

**Centre for Urban Studies (CUS)
Indian Institute of Public Administration
New Delhi**

10 August 2026

30th Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes

The 30th Steering Committee meeting of the Centre for Urban Studies (CUS) was held on 5 August 2026 at 2:30 P.M. at Samiksha Hall-1, IIPA, New Delhi. The following were present:

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| 1. Dr. Surendrakumar Bagde, IAS
Director General, IIPA | – in The Chair |
| 2. Shri Satinder Pal Singh, IPS, Additional
Secretary (Admin, Vigilance), MoHUA | – Member |
| 3. Shri A.K. Singh, IAS
Special Secretary, Department of Urban
Development, Govt. of NCTD | – Representative of Secretary,
Department of Urban
Development, Govt. of NCTD |
| 4. Shri C.C. Lalchhuangkima
Additional Secretary, Department of
Urban Development & Poverty
Alleviation, Govt. of Mizoram | – Representative of Commissioner
& Secretary, Deptt. of UD&PA,
Govt. of Mizoram |
| 5. Shri Neeraj Kumar, IFS
Director, Department of Urban
Development, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh | – Representative of Secretary,
Department of Urban
Development, Govt. of Himachal
Pradesh (through VC) |
| 6. Prof. Charru Malhotra
Professor of e-Governance and ICT, IIPA | – Special Invitee, CUS |
| 7. Dr. Sachin Chowdhry
Associate Professor of Public
Administration, IIPA | – Member, CUS |
| 8. Dr. Amit Kumar Singh
Assistant Professor of Urban
Development, IIPA | – Member, CUS |
| 9. Prof. V.N. Alok
Professor of Urban Finance, IIPA | – Coordinator, CUS and Member
Secretary |

Shri Anuj Kumar Jha, IAS, Director, RCUES, Lucknow communicated his inability to attend the meeting. Leave of absence was granted to him.

The Chairman welcomed the participants and requested the CUS Coordinator to initiate the agenda discussions. Following this, Prof. V.N. Alok provided a concise background of the CUS. Thereafter, agenda items were taken up.



Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 29th Meeting of the CUS Steering Committee held on 24 January 2026.

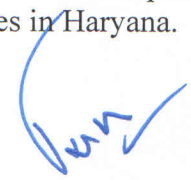
The Minutes as circulated were confirmed.

Item No. 2: Annual Report 2025-26

- 2.1. The Coordinator, Centre for Urban Studies (CUS), presented the Annual Report, highlighting the Centre's activities during 2025–26, including research studies, training programmes, workshops, seminars, publications, and advisory services.
- 2.2. He informed the Committee that the Centre had successfully completed the following studies:
 - a. Impact of RERA on Home Buyers;
 - b. Development of a framework for Minimum Waste Localities in Varanasi;
 - c. Fiscal analysis and technical inputs for the 16th Finance Commission and the 6th State Finance Commissions of Uttarakhand and Odisha; and
 - d. Four Social Impact Assessments (SIAs) for land acquisition projects in Delhi, namely Pul Pehladpur, Jasola, Pehladpur Banger, and Barwala.
- 2.3. The Director General, IIPA, suggested that the Centre should prepare concise policy briefs highlighting the key findings and actionable recommendations from these studies and upload them onto the IIPA web page. He further recommended that the study reports should also be uploaded on the CUS web page for wider dissemination.
- 2.4. The Coordinator, CUS further informed the Committee that the Centre had conducted eighteen customised and blended training programmes for 542 participants, along with eight workshops, conclaves, and panel discussions attended by 335 participants on contemporary urban issues. He also informed that foundation learning modules for the iGOT platform had been developed in consultation with the Capacity Building Commission (CBC).
- 2.5. He also reported that the Centre published three issues of NAGARLOK and a book titled National Urban Conclave on Future Ready Cities during the year 2025–26.

Item No. 3: Action Plan 2026-27

- 3.1. The Action Plan for 2026–27 was discussed and approved. The major activities proposed include:
 - a. Two research studies, (i) Municipal Accounting Reforms across all municipal bodies in Haryana and (ii) An assessment of Manpower Requirements in the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh.
 - b. In addition, each faculty member will undertake a working paper on a contemporary urban issue.
 - c. Preparation of working papers on the Development of Viable Projects in City Regions.
 - d. Conduct of training programmes on Effective Urban and People-Centric Governance for Elected Representatives of Municipalities in Haryana.



e. Organisation of conferences on:

- i. Municipal Accounting Reforms (First Week of October 2026);
- ii. Financing Cities in India (24 September 2026); and
- iii. Winter Pollution in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi (November 2026).

f. Organisation of a series of five training programmes across Karnal, Rohtak, Gurugram, Sirsa, and Mahendergarh, covering municipal financial management, the roles and responsibilities of elected representatives, and the implementation of Government of India flagship missions, including AMRUT, SBM, and PM SVANidhi.

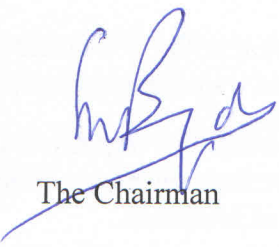
- 3.2. The Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, informed the Committee that the Ministry, in collaboration with the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and IIT Palakkad, had developed hybrid and online technical courses on Building Information Modelling (BIM). He suggested that CUS may also design, develop, and deliver similar hybrid training programmes for municipal engineers of States and Union Territories.
- 3.3. He further suggested to the Centre to undertake a research study on Road Safety.
- 3.4. He also recommended that learning modules be developed for the iGOT and use National Urban Learning Platform (NULP) content for officers working in the urban sector.
- 3.5. The Committee agreed that CUS would explore collaboration with CPWD and State Public Works Departments (PWDs) for organising technical training programmes.
- 3.6. The Additional Secretary, Department of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of Mizoram, requested the Centre to organise training programmes on Municipal Finance and Accounting for municipal officers of Mizoram.
- 3.7. The Special Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Government of NCT of Delhi, suggested that the Centre may organise training programmes on the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026.
- 3.8. The Director, Department of Urban Development, Government of Himachal Pradesh, invited CUS to conduct training programmes for municipal officers of Himachal Pradesh at Shimla.
- 3.9. The DG, IIPA suggested that the Centre also organise training programmes at Chandigarh to facilitate participation from Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir.
- 3.10. He further suggested that the Centre may develop a knowledge network for the urban sector and serve as a collaborative hub linking government agencies, academic institutions, and practitioners.
- 3.11. The Committee recommended strengthening collaboration with leading academic and research institutions, including CSEP, IIT Delhi, IIT Roorkee, and other reputed organisations, to expand the Centre's academic and research activities.
- 3.12. It was decided that all books, reports, and other publications of the Centre would be shared with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.

- 3.13. A two-day Conference on Urban Planning, Finance and Governance will be organized in the winter of 2026-27 in which research papers will be invited and selected paper will be provided travel grant in addition to local hospitality
- 3.14. A comprehensive blueprint for the redevelopment of the CUS website will be prepared.

Item No. 4: Budget 2026-27

- 4.1. It was reported by Dr. Sachin Chowdhry and Dr. Amit Kumar Singh that capacity-building activities in States/UTs are hindered by a lack of funds and official directives from the Ministry. Therefore, they requested the Additional Secretary, MoHUA, to send an official advisory to the States to facilitate smoother implementation of CUS activities.
- 4.2. A request for increased research and training funds was submitted by the Director General, IIPA, with an assurance that utilization would be restricted to Ministry-approved core CUS activities.
- 4.3. The Additional Secretary, MoHUA, noted that the Ministry would consider future research and training proposals submitted by CUS.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



The Chairman



Member Secretary