

Report of 5th DPE-UNICEF Joint Workshop on Capacity Building of CPSEs with focus on Identified CSR Themes for Aspirational Districts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra

The 5th DPE-UNICEF joint Regional Workshop on Capacity Building of CPSEs was held on 31st July 2025 at Hyderabad. The workshop focused on the Aspirational Districts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Maharashtra. The objective of the workshop was to provide a platform for officials of District Administration and CSR nodal officers of CPSEs to collectively brainstorm and get technical insights from state and CSR experts on identified CSR themes to strengthen CSR interventions. The workshop was attended by around 120 participants, including officials from State Governments, District Collectors of ADs, CSR nodal officers of CPSEs, DPE, NITI Aayog, UNICEF, and Implementing agencies.



The inaugural session of workshop began with a welcome address by Dr. Zelalem Birhanu Taffesse, Chief of Field Office - Hyderabad, UNICEF, who highlighted the importance of transitioning from basic to quality service delivery and emphasized the collaborative role of CPSEs, NGOs, and civil society organizations. Shri Lucas L. Kamsuan, Joint Secretary, DPE, in his keynote address, emphasized moving beyond compliance to achieve transformational and sustainable CSR outcomes. Shri Kailash Bhandari, Joint Director, DPE, introduced the workshop to the participants, highlighting the importance of building a robust CSR ecosystem, using this workshop to collaborate and make a difference in the last mile.



The first technical session featured presentations from key state officials and NITI Aayog. Ms. Archana Suresh, Telangana Social Impact Group (TSIG) detailed how TSIG bridges corporates, government departments, and NGOs to deliver impactful CSR projects across the state. Shri Chandra Sekhar, Consultant, NITI Aayog explained the scope and progress of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), underlining the role of CSR in supporting these initiatives. Shri Baswaraj S, Joint Director (Planning), Karnataka and Shri Sachindra Pratap Singh, Education Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra, shared their experiences in aligning CSR with ground-level needs, particularly in tribal and underserved regions.



The second technical session focused on District level CSR interventions. DCs of Parvathipuram Manyam (AP), Dharashiv (MH), Alluri Sitharama Raju (AP), Washim (MH), and officials of Gadchiroli (MH), Wayanad (KL), and Kumuram Bheem Asifabad (TG) presented details of their impactful initiatives in Health, Education, and Livelihoods sectors.



In the third technical session, Dr. Khyati Tiwari, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF highlighted critical nutrition challenges in Telangana's Aspirational Districts. She emphasized the importance of CSR investments in combating stunting, undernutrition, and anemia, especially among children and women, and called for integrating nutrition goals into CSR frameworks to attain Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger).



The fourth technical session showcased best practices from four CPSEs viz. BDL, HAL, NMDC, and CSL, who presented their CSR initiatives including health care infrastructure, skilling programs for girls, clean water access in schools, and promotion of sports in tribal areas.



In the fifth technical session, Dr. Bharti Goel, Young Professional, CSR Technical Support Unit, DPE, presented district-wise CSR priorities, followed by Shri Faiz A. Ashrafi, Team Leader, CSR-TSU who introduced the mapping initiative under the principle of “One Aspirational District, One CPSE.” This was followed by interactive discussions where CPSEs, District officials, and implementing agencies explored partnerships to co-create need-based CSR interventions.



The workshop concluded with a group activity on identifying CSR proposals aligned with District priorities. The key outcome of the workshop was enhanced collaboration between CPSEs and Aspirational Districts, clear AD-CPSE mapping for CSR, identification of thematic priorities by ADs, and consensus on scalable and replicable development interventions. This workshop provided a collaborative platform that has laid a stronger foundation for targeted, impactful, and inclusive CSR strategies in the ADs.

