

# CONCEPT NOTE



Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
Government of India



National Urban Learning Platform

## CAPACITY FOR CHANGE

### Forging Sustainable Futures

08 January 2025

#### BACKGROUND

Urban India stands at a pivotal juncture, where the challenges of rapid urbanisation, environmental degradation, and social inequality demand innovative and sustainable solutions. The first annual event held in October 2023, organised by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), was a landmark event that successfully brought together a diverse array of urban practitioners, policymakers, academics, and civil society members. The event catalysed discussions on the critical role of data-driven decision-making and capacity building in transforming Indian cities into resilient, inclusive, and sustainable urban spaces.

Building on the success of the inaugural , this event seeks to deepen these discussions and expand the focus to include emerging capacity-building initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable and inclusive urban development. With the experiences and insights gained from the first event, the upcoming event will explore new dimensions in urban governance, emphasising the need for collaborative efforts to address the complex challenges faced by cities today

## PURPOSE OF THE EVENT

The event, is set to be a significant milestone in India's urban development discourse. It will provide a platform for all the projects in NIUA to showcase their ongoing capacity building efforts in the urban domain, and also the opportunity to launch new initiatives that will gain a wider audience at the event.

## TARGET AUDIENCE FOR THE EVENT

The Directors / Principal Secretaries of States & UTs, NULP nodal officers (NULP Champions), all NIUA and NULP partners, NIUA program teams, empanelled e-learning agencies, multilateral and bi-lateral organisations.

## IMPORTANT LAUNCHES

### NIUA INITIATIVES

**Launch of the Urban Learnathon 2.0** - Following the success of the first cycle of Urban Learnathon and to identify and promote good practices in urban governance and planning, NULP is set to launch the second cycle of the nation-wide challenge, Urban Learnathon 2.0. The idea is to encourage innovative solutions for on-ground urban challenges and foster collaboration between government officials, academic institutions, and industry experts. The second cycle of the challenge will seek urban solutions (implemented and implementable) from three categories of stakeholders including state/city officials, academic institutions and industry partners. The challenge will culminate in a repository of e-learning courses and urban solutions that can be utilised by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country.

**Launch of NULP 4.0** - NULP is an on-demand skilling tool to build India's largest digital learning community of Urban practitioners, promoting a culture of effective collaborative learning, skills enhancement and knowledge co-creation. As a part of its Scale-up and Sustainability (S&S) phase, NULP is launching NULP 4.0 with a robust platform and additional features to enhance the user experience. NULP is a dynamic platform that responds to the needs and demands of the users. NULP 4.0 offers several features such as direct connect, conferencing tool, chatbot, discussion forum, and a new user interface with an enhanced visual appeal.

**Launch of e-learning courses** - New e-learning courses, hosted on NULP will be launched at the event.

These courses include: 1. Course on form-based codes for Indian cities, 2. Learning journey on Municipal Finance.

### MOHUA INITIATIVES

**MoHUA Mission Karmayogi Annual Report** - The Annual Report highlights the progress made in the capacity-building initiatives for MoHUA officials over the past year under Mission Karmayogi.

**Launch of SBM-Urban 2.0 Operational Guidelines Course with a Focus on Solid Waste Management** - Developed by RCUES Mumbai, the course aligns with the better understanding of the effective implementation and sustainable management of Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0. in the urban local bodies nationwide. It also equips learners with a comprehensive understanding of effective and sustainable (SWM) practices in the city.

**Teaser of the "Know Your Ministry" Course** - The completed first module provides an overview of MoHUA, covering its vision, mandate, and historical evolution. It also introduces learners to the ministry's key divisions, flagship missions, and transformative initiatives undertaken in recent years.

## SESSION THEMES (INDICATIVE)

### PLENARY SESSION

**‘Capacity Building as a Catalyst for Sustainable Urban Transformation: Lessons Learned and Good Practices’** - The session will explore successful strategies and methodologies in capacity building that have led to effective urban transformation. Participants will share experiences and good practices that illustrate how enhancing capacities can drive sustainable development in urban areas.

### SESSIONS

#### **Session 1: Building Institutional Capacity for Sustainable Urban Governance**

- This session will delve into frameworks and strategies for strengthening institutions responsible for urban governance, emphasizing the importance of effective leadership and resource management in achieving good governance.

#### **Session 2: Capacity Building for Citizen-Centric Governance**

- Focused on enhancing engagement with citizens, this session will discuss methods for building capacities that prioritise community involvement in governance processes, ensuring that urban policies reflect the needs and aspirations of residents.

#### **Session 3: Building Capacities of Urban Officials for Digital Governance**

- This session will address the critical need for urban officials to develop digital skills that facilitate efficient governance. Topics will include e-governance tools, data management, and leveraging technology to improve service delivery.

