatial Data Visualisation, GIS and remote sensing, and training sessions with tools like Google Earth Pro, Datawrapper, and ArcGIS Online for visualising interactive web maps. The final module deals with case study integrated analysis for evidence-based policymaking.

**Infant, Toddler and Caregiver-Friendly Neighbourhoods (ITCN) knowledge products:**
The ITCN Capacity Building Programme is implemented by NIUA with support from Bernard van Leer Foundation. The programme aims at addressing the development needs of young children (0-6 years) and their caregivers through planning and development interventions at neighbourhood level on a city-wide scale. The programme has developed 12 training modules for capacity building of city officials, 4 modules for capacity building of young professionals, 3 toolkits to support cities for creating data baseline, and a city level dashboard. The knowledge products also include policy advisories on playful neighbourhoods, incorporating young children and caregiver-friendly planning and design elements in open spaces around water bodies.

### Datathon - Data for Urban India: Empowering Innovation and Development

The premise of a data hackathon in the Indian context was centred around leveraging data-driven solutions to address specific challenges or opportunities faced by Urban India. Participants were invited to harness the power of data to drive innovation and contribute to India’s urban development across various domains. The mantra was “You pick a theme, a problem and build a solution!” It was organised in collaboration with government agencies, industry partners, and academic institutions to provide participants with access to relevant datasets, mentors, and resources.

**Datathon Challenge Winners:**

**Winner**  – Ms. Anna John and Ms. Irene Anna Shaji (Kerala State Disaster Management Authority)

**1st Runner up**  – Ms. Sreedevi Kurur, Mr. Anirudh Badrinath, Ms. Anuja Kothawala and Mr. Yash Dhawade, (Beyond Urban)

**2nd Runner up**  – Ms. Rishman Jot Kaur Chahal, Mr. Francis Narzary, Mr. Hemant Bidasaria and Mr. Moulik Gupta (Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee)

### Mapathon

Mapathon represented an engaging initiative that preceded the conclave, urging individuals to actively participate in the collaborative expansion of geospatial data. Leveraging crowdsourcing dynamics, Mapathon aimed to foster a dynamic environment of shared knowledge, enhancing the precision and accessibility of geospatial data in the context of urban India. As a participant, their role involved contributing to the OpenStreetMap (OSM) by collaboratively mapping utilities and features within your city’s selected area, aligning with the provided problem statements. In addition, participants were encouraged to submit presentable maps with additional analyses carried out using softwares such as ArcGIS, QGIS etc. The best 6 entries were displayed in the digital exhibition.

**Mapathon Challenge Winners:**

**Winner**  – Ms. Rucha Joshi, Ms. Ravani Dogra, Mr. Aditya Hivrale (School of Planning and Architecture Bhopal)

**1st Runner up**  – Ms. Krupa Padhariya, Ms. Ramya Singh Bhadoriya, Ms. Divya Singh (Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara)

**2nd Runner up**  – Mr. Sukhman Jot Singh, Mr. Angad Singh, Ms. Ishita Sharma, Ms. Shreya Singhal and Ms. Ayushi Dwivedi (MBS School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi)

### AI Art Challenge

The AI Art challenge envisioned the future of Indian cities by merging artificial intelligence and artistic creativity. The artworks submitted by participants explored sustainable, innovative, and eco-conscious solutions for urban living. These captivating pieces included architectural designs and technological advancements that harmoniously integrated technology, nature, and culture, enhancing residents’ quality...
of life. The challenge thoughtfully examined the potential consequences of climate change on cities, presenting two contrasting themes: a utopian vision of cities healing through improved planning and innovative strategies and a dystopian portrayal of cities grappling with climate change. It aimed to raise awareness, inspire action, and foster dialogues on sustainable urban development.

**AI Art Challenge Winners:**  
**Winner** – Mr. Divyang Purkayastha  
**1st Runner up** – Ms. Apurva Gupta  
**2nd Runner up** – Mr. Cibin Sabu

**Way Forward**  
The overarching theme emerged from the National Urban conclave is the paramount importance of collaboration in addressing the multifaceted challenges that urban areas face, underlining the need for intelligent and inclusive cities. The recognition of cities grappling with day-to-day challenges, particularly in navigating the complexities of data, underscores the urgency of capacity building. The commitment to this cause through innovative programs and competitions will mark a crucial step towards equipping urban stakeholders with the tools and knowledge essential for effective decision-making.

The conclave’s vision was encapsulated in the principles of collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity. It is anticipated that these principles will be woven into the fabric of tomorrow’s urban landscape, guiding transformative initiatives and shaping resilient, sustainable, and intelligent cities. The conclave’s legacy is not merely a reflection of the challenges addressed but a beacon lighting the path forward where collective efforts will continue to chart the course for urban development in the years to come.
National Urban Conclave Report

Annexure

NATIONAL URBAN CONCLAVE
Celebrating Urban India’s Transformation with Data and Capacity

31st October 2023  India Habitat Centre, Delhi

AGENDA

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Lighting the Lamp
Welcome of all dignitaries and lighting the lamp
Shri. Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary & Mission Director SCM, MoHUA
Ms. Hyun Hee Ban, Chief Social Policy, UNICEF

Welcome Address and Context Setting
Inviting urban practitioners, policymakers, industry leaders, data scientists, and award-winning cities from the urban learnathon to actively engage in this innovative program
Dr. Debjani Ghosh, Team Lead NULP and UOF, NIUA

Special Address
Ms. Hyun Hee Ban, Chief Social Policy, UNICEF

Keynote Address
Shri. Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary & Mission Director SCM, MoHUA

Launches and Felicitation

Launched by NULP
1. Curtain raiser video for NULP 3.0: NULP Snapshot
2. Two learning journeys (curtain raiser video) on NULP:
   - Solid Waste Management
   - Urban Planning
3. New name competition on MyGov
4. Teaser video on form-based codes

Launch of AMPLIFI
1. A launch video on the dashboard developed for the public to explore and analyse data for 225+ cities across 14 sectors
2. Launch of ‘DeCODE: Deciphering City Outcomes through Data Exploration’
Shri. Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary & Mission Director SCM, MoHUA

STEIN AUDITORIUM
PLENARY SESSION

STEIN AUDITORIUM

Plenary Session on Data and Capacity Building

The connection between data and capacity building is reciprocal and mutually beneficial. Data is a valuable resource that, when effectively utilized, supports decision-making and problem-solving. Capacity building enhances skills and knowledge for effective data utilisation. This cycle highlights how data drives the development of expertise, while capacity building ensures data is optimally leveraged, fostering growth and innovation in various sectors.

Session Chair
Shri. Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary & Mission Director, SCM, MoHUA

Speakers
Ms. Hyun Hee Ban, Chief Social Policy, UNICEF
Mr. Pusphal Upadhyay, Director and Financial Advisor, NDMC

PARALLEL SESSIONS

SILVER OAK

NULP Unleashed - Self-paced, Bite-sized Capacity Building Revolution

NULP being the capacity building arm of NIUA hosts a variety of capacity capsules. How can NULP work as the platform for self-paced & bite-sized learning and host NIUA programs to transform the urban learning agenda of India?

Session Chair
Ms. Sreenandini Banerjee, Program Manager - NULP, NIUA

Speakers
Mr. Utsav Choudhury, Team Lead - BASH, NIUA
Dr. Mahreen Matto, Team Lead - SCBP, NIUA
Mr. Manish Sharma, Product Manager - NUDM, NIUA
Dr. Victor Shinde, Team Lead - NMCG, NIUA

GULMOHAR

Cities Unbound: Foundation Models and Synthetic Open Data Democratising Urban Planning

Challenges of urban data, like silos, quality, accessibility, scale and use cases in urban planning are well known. This panel session will delve into the transformative power of foundation models and synthetic urban open-source data in solving complex urban data challenges and making it simpler for urban planners to use urban AI/Models.

Session Chair
Mr. Sanjiv Jha, Lead Architect - Government, Amazon Web Services

Speakers
Mr. Vamsi Yeturu, Senior Scientist, GISE, IIT Bombay
Dr. Avik Sarkar, Indian School of Business, Chandigarh
Dr. Anuradha Varanam, Smart City Living Lab, IIT Hyderabad

JACARANDA

Mind the Gap: Data Practices to Advance Inclusion

The panel will discuss data and technological initiatives to promote inclusiveness including applications for children, LGBTOIA+ persons with disabilities and marginalised communities. The talks will focus on the intersection of data utilisation and inclusivity, shedding light on use cases, strategies and approaches that can bridge the gaps in representation, accessibility, and justice.

Session Chair
Ms. Kanak Tiwari, Programme Director - Urban Strategy Unit, NIUA

Speakers
Dr. Debolina Kundu, Professor, NIUA
Ms. Shivani Gupta, Senior Inclusive Design Manager, Global Disability Innovation Hub
Dr. Gaurav Raheja, Head of Department, Department of Architecture & Planning, IIT Roorkee

PARALLEL SESSIONS

SILVER OAK

The Urban Talk on Building Capacities: Fostering Collaborative Capacities in Urban Development

Panel discussion with NULP partners, training institutes, multilateral and bilateral agencies, industries on
1. Learnings from NULP’s journey of 3 years in changing the paradigm of capacity building.
2. How can NULP be a marketplace for these institutions to create a partnership with collaborative environment between them

Session Chair
Shri. Rahul Kapoor, Joint Secretary, DAY-NULP & PM SVAnidhi, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

Speakers
Shri. SK Lohia, Senior Advisor World Bank & Former JS, Railways (TBTC)
Mr. Monojeet Chakravorty, Technical Advisor, Mission Karmayogi
Mr. Vikas Aggarwal, Partner - Advisory Services, Ernst & Young
Dr. Haimanti Banerji, Professor, IIT Kharagpur
GULMOHAR From Data Silos to Urban Insights: Power of Repositories

The session delves into the technical aspects of transitioning from data silos to centralised repositories in urban planning and development. It explores the challenges encountered during the integration of diverse data sources, the methodologies to mitigate these challenges and strategies for addressing interoperability issues to achieve a comprehensive data ecosystem. This session will also equip participants with actionable strategies to ensure scalability and establish institutional arrangements.

Session Chair
Mr. Nilesh Rajadhyaksha, Programme Director, Urban Strategy Unit and Head - U20 Technical Secretariat

Speakers
Dr. Saikat Saha, Director (Tech), NASSCOM AI Mr. Gaurav Godhwani, Founder, Civic Data Lab Dr. Anant Marimant, Director, Hyderabad Urban Lab Ms. Meera K, Founder and Managing Trustee, Oorvani Foundation Mr. Chand Kaushil Head (ICT – Innovations and Solutions) at United Nations

JACARANDA InnovX: Startups Driving Solutions to Urban Challenges

The session will feature an engaging panel discussion, during which experts will initiate a dialogue exploring the role of technology and innovation in facilitating data-driven decision-making and developing solutions for urban challenges. Subsequently, innovative start-ups will take the stage to showcase their groundbreaking initiatives, revolutionising the approach to addressing complex urban issues.

NeoGeo- GeoSpatial Technologies
Nimble Vision- Smart Water/Sewage Management
Logic Ladder- Climate Action Platform

Session Chair
Ms. Vyasll Sagar, Lead, Start-ups and Sustainability, AWS

Speakers
Mr. G.X Sreenaraju, CEO and Founder, NeoGeo Mr. Chinnayya Math, CEO and Founder, Nimble Vision Mr. Krishang Thakur, Product Manager, Logic Ladder

PARALLEL SESSIONS

STein AUDITORIum NULP & Urban Learnathon Endeavours: Unveiling Scalable Solutions & Peer-Powered Progress

Panel discussion with NULP & Urban Learnathon winners on
1. A presentation each on the winning solutions and how they can be replicated
2. Summarizing the learnings by the JS and proposing NULP for other states and cities to drive peer-to-peer learning

Session Chair
Shri. Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary & Mission Director SCM, MoHUA

Speakers
11 Learnathon Champions

Silver Oak Data Powerplay: Striking the Balance Between Access and Profit

Urban data as digital goods or commoditisation of data. The panel will discuss two primary approaches to urban data management: the concept of data as digital goods and the idea of data commoditisation. The former will focus on open access and democratic benefits, while the latter will emphasise the ownership and monetisation of data

Mr. Purushottam Kaushik, Head, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, World Economic Forum

Panelist
Mr. Sameer Unhale, State Joint Commissioner, Municipal Administration, Urban Development Department, Maharashtra Shri Rahul Kapoor, Joint Secretary, DAY-NULM & PM SWAYAM- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
Mr. Padam Vijay, Technical Advisor, NIUA

PARALLEL SESSIONS

STein AUDITORIum Building Impactful Urban Data Ecosystems

The session will spotlight key learnings from the following dashboards, driving a positive change in cities. It will also delve into crucial aspects like scope and access, veracity and validity, usability and literacy, use and , and ethics.

1. NUDM's Dashboard: UMEED
2. AMPHU Data Dashboard
3. Climate Data Observatory Dashboard

Session Chair
Shri. Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary & Mission Director SCM, MoHUA

Speakers
Mr. Manpreet Singh, CPO NUDM

Panelists
Mr. Debjani Ghosh, Team Lead UOF & NULP, NIUA Ms. Vaishnavi Shankar, Lead, Climate Centre for Cities Mr. Rahul Sharma, Business Analyst, NUDM (Amplifi)
Mr. Chandar M, COO, eGov foundation Dr. Kalpana Viswanath, CEO, Safestripin Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Managing Director, Advisory, PwC Mr. Manish Dubey, Chief Practice, IHHS
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:50</td>
<td>Launch of NIUA Cool Cities Hub</td>
<td>Mr. Harpreet Arora, Indian Administrative Fellow, The/Nudge Institute</td>
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<td>Launch of the E-learning course of SUDSC-II, GIZ</td>
<td>Mr. Christian Kapfensteiner, Director &amp; Cluster Coordinator, Sustainable Urban and Industrial Development (SUID), GIZ</td>
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<td>Launch of ITCN Knowledge Products</td>
<td>Mr. Martin Petersen, Head of Political and Economic Section, Royal Danish Embassy in India</td>
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<td>Announcement of winners &amp; Valedictory Remarks</td>
<td>Ms. Hyun Hee Ban, Additional Secretary, MoHUA &amp; VP; NIUA (TBC) and Shri SP Singh, Additional Secretary, MoHUA &amp; VP; NIUA (TBC)</td>
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<td>16:45 - 17:30</td>
<td>Valedictory Session</td>
<td>Dr. Debjani Ghosh, Team Lead NULP and UDF, NIUA and Mr. Christian Kapfensteiner, Director &amp; Cluster Coordinator, Sustainable Urban and Industrial Development (SUID), GIZ</td>
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<td>Remarks</td>
<td>Mr. Shombi Sharp, RCD, UN Resident Coordinator</td>
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<td>17:30 - 18:00</td>
<td>High Tea</td>
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