

ABOUT CUS

In 1966, Centre for Training and Research in Municipal Administration (CTRMA) was established in IIPA with the support of Ministry of Health and Family Planning, Government of India, the then nodal ministry on urban local bodies. The Centre was created with specific objectives to operate as a knowledge centre and think tank on urban sector issues and an apex institution at national level. CTRMA was rechristened as CUS (Centre for Urban Studies) in 1974-75.

Director General, IIPA is the Director of CUS and chairperson of the Steering Committee. A faculty of CUS is nominated as Coordinator CUS, who becomes the Member-Secretary of the Steering committee. CUS has an interdisciplinary team of faculty members from Economics, Public Administration, Urban Planning and Civil Engineering background. In addition other faculty members of IIPA drawn from environment, disaster management, social development and e-governance background provide their professional input to CUS on case to case basis.

Objectives of CUS

The precise objectives of CUS are :

- (i) Organize suitable training courses for municipal and state officials concerned with Municipal Administration in order to improve the technical and professional character of municipal services;
- (ii) Hold seminars for the elected leaders of urban local authorities for the purpose of facilitating awareness of problems facing the local bodies and encouraging communication between the technical experts and the popular leaders;
- (iii) Arrange special conferences and study groups on contemporary problems of municipal administration,
- (iv) Help other States and regional training and research centres on municipal administration that might be established;
- (v) Promote research on various governmental problems of urban and metropolitan growth in India;
- (vi) Develop an efficient and up-to-date information centres and documentation services in municipal administration in India and abroad; and

- (vii) Provide suitable consultancy service to the various public bodies on municipal administration and to represent India in international conferences.

Outreach

In accordance with its objectives, the Centre during the last 55 years has carried out research, training and advisory services. The Centre has developed and strengthened its national and international outreach and coverage of stakeholders. CUS extends India's urban agenda to (a) Institutions and agencies of Government of India, (b) state government agencies, (c) ULBs (Urban Local Bodies) and para-municipal agencies dealing with specific services, programmes and schemes of Government of India and respective state governments.

Research

Recent Research activities include policy research to Government of India and states and major ULB's, Action research for functionaries at cutting edge level and evaluation of specific scheme and programmes. Research is also used to develop contents for capacity building programmes and disseminate information through a range of publications. CUS also carries out documentation of best practices on specific urban innovations.

Digital Training Initiatives

Since July 2020, CUS started first of its kind digital training programmes in the country to build capacities of middle and senior level urban functionaries through online training. These programmes also tend to seek lessons from Mission Karmayogi launched by the NDA government in September, 2020. Modules developed by CUS include.

- (i) Urban Governance and Administration
- (ii) Urban Finance and Revenue
- (iii) National Urban Livelihood Mission
- (iv) Integrated Urban Water Management System
- (v) Participatory Governance for Urban Management

The above programmes have a duration of 3 to 5 days and cover senior officers from urban local bodies and para-statal/para-municipal agencies dealing with various aspects of urban development.

(Refer CUS at <https://www.iipa.org.in/cms/public/page/centre-for-urban-studies> for its activities details)