

REHOUSE (Resilient, Equitable Housing, Opportunities and Urban Services)



Group picture with attendees and speakers post conclusion of the event

DA participated in an informative session on REHOUSE, a programme by WRI India. The objective of the session was 'accelerating action on climate resilient housing and urban services for communities living in urban informal settlements by sharing knowledge on scalable approaches, identifying opportunities for policy engagement, and filling data gaps to inform decision making'.

DA is also dedicated to transforming the built environment through sustainable building materials through its program 'ASHRAYE.' Participation in the session was very insightful, providing pivotal learning experiences.

The range of interventions and diverse perspectives shared during the sessions will inform ways to advance similar programs based on principles related to housing conditions, urban services, sustainable materials and climate resilience in informal settlements.

Insights

1. Integrating Climate Resilience into Housing Policies:

The presentation by Shishir Ranjan Das, Lead Urban Habitat at the TATA Steel Foundation, highlighted the urgent need to incorporate climate adaptation measures into housing policies. This aligns seamlessly with DA's mission in built environment to ensure that affordable housing is both cost-effective and resilient to climate risks. The discussions underscored the importance of policy support and financing mechanisms in promoting the adoption of resilient building practices. The Jaga mission, which focuses on the redevelopment of affordable housing, serves as a transformative example of how these initiatives can be scaled and implemented in other regions and states, offering a model for broader application.



Picture during an ongoing presentation

2. Importance of Data-Driven Decision Making:

A recurring theme was the importance of data in shaping housing strategies. The session on current planning processes highlighted how data on urban vulnerabilities can guide the development of resilient housing. ASHRAYE can utilise comprehensive data analysis to tailor sustainable building solutions to the specific needs of vulnerable communities.

Data-led research can support policy development and enforcement by enabling informed decision-making, targeting interventions, and monitoring the effectiveness of actions. This ensures that policies are responsive to the actual needs and risks faced by communities.

3. Community-Led Innovations:

The panel on innovative community-led practices showcased practical solutions and success stories from various Indian cities. These examples demonstrated the power of grassroots initiatives in achieving scalable and sustainable housing solutions. The discussion also went around to thermal comfort and new technological interventions to support the conditions of heat stress in affordable housing, ensuring that our solutions are not only sustainable but also socially inclusive.

4. Collaborative Approaches:

The workshop sessions underscored the importance of collaboration among different stakeholders, including government agencies, community organisations, and technical experts. This means building strong partnerships to amplify our impact and facilitate knowledge exchange. By working together with diverse actors, we can better navigate the complexities of implementing sustainable housing solutions at scale.

5. Policy Advocacy:

The discussions on the current policy landscape highlighted the necessity for strong advocacy to create an enabling environment for sustainable housing. DA can play a proactive role in engaging with policymakers to promote policies that support the use of sustainable building materials and the development of affordable, resilient housing.



Q&A session - mid event

Next Steps

Building on the insights gained from the REHOUSE convening, our next steps include:

- Integrating climate resilience into our project frameworks.
- Utilising data to drive decision-making and project planning.
- Encouraging community-led initiatives and participation.
- Strengthening collaborations with key stakeholders.
- Advocating for supportive housing policies at the national and state levels.

Our commitment to transforming the built environment through sustainable and affordable housing is stronger than ever. The REHOUSE Convening has provided us with the knowledge and inspiration needed to push forward with ASHRAYE programme, ensuring that our efforts contribute meaningfully to the creation of resilient and equitable urban communities.