

Second Consultation Meet On FORUM FOR INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT WATER AND SANITATION IN THE HILL CITIES

Proceedings of the Consultation Meet
Held in Gangtok, Sikkim on 2nd December, 2022



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Participating States

	<p>Department of Urban Development and Housing, Arunachal Pradesh</p>		<p>Government of Meghalaya</p>
	<p>Government of Assam</p>		<p>Government of Mizoram</p>
	<p>Urban Development Department, Himachal Pradesh</p>		<p>Government of Sikkim</p>
	<p>Government of Jammu and Kashmir</p>		<p>Government of Nagaland</p>
	<p>The Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh</p>		<p>Government of Uttarakhand</p>
	<p>Manipur Urban Development Agency</p>		<p>Government of Tripura</p>



Acknowledgment

National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) duly acknowledges the support provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) in the endeavour on Water, Sanitation and Climate Change Nexus for Inclusive and Resilient Hill cities.

We extend our gratitude to the Urban Development Department, Sikkim; Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA) - South Asia, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development, Germany for hosting the consultation meet on 'Forum for Inclusive and Resilient Sanitation in Hill Cities' on 2nd December, 2022 in Gangtok, Sikkim.

NIUA duly appreciates the support provided by Mr. M.T. Sherpa, Secretary; Ms Yogita Rai, Principal Chief Town Planner; Ms Roshni Rai, Special Secretary and Ms. Samjana Pradhan, Assistant Town Planner, Urban Development Department, Government of Sikkim.

The deliberations and overall event was led by Dr. Mahreen Matto, Team Lead, SCBP, NIUA and Mr. Snehit Prakash, Director-Program, BORDA - South Asia with support from Mr. Samuel Khaiba, from Progressive Learning Foundation (PLF).

The collaterals were designed and prepared under the guidance of Mr. Deep Pahwa, Creative Lead, NIUA and his team.





About the Meet

Himalayas the world's youngest mountain ranges, has experienced rapid urban growth during the last few decades. This in turn has perturbed the hydrological regimes of Himalayan watersheds and reduced groundwater recharge, and eventually decreased the availability of water for drinking, sanitation and crop production.

Large tracts of the Country's Northern and North-Eastern states situated in this region are majorly hilly and some of India's fastest growing cities are situated in these states. The region also witnesses a significant footfall of tourists, throughout the year. Although, due to the complex geography the infrastructure and development activities in the region face significant challenges impacting carrying capacity. Further, the climate crisis has already made its mark visible, putting further pressure on the provision of essential services such as water and sanitation, on an already stressed Indian municipal system.

As in other parts of the world, urban growth cannot be stopped or reduced in Himalayas, but it can be steered in a more sustainable manner. Thus, it is imperative that urban centers located in these areas learn from each other, and adopt planning practices that are inclusive and resilient with the ability to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis.

To start a conversation and a dialogue around this specific issue, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in collaboration with the Bremen Overseas Research and Development (BORDA), has conceptualised a forum for "Inclusive and Resilient Water and Sanitation in Hill Cities".

The specific objectives of the forum are as below:

- To mainstream the issue of WASH and urbanisation challenges peculiar to hill cities and to initiate a conversation and peer-to-peer learning amongst them
- To facilitate a conversation amongst these cities, the relevant States and the Central Ministries
- To facilitate development of specific policies, advisories and guidelines
- To facilitate and promote indigenous research and development of specific technical solutions regarding the hill town's issues

NIUA-BORDA is conducting a series of consultation meet/workshop with potential multi-stakeholders to build and streamline the initiative of the Forum, before the official launch in April 2023. The First Consultation Meet was held in Leh-Ladakh on 13th-14th July 2022 with 40 WASH and URBAN sector experts from the Himalayan and North-Eastern region of India.

This is the Second Consultation Meet and the goal of this meeting is to bring together senior government officials from states with similar physiological and regional conditions to share their experiences and needs regarding Citywide Inclusive Water and Sanitation (CWIS) in order to collectively plan for short and long-term interventions in these states within the ambit of the forum. In this round of consultation, NIUA-BORDA South Asia have also aimed for deliberations from state officials on the conceptualization of the forum through the lens of inclusivity and resilience.

Moreover, this document represents the voices of the 10 Hilly state officials who were present for the consultation meet namely: Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland & Sikkim. This sort of public deliberation where the state officials express their point of view, and where all the voices are heard, can help formulate context based developmental policies based on the needs of the people. It is also crucial for understanding the ground realities, problems and opportunities of the hilly states together, through its key representatives. These civic exercises help the community from the hilly regions of India to come together, learn from each other, discuss their common future and ideate solutions that can help them achieve their common goal - a better future and common voice of the Hill Cities of India.

Keynote Speakers

Voices from the esteemed speakers



Mr M.T. Sherpa

Secretary, Urban Development
Department, Sikkim

Mr. M.T. Sherpa, in his keynote speech, urged the State Officials on the importance of having tailor-made solutions for the problems faced in the Hilly states. He acknowledged that this forum would lay a strong foundation for the common voice of the hills. He commented on the plethora of knowledge and expertise present in the room and anticipated a transformational outcome from this event.

To view Mr. Sherpa's short interview, [Click Here](#).



Dr. Gopal Pradhan

Member Secretary, State
Pollution Board Control, Sikkim

Dr. Pradhan acknowledged that Hilly State officials were embarking upon the journey of coming together and sharing their problems and working towards finding solutions. He also mentioned that the room had the best intellect minds to initiate such a positive transformation. Dr. Pradhan presented a call-to-action to the state officials emphasizing that the Hilly states were the catchment for the plains and needed to rise to the occasion.

To view Dr. Pradhan's exclusive message to the meeting, [Click Here](#).



Dr. Mahreen Matto

Team Lead, SCBP, NIUA

Dr. Matto stated that the purpose of this consultation meeting was to have a "common voice" from all the Hilly States which can find its place in the centre and also how this is an initiative towards bridging the gap between the Hilly States and the centre. She expressed her concern with issues in the hilly region brought upon by climate change and mentioned that the aim is to have the State Officials from the Hilly states come together and find commonalities as well as uniqueness in the challenges they face, and also the aspirations each state expressed.

To view Dr. Matto's presentation, [Click Here](#).



Mr. Shantanu Kumar Padhi

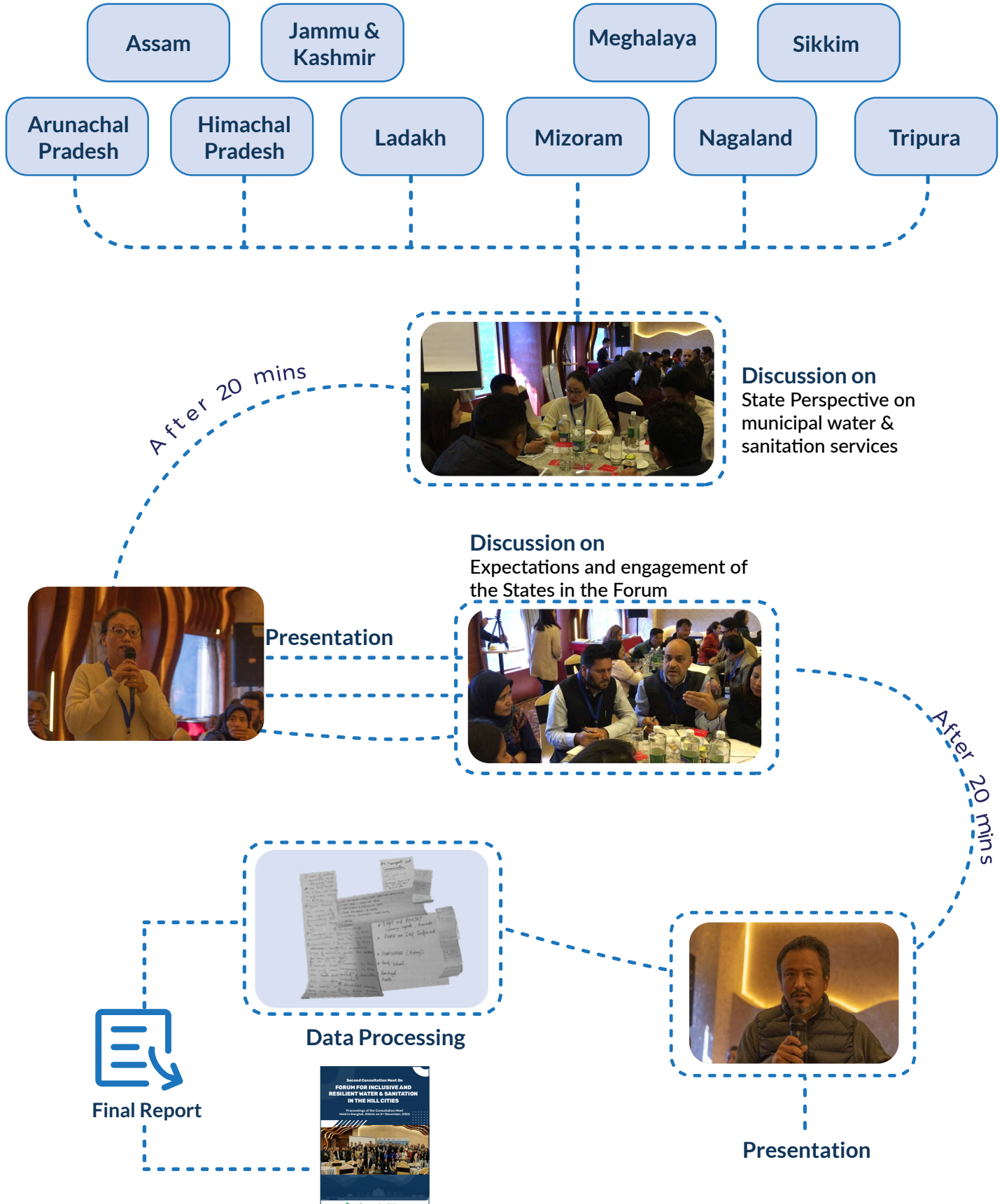
Senior Program Officer
SCBP, NIUA

Mr. Padhi presented the State's Perspective on Water and Sanitation. The objective of the presentation was to initiate a discussion among the participants regarding the advocacy for the improvement of Water and Sanitation in the context of the Hill region. An excreta flow mapping diagram (popularly known as SFD) of Aizawl, Mizoram was presented at the meeting. The existing practice of the sanitation service chain was discussed which helped the participants to relate the similar practice they experience in their respective states and how the departments and ULBs are addressing those challenges.

Key Highlights of the Meeting

State Officials were divided into 4 different Groups to discuss

- State Perspective on Municipal water & Sanitation services
- State expectations and State engagement





State Perspective on Municipal Water and Sanitation Services



Inferences from the discussions



State profile: State's land cover

- The typical topography is challenging with regard to accessibility, and construction activities
- The land use and land ownership is a complex subject in these regions. It is a challenge to procure land for treatment plants, and other utilities
- The plans lack in gauging floating population like tourists and labour
- The Standard data collection methods are inadequate



Water and Sanitation Status

- The hilly regions mostly depend on the spring water which is exhaustible. Therefore, the need for rainwater harvesting is felt necessary
- Water distribution and Water storage capacities are prevalent issues
- The cost and technical challenges of laying sewers in these regions impact grey water and black water disposal



Policy and advocacy

- Policies are usually framed without considering the local context, and relevance of topography of these regions
- In the north eastern region, the old laws and community laws hold stronger grounds



Technology

- Need for context based suitable and sustainable technologies
- Technologies should suit the terrain and climate
- Technologies should consider high energy consumption in these areas



Finance

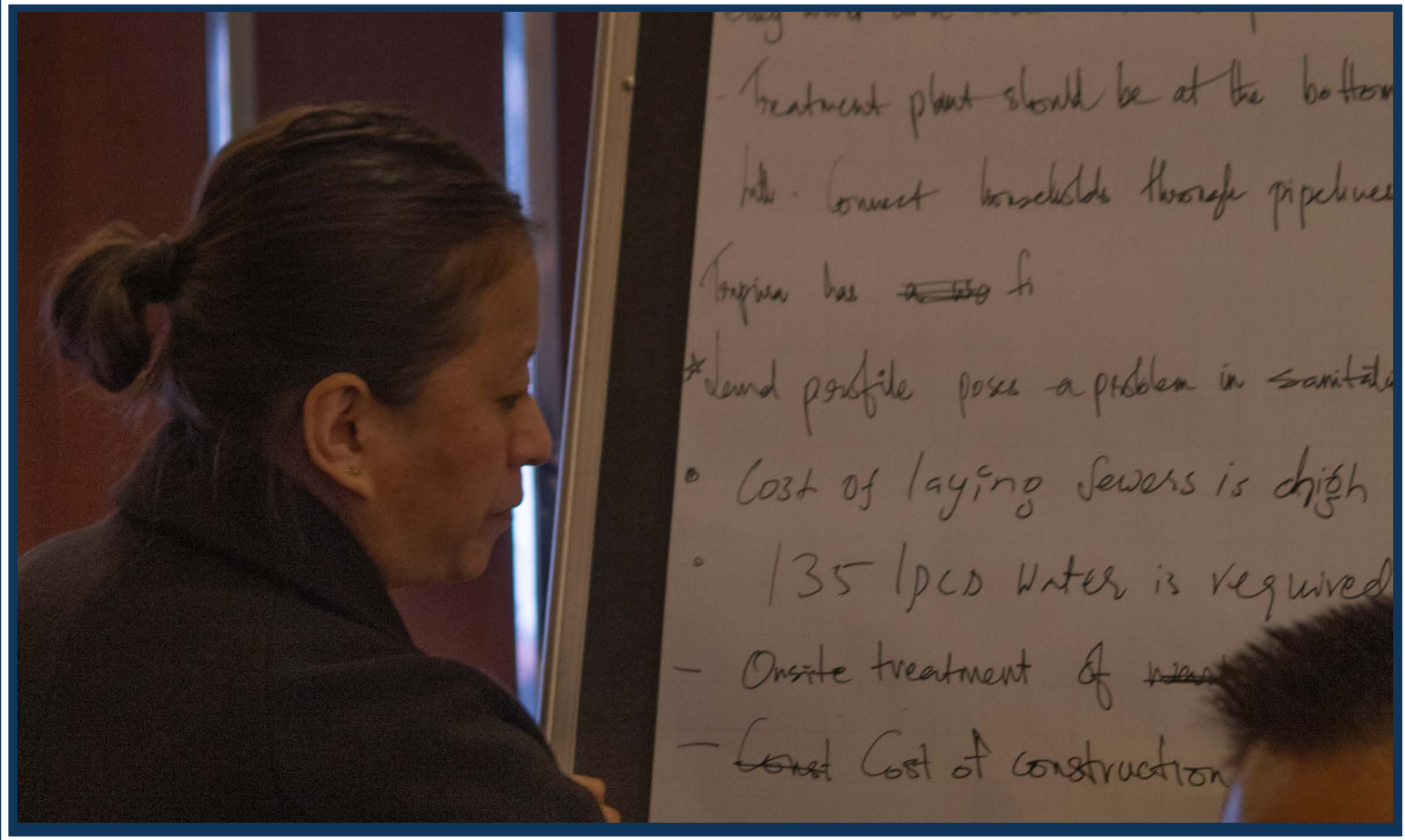
- Revenue collection at ULB and State level is a challenge in these states
- The states are majorly dependent on the Central Funds
- Inadequate knowledge and expertise for proper channelization of Funds
- Transportation costs and material costs are very high in comparison to plains, affecting the overall costs of implementation



Climate

- Irregular Rainfall, Floods, Cloud burst and Landslides are common occurrences damaging road connectivity and pipelines
- Need for disaster management and community resilience plans





...
- Treatment plant should be at the bottom
...
- Connect households through pipelines
Terrain has ~~2500~~ ft
* Land profile poses a problem in sanitation
• Cost of laying sewers is high
• 135 lpcd water is required
- Onsite treatment of ~~water~~
- Lowest Cost of construction

State's Expectations and Engagement in the Forum



Expectation Mapping

- The forum should carry out capacity building activities based on hill context and act as Information Dissemination hub
- Engage private practitioners, think tanks, academicians, etc.
- Support in channelization of funds
- Support in decision making plans
- Should amplify the states' collective voice and help it reach the central government and policy makers
- Formulate steering committee for respective states

State Engagement

- Mapping the issues and challenges of respective states
- States to nominate lighthouse ULB(s) for interventions through the forum
- States to support and co-host regular stakeholder meetings, conferences and workshops
- Sharing of best practices/indigenous case studies that have worked in the different states
- Representatives from the State Level committee should interact and participate in the forum
- Facilitate in Hilly States Fellowship Programs
- States to designate single point of contact for coordination



Next Steps and Roadmap

CONCEPT NOTE PREPARED

Team formed. Consultations with experts and sector organisations initiated

MAR 2022

CONSULTATION MEETING WITH STATE DEPARTMENTS

First meeting with UDDs of 10 Hill states (out of 12) planned. Aim is to get inputs regarding structure, utility and form of the forum

DEC 2022

July 2022

FIRST CONSULTATION MEETING HELD

Organised by NIUA- BORDA South Asia. Co-hosted by the Government of the Union Territory of Ladakh. Participants included think tanks, private practitioners, former bureaucrats, other experts.

April 2023

FORUM'S FORMAL LAUNCH

A formal launch of the forum anchored by NIUA, BORDA-South Asia and spearheaded by the hill states is planned





Endorsement for Forum for Inclusive and Resilient Sanitation in Hill Cities



We hereby endorse the concept and functioning of this forum where the hill states of India would come in union for a collective voice. We will participate actively in the forum's future deliberations for the betterment of our respective states adopting inclusivity and climate resilience with regard to water and sanitation.



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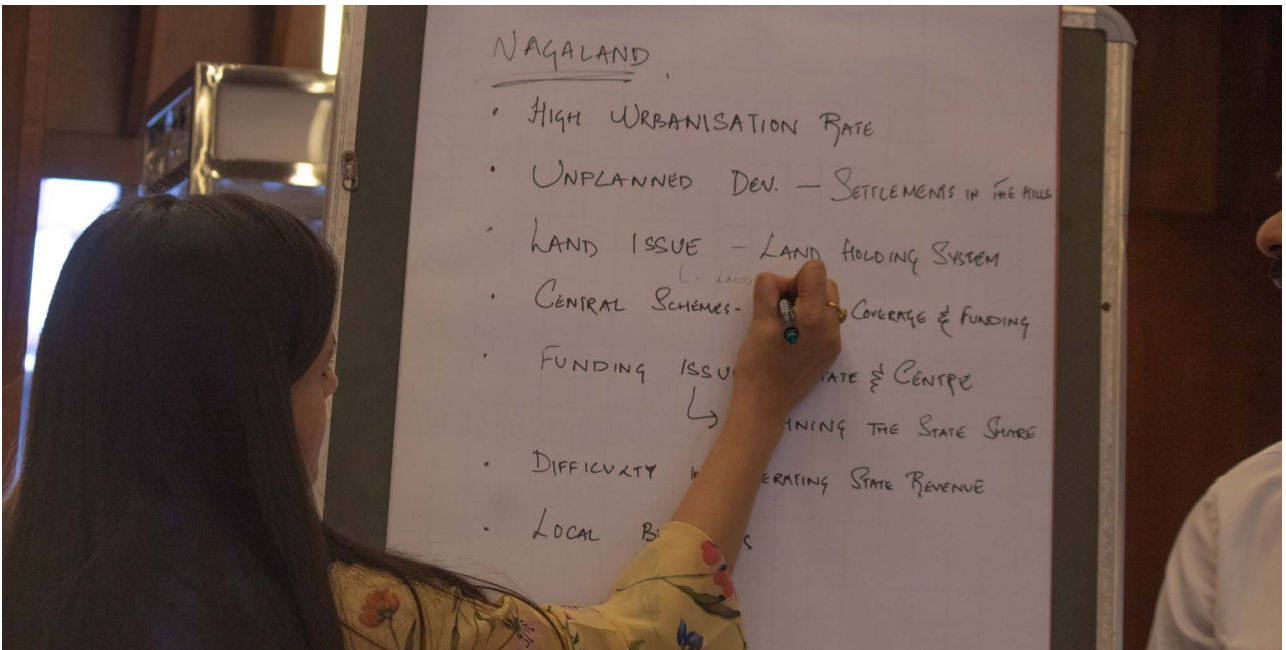
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List of participants/ dignitaries

S. No	State	Name of Participant	Designation
1	Nagaland	MR. A. CHENITHUNG LOTHIA	Director, Urban Development
2	Nagaland	MRS. TEMJENRENLA KECHU	Joint Director, Municipal Affairs
3	Nagaland	MRS. KEZHOCOLE RHETSO	Nodal Officer, SBM-U 2.0
4	Nagaland	MR. VIZOKHOLIE KESIYIE	Nodal Officer, AMRUT 2.0
5	Mizoram	Mr. Malsawmzuala	Joint Director (Administration)UD & PA
6	Tripura	Dr. Tamal Majumder	Add. Secretary & Director UDD Mission Director SBM-U and AMRUT
7	Assam	Shri. M.N.Dahal, IAS	Commissioner, Guwahati Municipal Corporation
8	Laddakh	Dr. Zahida Banoo	Director ULB
9	Laddakh	Abdul Majid Tantray	Deputy Secretary
10	Arunachal Pradesh	Shri. Liyi Bagra, APCS	Director, ULB
11	Himachal Pradesh	Hari Singh Rana	Commissioner Municipal Corporation Mandi HP
13	Jammu & Kashmir	Mr. Naseer Ahmed Kakroo	Chief Engg. UED, J&K
14	Meghalaya	Shri. Biangmon Lato	Joint Director, Urban Affairs and Mission Director, SBM
15	Meghalaya	Shri.Kerborlang Kharumnuid	Additional Project Director, SIPMIU
25	Sikkim	M.T. Sherpa	Secretary
16	Sikim	Ms. Binita Rai	Under Secretary
17	Sikim	Sonu Pradhan	OSD (SDM-G)
18	Sikkim	Sarika Pradhan	Mission Director (G)
19	Sikkim	Sailendra	C.E. UDD
20	Sikkim	Roshini Rai	Spl. Secretary
21	Sikkim	Yogita Rai	Pr. Chief Town Planner
22	Sikkim	Dr. Gopal Pradhan	MS (SPCB Sikkim)
23	Sikkim	Subash Ghimiray	Addl Secretary, Mission Director SBM
24	Sikkim	K. Bhutia	ACTP
26	Sikkim	Bandana	Addl. Secretary
27	Sikkim	S. Tamang	Municipal Executive Officer, Rongpo
41	Sikkim	Gary Chopal	ACTP, GMC
42	Sikkim	Deepankan	Add Director, Gangtok Smart City

ABOUT PARTNERS



Urban Development Department: The urban areas in the state of Sikkim were looked after by Bazaar Department before the merger in 1975, thereafter Gangtok Municipal Corporation Act was enacted. The GMC was however abolished under the Sikkim (Repeal and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1985 and its power and functions were reverted to Department of Local Self Government. During 1990s, the Department of Local Self Government was subsequently renamed as Urban Development and Housing Department which is now known as Urban Development Department (UDD). The UDD has the mandate of planning and guiding urban development in Sikkim; is the nodal agency for implementing the central schemes of the MoHUA; caters to policy formulation, providing infrastructural facilities, tendering, support in implementation across all urban development matters. In the absence of a Directorate of Town & Country Planning, the Town Planning Cell caters to all physical planning matters. It also dons the role of the Department of Municipal Affairs in the State mandated under the Sikkim Municipalities Act, 2007. The department, over the period, has remodelled old towns by decongesting and augmenting urban civic facilities keeping in view urban life complexities and problems. Now these developments are guided by well-prepared Urban Strategic Plans, Development Guide Plans, City Development Plan and Comprehensive Mobility Plans.

BORDA  **Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA):** founded in 1977, is a civil society expert organization focused on providing essential public services. BORDA South Asia, headquartered in Bangalore, operates in four countries: India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. In India, we are carrying out projects in Ladakh (Leh and Kargil) and Karnataka (Chintamani and Chikballapura). BORDA-SA partners with organizations to help design and implement integrated water and solid/liquid waste management plans focusing on small and medium towns. We aim to improve the living conditions of socially disadvantaged groups by facilitating access to basic needs services such as sanitation, wastewater management, and water provision while maintaining a safe environment.

ABOUT NIUA

National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is India's leading think tank on urban planning and development. NIUA's Sanitation Capacity Building Platform (SCBP) aims to address urban sanitation challenges in India, through capacity development of stakeholders in urban sanitation. This can facilitate improved delivery of sanitation services through implementation of citywide inclusive sanitation approach and adoption of non-sewered sanitation, including Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM). Through its experience and learnings over the past five years, SCBP has developed a normative framework for states on mainstreaming non-sewered sanitation. To deliver proof of concept of this framework, SCBP is working in Uttarakhand and providing capacity building, technical, and policy & advisory support on Integrated Wastewater and Septage Management (IWSM) at the state and ULB levels.



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