

# SMART CITIES WORKSHOP SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

20 SEPTEMBER 2019

## EVENT REPORT



Organised by

Heidelberg University, ORF, SPA and IMPRI

In Collaboration with

Centre for Public Policy Research

Supported by

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
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Friedrich Naumann  
STIFTUNG **FÜR DIE FREIHEIT**

# SMART CITIES WORKSHOP SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

## EVENT BRIEF

During 2016, 2017 and 2018, prominent institutions from Germany and India conducted several Indo-German workshops in India that focus on the potentials and the challenges of the concept of smart cities. These events have been coordinated by the Heidelberg University (Branch Office New Delhi), jointly with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA New Delhi). The events were supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. Consequently, workshops have been organised in Aizawl, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Kochi, New Delhi, New Town (Kolkata), Pune, Ranchi, Shimla and Kolkata, which will be continued in 2019.

In continuation of this initiative, a workshop on Smart Cities was held in Kochi on September 20, 2019 at Hotel Marriott, organised by the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University (Branch Office New Delhi), ORF, SPA (New Delhi) and Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPRI) in collaboration with Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR).

The aim was to generate awareness and discourse creation on how cities irrespective of their physiological and political diversity can be governed and managed 'smartly'. The overarching theme of the Smart City Mission is to address the urban challenges and foster sustainability – thus calling for interdisciplinary inputs and collective ideation. By bringing together experts from India and Germany, the workshop discussed the opportunities, benefits and challenges of Smart Cities. The participants of the workshop included urban planners, architects, engineers, academicians, environmental and civil society leaders, students, research scholars, representatives from government organisations and departments and media. In a working knowledge transfer-oriented environment that bridges science, policy and practice, the participants presented their work, initiatives and ideas, exchanged their views and approaches, and jointly sought for commonalities and innovative solutions.



## INAUGURAL SESSION

*The workshop commenced at 10 am with the dignitaries and participants taking their seats. The inaugural session dealt with the evolving idea of smart cities and the relevance of the event in the city of Kochi.*

**Dr D Dhanuraj**, Chairman, Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Kochi, delivered the welcome remarks. He stressed on the importance of this public forum to help the stakeholders learn from each other and get better insights into various activities undertaken as part of Smart City initiatives.

**Dr Simi Mehta**, CEO, Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPRI), New Delhi, gave an introduction to the workshop series. She stated that the workshop travelled to many cities like Aizawl, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Kochi, New Delhi, New Town (Kolkata), Pune, Ranchi, Shimla and Kolkata.

**Dr Pablo Holwitt**, Resident Representative, Heidelberg University, Delhi branch office, said that the conference series that began in 2016 has been held in many cities across India and he was happy that Kochi is hosting the conference for the second time.





**Dr Rumi Aijaz**, Senior Fellow, ORF, introduced the concept of the Smart City and gave an overview of the Smart City Mission. He stressed on the need of smart city to go beyond technological solutions and build on citizen participation. He said that the awareness and involvement of the common people makes the city Smart.

**Dr M Ramachandran**, Former Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, inaugurated the workshop and delivered the keynote address. He delved into the concept of Smart Cities and pointed out that there is no universally accepted definition of a smart city and that the approach is not one size fits all. The conceptualisation of the smart city is unique to the city and the aspirations of the city residents. He noted how different and unique the Smart Cities Mission is compared to previous urban development schemes and missions. Potential Smart cities in each state/UT were identified by giving equal weightage to urban population and the number of statutory towns. Thereafter, Smart City selection was done through a process of competition under the guiding principles of cooperative and competitive federalism. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) was created for the implementation and convergence with various other missions was envisaged. Innovative resource mobilisation through various sources like PPP, debts, land monetisation, etc. was built into the mission. The mission stresses on an area-based development approach. Close to one fifth of the total resources of the mission goes for area development. Urban mobility comes on top among specific focus sectors followed by the traditional urban sectors of water supply,

sewerage, storm water drainage and solid waste management.

The mission has definitely resulted in many new ventures. For example, India's first cloud-based Integrated Command and Control Center at Bhopal, which consists of a cloud data centre for all seven smart cities of the state, has been able to break silos of city operations.

He highlighted that mobility has emerged as a prominent concern for the urban residents. Integration of the transport systems will be a difficult task to accomplish, but it is critical for a smart city. The importance of resorting to innovative financing tools, floating municipal bonds, improving credit worthiness and creating separate escrow account for municipal bodies to make urban bodies self reliant was highlighted. Another area of concern is energy efficiency and green buildings, and there has not been any concrete development in this regard. Citing global examples, he said that the cities should move closer to a totally citizen-centric system as evolved in important global cities. Many cities launching apps for two way communication is probably the farthest these cities have been able to go.

*"Smart Cities Mission requires smart people who actively participate in governance and reforms."*

*Dr M Ramachandran*

He concluded by enquiring whether the area-based approach has matured to a level that it can be replicated all over the city. Technically, with only one more year of the mission remaining and a large number of projects



under implementation, the fundamental question which needs to be addressed is whether the city is actually becoming smart and are the citizens deriving full advantage of the intended outcomes. The sustainability guarantee of the projects too needs to be assessed. He reminded that the smart cities mission requires smart people who actively participate in governance and reforms. Platforms like the 'Smart Cities Workshop' could help take stock of how smart are people today and how active is their participation both in governance and reforms.

**Mr Ashish Alex**, Director of Operations, Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Kochi, delivered the vote of thanks. He thanked dignitaries, panellists, participants and the entire organising team for making the event a reality.

The inaugural session was followed by panel discussions on thematic sessions. There were four thematic sessions that dealt with Smart Governance and Inclusive Cities; Built Environment: Planning and Design; Mobility and Natural Resources Management. The following are the highlights of each session.

## SESSION 1: SMART GOVERNANCE | INCLUSIVE CITIES

The session was chaired and moderated by Dr Rumi Aijaz, Senior Fellow ORF, New Delhi.

Speakers:

- Mr Raj Cherubal, CEO, Chennai Smart City Limited
- Mr PJ Shaji, General Manager, Water Transport, KMRL
- Dr Joy Elamon, Director, Kerala Institute of Local Administration Professor
- Uday Shankar, IIT Kharagpur



**Mr Raj Cherubal** spoke on 'Urban Governance' by sharing his experience from Chennai Smart City. He pointed out that technological solutions are important tools which are sure to improve the quality of life. He also mentioned various smart components which are being integrated with the Command and Control Centre (CCC) of the Chennai Smart City. These components would provide efficient services in sectors such as physical infrastructure, social infrastructure, mobility, surveillance, disaster management, etc. He emphasised the relevance of an Intelligent Traffic Management System in improving the city's mobility scenario. He also stressed that inclusivity is fundamental to smart governance.

**Mr PJ Shaji**, spoke on 'Sustainability of the Water Metro' and its potential to bring about a reduction of about 116 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. His talk focused on reducing the consumption of fossil fuels and emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and CO, which are adversely affecting the environment. As an alternative to this, he argued, is to encourage operating the water transport on the latest battery technology of fast charging batteries using Lithium Titanium, which are having a lifespan of 10 years and get charged in just 10 minutes. He also mentioned about having hybrid boats which will help reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases and CO<sub>2</sub> in the environment.

**Dr Joy Elamon**, while speaking on 'Inclusive Urban Governance', argued for dichotomy between urban poverty and rural poverty, and the importance of smartness. He further reminded that questions such as smartness



for whom should be raised and talked about marginalisation becoming stronger and the rate of exclusion faster. Speaking on inclusiveness, he argued that the definition of smartness matters a lot on exclusion. He further said that urban health is a forgotten area and spoke on the importance of healthcare centre in changing health seeking behaviour. He also threw light on climate change and recommended that a low carbon pathway is what is required for development.

**Professor Uday Shankar** cautioned that smart city mission can turn citizens into consumers and accountability remains a big question, unless proper reforms are not undertaken in the SPV Act, which runs smart city mission. Speaking on 'Paradigm Shift in Smart City', Mr Shankar argued that technology-driven mechanism will deliver enhanced public services. He said that stakeholder involvement in the decision making process will deliver improved results. He suggested that app-driven complaint mechanism and private dispute redressal in place of court structure should be practiced, which would be instrumental in ensuring smart governance.

## SESSION 2: BUILT ENVIRONMENT | PLANNING AND DESIGN

The session was chaired and moderated by Mr Jaigopal Rao, Managing Director and Principal Designer at Inspiration.

Speakers:

- Ms Rwritee Mandal, Senior Program Manager, Safetipin, New Delhi
- Ms Sreya, Architect, Recycle Bin, Trivandrum
- Dr Anil Kumar, Professor & Head, Dept. of Architecture, NIT Calicut
- Mr Dhilon Subramaniam, Senior Project Associate, Energy Program, WRI India



**Ms Rwritee Mandal's** presentation was on 'Using Data and Technology to make Cities Inclusive'. Cities have been designed taking the average able-bodied man who works 9-5 as an indicator for planning, thus excluding a large section of the population. Such physical restrictions add on to the social structures resulting in inequality. "We are far from gender inclusiveness and gender responsive design," she said. She shared details about the Safety Audit, that forms the core of SafetiPin, assessing different parameters linked to safer and more inclusive public

spaces. SafetiPin has now expanded from a single app to a technology platform and data source. India, perhaps for the first time, has a gender chapter in the Mumbai draft master plan. Addressing the Smart City Mission, she urged stakeholders that when we think about

*"We are far from gender inclusiveness and gender responsive design."*

*Ms Rwritee Mandal*



being smart, let us also think about those who are being excluded – ‘Smart for Whom’?

**Ms Sreya** argued that the public discourse on development automatically equates it to a tangible object. Waste is an externality in our city planning, whereas it actually is a byproduct of our consumer lifestyle – as we assign a lifetime or period of usage to products. She advocated for a decentralised model of waste disposal as the centralised waste management system ends up removing the onus of waste disposal from the consumer. She also stressed on the need for a behavioural shift in dealing with waste, i.e., from dumping to depositing.

**Dr Anil Kumar** presented on ‘A Spatially Smart and Resilient Kerala: Lessons from the Floods’. Addressing the impact climate change is having on cities, he advocated that all development projects must reinforce natural infrastructure. The man-made infrastructure should compliment nature and not compete with nature. He emphasised the need for a smart integrated flood management system for the Smart City Project. A Smart Flood Solution would concentrate efforts and resources to fine tune

them to the situation/needs of the community. Technology must be incorporated to predict flood levels and personalised warning systems. Dr Anil Kumar’s spatial planning lesson was on the need to control homestead pattern. He pointed out that a compact mixed land use is the most sustainable mode to adopt. Zoning the entire state based on environmental vulnerability and ingraining this into the building rules and other developmental guidelines is a must.

**Mr Dhilon Subramaniam** presented his organisation’s project on ‘Zero Carbon Buildings in Kochi’. He said that the Smart City Mission has the potential to set good examples for energy efficiency. Private builders can be asked to take the lead on implementing energy efficient factors, but it is the duty of the public sector to showcase the benefits of energy efficiency. Energy Conservation and Building Codes for commercial and residential buildings are being rolled out and is a step forward in the right path. While there are no zero carbon buildings in Kochi, we must consider to make existing buildings energy efficient not just the new ones.



## SESSION 3: MOBILITY

The session was chaired and moderated by Dr D Dhanuraj, Chairman, Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR). He emphasised the significance of mobility with respect to any city.

Speakers:

- Mr KJ Sohan, Hon'ble Ex-Mayor, Kochi Municipal Corporation
- Mr Rajeev Malagi, Senior Associate, Sustainable Cities, WRI India
- Mr GP Hari, Additional General Manager (Urban Transport), Kochi Metro Rail Ltd.
- Ms Praseeda Mukundan, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Kochi



**Mr KJ Sohan** stressed that integrated multimodal public transport system in Kochi is the only way ahead rather than mega projects, as the city is fortunate to have multi-directional road highways, railway lines and waterways. In Kerala, the density of road is three times the national average; however, the infrastructure becomes relevant only if there is good public transport. Sixty per cent of roads in the cities do not have robust public transport system. Rationalisation of public transport and integrating it with rails and waterways can easily provide cheap and

efficient transport facilities to people besides reducing pollution and congestion. By doing so, the economic and social aspects will change and the bottom rung of the society will see a big boost in the local economy due to increased accessibility. He pointed out that there is no point in investing in capital intensive modes when the population in many cities in the state are showing declining trends. He ended his talk by stating the alarming status of accidents in the state which accounts to 4000 deaths per year and the need to take measures to reduce it.

*"Integrated multimodal public transport system in Kochi is the only way ahead rather than mega projects."*

*Mr KJ Sohan*

**Mr Rajeev Malagi**, in his speech, focused on a people-centric approach to development. While speaking on mobility issues, he said the biggest issue we currently face is that the investments that go into mass transits often lack full potential due to the poor first and last mile connectivity. If people are using private vehicles to reach the metro, the entire purpose of introducing mass transit system gets defeated. Therefore, there is a need to create safe access in order to create a liveable city. This can be primarily done through tactical urbanism initiatives and collaborative design where people are engaged with implementing agencies. Since the tactical urbanism process is a people-led approach, there is less resistance.

**Mr GP Hari**, spoke about the various initiatives taken up by Kochi Metro Rail Limited in providing an enhanced mobility for the city. He mentioned the benefits that the city will get once the KMTA bill gets passed. On the public transport policy, he said that it is envisaged based on the following six pillars: accessibility to public transport within 500 m radius, truly integrated network, last mile connectivity through walking or cycling, universal and barrier-free accessibility, good signage system which is understandable to all with clear information and economic accessibility to all income groups in terms of fare. He stressed that these pillars can be achieved through the integration at four levels

which are institutional, physical, information technology and fare. At institutional level, there needs an integration of independent institutions and agencies that directly impact urban mobility. Formation of KMTA is a major step to achieve this. He stated that the KMTA bill is most likely to be passed by the assembly in the next session. Physical level intervention would include introduction of MRTS, passenger logistics hubs, interchange points and NMT. Intervention from the point of information technology level would include ITS, mobile apps, journey planner, display units, kiosks, OCC, adaptive signalling, AFC, etc. Fare-level integration needs to go beyond smart card ticketing and introduce IOT-enabled big data analytics. An innovative approach like lesser fares for more travel can incentivise people to use public transport. For this to be implemented, big data analytics and good information technology integration is required.

**Ms Praseeda Mukundan** spoke about the need for a better framework for efficient public transport. While speaking about urban mobility, she stressed that issues like potholes, congestion, pollution, etc. that we see are just symptoms of a larger malaise. She pointed out that fundamental issues that resulted in these symptoms are lack of clarity and understanding of the issues by the decision making authorities. She explained the same by stating instances and examples such as lack of clarity in the KMTA bill, nationalisation of bus routes by the state government for the benefit of State Transport Corporation; measures taken by the government authorities to pay off KIIFB's huge debts and policy-level issues in interstate bus services. She raised questions



regarding the criteria and process of prioritisation of the proposals by the authorities. Lack of investment by the concerned authorities in Research and Development activities tends to result in providing unsustainable solutions to mobility issues. There is also a need to empower the urban local bodies as they are the ones who understand the issues better. This was supported by stating that the Mayor of Kochi was just one among the 12 board of directors of the Cochin Smart Mission Limited, which

*"Issues like potholes, congestion, pollution, etc. that we see are just symptoms of a larger malaise."*

*Ms Praseeda Mukundan*

pointed out the imbalance in representation of elected members in city-specific projects. She ended her note by emphasising that solving the underlying cause is to be given utmost priority.

## SESSION 4: NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The session was chaired by Mr PC Mohanan, former acting chair of National Statistical Commission. He is also working as a consultant for the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Dr Arjun Kumar, Director, Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPRI) moderated the session.

Speakers:

- Dr Brajesh K Dubey, Associate Professor, Civil Engineering Department, IIT Kharagpur
- Professor Utpal Kumar De, Department of Economics, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong
- Mr Anirudh Singh, Programme Officer, Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS), New Delhi
- Dr Ramesh Nair, GIZ



**Dr Brajesh K Dubey** presented his work on 'Sustainable Waste Management for a Smart City: Examples from Indian Smart City Initiatives'. He said that an increase in population along with the rapid urbanisation has resulted in huge demand for natural resources and infrastructure. On the status of waste management, he stated that India has been producing 62 million tonnes of waste out of which hardly 60-70 per cent get collected, of which 20-30 per cent get treated and the rest end up in dump sites. He underlined the need for laws to be more practical and implementable. "Waste management is a localised site-specific issue and needs site-specific solution". All types of technology should be on the table and we should use the best one that suits our local data. The data collection process must be more systematic and the policy has to match the technical aspect. He concluded by stressing that there should be a sustainable way of characterising waste, proper data collection, analysis and recommendations based on that.

*"Waste management is a localised site-specific issue and needs site-specific solution."*

*Dr Brajesh K Dubey*

**Professor Utpal Kumar De** presented on 'Extreme Climatic Behaviour, its Impact and Possible Adaptation'. He talked about various aspects like climate change, adaptation to climate change, adaptation strategies and technological solutions. He said that technology has a great role in mitigation and adaptation. Urbanisation has led to overpopulation and more demand for

resources, which in turn has increased the pressure on sectors such as transport and communication. He raised the concern that all the issues are interrelated, hence understanding the bigger picture should be a priority. Total rainfall has not gone down, but we are unable to collect and store water for later use. He identified lack of planning as the reason for this. Though we have technology with us, we have no knowledge about how to handle it properly. We should use proper technology and real time data to solve these problems. He concluded by saying that we need to adapt to a climate-resilient lifestyle.



**Mr Anirudh Singh** spoke on 'Smart Cities from Pro-poor Perspective'. He pointed out that the definition of smart city is keeping the citizen at the centre and give him a decent quality of life. All people irrespective of their caste and creed are intended to be included in the project. But the conclusion drawn from various studies on smart cities across the country reveals that smart cities were unable to reach out to all sections of people of the society, especially the marginalised section. He presented case studies from Indore, Gujarat and Chennai which showed stories of people who lost their livelihood, houses demolished as part of the smart cities projects and were not compensated even after one year.

He stated that around 95 percent of the marginalised society was not consulted while implementing the project and they had reservations on the changes the project would bring upon. Stating the example of Varanasi, he pointed out that only 3.8 per cent of the area was covered under the mission and the money spent was around 2520 crore. Raising the voice of the street vendors and roadside marketeers, Mr Singh threw open the question to the audience of how justifiable it is to spend too much money on a small percentage of the population and concluded by quoting David Harvey, “Whose City Is It Anyways?”

Dr Ramesh Nair spoke on ‘Natural Resources Management and Natural Calamities in Kerala’. He stressed on the need to take into account ecological factors while planning ‘Smart cities’ in order to make it ‘Sustainable cities’. He said that due to the

mismanagement of natural resources in the past few years, Kerala is confronted with floods and landslides. The process is slowly escalating and we are losing many lives, property, energy, money and resources in this. We need to take immediate steps to tackle this from political, administrative and policy perspective. We need technology to provide good services, but to make a city sustainable we need to consider the resources in the city like humans, water bodies, forest, etc. He also emphasised the need to know the economical and environmental value of our natural resources and a system to evaluate it. He raised the question whether we are managing our natural resources in smart cities properly? He ended his talk by stating that every development has some byproducts and when we are developing a city the effect it has on the peri-urban areas needs to be analysed and acted upon.

## CLOSING REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS



The workshop concluded at 6:30 pm with Dr Pablo Holwitt delivering the vote of thanks. He thanked the panellists, participants and the organising institutions for making the workshop a grand success.



## ORGANISERS



## GROUP PHOTOGRAPH





## MEDIA MENTIONS

**Publication: The Hindu**  
**Date: 21 September 2019**

# 'Make Smart Cities Mission citizen-centric'

Rationalising public transport only way out of traffic chaos, says former Mayor

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI**

There is a need to transform India's Smart Cities Mission into a "citizen-centric system" as in most foreign countries, to ensure greater public participation, M. Ramachandran, former Union Urban Development Secretary, who has also authored many books, said.

The purpose of smart cities was to improve the quality of life of its people in all aspects.

The endeavour was to provide a clean environment, increase employment opportunities, ensure sustainable public transport, increase safety etc., he said, while inaugurating "Smart Cities - Workshop on Sustainable Urban Development," here on Friday.

The conference was organised by Heidelberg University (Germany), Observer Research Foundation (Delhi), School of Planning and Architecture (Delhi) and IMPRI (Delhi), in collaboration with the Centre for Public Policy Research (Kochi), and supported by Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.

"Cities have been designed taking the average man who works 9 to 5 as an indicator. We still are far from gender inclusiveness and gender-responsive design. India, perhaps for the first time in Mumbai, has a gender chapter in the master plan," said Rutee Mandal from Safetipin, New Delhi, while talking about using data and technology to make cities inclusive.

Rumi Aijaz, senior fellow, ORF, said awareness of the people was the key to success of the Smart Cities Mission, however smart technological solutions be.

K.J. Sohan, former Kochi Mayor, said that only rationalisation of public transport system would ensure affordable and efficient commuting, besides reducing pollution and congestion.

The 78 modern ferries under the Water Metro project would operate in 15 routes. It would help provide an economical, pollution-free and congestion-less mode of transport to people living in Greater Kochi area, said P.J. Shaji, general manager (water transport) of the KMRL.

Underlining the need for taking care of the urban poor and inclusive governance, Joy Elamon, Director, Kerala Institute of Local Administration, said "We should ask, Smart for Whom?"



Former Union Urban Development Secretary M. Ramachandran and other experts at a workshop on urban development in Kochi on Friday. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Publication: The New Indian Express**  
**Date: 21 September 2019**

# 'NEED TO TRANSFORM INDIA'S SMART CITY MISSION INTO A CITIZEN-CENTRIC SYSTEM'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi**

TO ensure greater public participation, like foreign countries, there is a need to transform India's Smart City Mission into a 'citizen-centric system', said Dr M Ramachandran, former secretary of the Ministry of Urban Development.

He was speaking while inaugurating the Smart City workshop on 'Sustainable Urban Development' in Kochi on Friday. "The purpose of Smart City is to improve the quality of life of its people in all aspects. Such an endeavour should provide a clean environment, give jobs to people and ensure safe cities," he said, adding that the public transport systems in India are inadequate to meet the demands of people and providing smart transport solutions is a big challenge to the government and policy-makers.

The conference was organised by Heidelberg University (Germany), Observer Research Foundation (Delhi), School of Planning and Architecture (Delhi) and IMPRI (Delhi) in collaboration with the Centre for Public Policy Research (Kochi). It was supported by Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.

The sessions were mainly on 'Smart Governance: Inclusive Cities', 'Built Environment: Planning and Design', 'Mobility' and 'Natural Resources Management'. It was participated by policy-makers, planners, experts and scholars.

Dr Pablo Holwitt, Resident Representative, Heidelberg University, Delhi branch office; Dr Rumi Aijaz, Senior Fellow, ORF; Former Kochi Mayor K J Sohan; P J Shaji, General Manager (water transport) of KMRL; G P Hari, Additional General Manager (Urban Transport); Chennai Smart City Ltd CEO Raj Cherubal; Dr Uday Shankar of IIT Kharagpur and Dr Joy Elamon, Director, Kerala Institute of Local Administration; were the key speakers.

**“The purpose of Smart City is to improve the quality of life of its people in all aspects. Such an endeavour should provide a clean environment, give jobs to people and ensure safe cities”**

Dr M Ramachandran, former secretary, Ministry of Urban Development





Publication: Times of India  
Date: 21 September 2019



Publication: Deccan Chronicle  
Date: 21 September 2019



Publication: Economic Times  
Date: 21 September 2019

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SMART CITY

## Workshop focuses on smart urban development

Smart Cities Mission requires smart people who actively participate in governance and reforms, said M Ramachandran, former secretary, ministry of urban development (MoUD) in Kochi on Friday

September 21, 2019, 11:24 IST



Smart Cities Mission requires smart people who actively participate in governance and reforms, said M Ramachandran, former secretary, Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) in Kochi on Friday.

He was speaking after inaugurating a one-day 'Smart cities workshop on sustainable urban development.' He said such platforms could help take stock of how actively people participate in governance and reforms.

P J Shaji, general manager of Kochi Metro Rail's Water Transport, spoke about the sustainability of the Water Metro and its potential to bring about a reduction of about 116 tonnes of CO2 in the atmosphere. Joy Elamon, director, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) said when one thinks about being smart, one should also think about smart for whom, stressing the need to take inclusiveness into consideration.

"Cities have been designed taking the average man who works 9-5 as an indicator. We are still far from introducing gender inclusiveness and gender-responsive design. India, perhaps for the first time in Mumbai has a gender chapter in the master plan," said Rvitee Mandal from Safetipin, a safety mobile application while elaborating on using data and technology to make cities inclusive.

Speaking in the session on mobility former Kochi Mayor K J Sohan, said that where cities are concerned mobility dictates the highs and lows of city life. Integrated multimodal public transport system in Kochi is the only way ahead rather than mega projects, he said.

Praseeda Mukundan, senior research associate, CPPR, Kochi while speaking about urban mobility said that issues like Potholes that we see are just symptoms of a larger malaise. Lack of understanding by the decision-making authorities and fragmentation of decision making are the root causes of these systemic issues and they need to be addressed to create sustainable solutions for urban problems, he pointed out.



Publication: Malayala Manorama  
Date: 21 September 2019

Publication: Mathrubhumi  
Date: 21 September 2019



Publication: Madhyamam  
Date: 21 September 2019





Publication: Kerala Kaumudi  
Date: 21 September 2019



Sep / 2019

**24** മറുനാടൻ  
Tuesday മലയാളി

സ്മാർട്ട് പൗരന്മാരാണ് സ്മാർട്ട് സിറ്റി മിഷന്റെ ശക്തി; ശ്രദ്ധയമായി ശില്പശാല

September 21, 2019 | 11:24 AM IST | Permalink



സംഗം, ഫലപ്രദം

കൊച്ചി സ്മാർട്ട് നഗരവികസനം എന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ സ്മാർട്ട് സിറ്റിസ് ശില്പശാല ഇന്ന് കൊച്ചി മാരിയറ്റ് ഹോട്ടലിൽ നടന്നു. ഹൈഡൽബർഗ് യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി, ബെർലിൻ റിസർച്ച് ഫൗണ്ടേഷൻ (ഐആർഎഫ്), സ്പേസ് ഓഫ് പ്ലാനിങ് ആൻഡ് ആർക്കിടെക്ചർ - ന്യൂഡൽഹി (എസ് പി എ), ഇംപാക്ട് ആൻഡ് പോളിസി റിസർച്ച് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് (ഐഎംപിആർഐ), എന്നിവ കൊച്ചി ആസ്ഥാനമായുള്ള തീക്ക് ടാങ്ക് സെന്റർ ഫോർ പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ചുമായി (സി.പി.പി.ആർ) ചേർന്ന് പ്രീഡ്രിങ് നാമനിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ഫോർ പ്രീഡ്രിങ് (എഫ്എൻഎഫ്) പിന്തുണയ്ക്കുന്നതിനായി ശില്പശാല സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചത്.

നഗരവികസന മന്ത്രാലയം മുൻ സെക്രട്ടറി ഡോക്ടർ എം. രാമചന്ദ്രൻ ശില്പശാല ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു. എഡിജ് അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിയുള്ള സ്മാർട്ട് സിറ്റിസ് എന്ന ആശയം സിറ്റി പ്ലാനർ വ്യാപിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള തലത്തിലേക്ക് വളർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ, സ്മാർട്ട് സിറ്റിസ് പ്രോഗ്രാം എത്ര മാത്രം എല്ലാവരെയും ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്നതാണ്, അതോ സമ്പന്നർക്കും സാക്ഷാത്ക വിശ്വാസികൾക്കും മാത്രമായി അത് പരിമിതപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നത് ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു. ചെറിയ നഗര പദ്ധതികളിൽ മാത്രം ഒതുങ്ങിനിൽക്കുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ വേഗംപോയി സ്മാർട്ട് സിറ്റിസ് എത്രത്തോളം ഫലപ്രദമാണ് എന്ന് ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നും അദ്ദേഹം അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു.

പങ്കെടുത്തവരിൽ ഹൈഡൽബർഗ് യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിയിൽനിന്ന് ഡോ. എം. രാമചന്ദ്രൻ, ഐആർഎഫ്-യിൽനിന്ന് ഡോ. എം. രാമചന്ദ്രൻ, സ്പേസ് ഓഫ് പ്ലാനിങ് ആൻഡ് ആർക്കിടെക്ചർ-യിൽനിന്ന് ഡോ. എം. രാമചന്ദ്രൻ, ഇംപാക്ട് ആൻഡ് പോളിസി റിസർച്ച്-യിൽനിന്ന് ഡോ. എം. രാമചന്ദ്രൻ, ഐഎംപിആർഐ-യിൽനിന്ന് ഡോ. എം. രാമചന്ദ്രൻ, സി.പി.പി.ആർ-യിൽനിന്ന് ഡോ. എം. രാമചന്ദ്രൻ, എന്നിവർ പങ്കെടുത്തു.

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Publication: Marunadan Malayali  
Date: 21 September 2019



Publication: The Week  
Date: 20 September 2019



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## Need to make smart city mission citizen-centric felt

PTI | Kochi | Updated: 20-09-2019 19:38 IST | Created: 20-09-2019 19:38 IST



There is a need to transform India's smart city mission into a 'citizen-centric system' like in many foreign countries to ensure greater public participation, former secretary to the Ministry of Urban Development M Ramachandran said on Friday. Inaugurating the 'Smart City Workshop: Sustainable Urban Development' here, he said the purpose of a smart city was to improve the quality of life of its people.

He said such an endeavour should provide clean environment, jobs and safety. Ramachandran said the public transport systems in the country were inadequate and providing smart transport solutions was a big challenge to the government and policy-makers.

He emphasised the need for a comprehensive planning in all aspects to create better cities with smart solutions to solve the problems. The conference was organised by Heidelberg University (Germany), Observer Research Foundation, School of Planning and Architecture and IMPRI in Delhi in collaboration with the Centre for Public Policy Research, Kochi.

It was supported by Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. Senior Fellow, ORF, Rumi Aijaz stressed that whatever be the goals or how smart are the technological solutions, it is the awareness of the people which is the key to success of the smart city mission.

Former Mayor of Kochi K J Sohan said only rationalisation of public transport system can make the smart city mission in cities like Kochi a success. The day-long conference had sessions on smart governance: inclusive cities, built environment: planning and design, mobility and natural resources management. Policy-makers, planners, experts and scholars besides members of the general public attended the conference.

(This story has not been edited by Devdiscourse staff and is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)

## THE WEEK

MAGAZINE ▾

### KL-SMARTCITY

PTI | September 20, 2019 19:45 IST

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(This story has not been edited by THE WEEK and is auto-generated from PTI)

Publication: Devdiscourse  
Date: 20 September 2019

Publication: Economic Times  
Date: 20 September 2019

## Business Standard

### Need to make smart city mission citizen-centric felt

Press Trust of India | Kochi  
Last Updated at September 20, 2019 19:40 IST

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First Published: Fri, September 20 2019, 19:40 IST

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SMART CITY

### Smart City Workshop inaugurated in Kochi

Inaugurating the Smart City Workshop: Sustainable Urban Development, M Ramachandran said the purpose of a smart city was to improve the quality of life of its people

PTI • September 20, 2019, 21:21 IST



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Publication: Business Standard  
Date: 20 September 2019

Publication: The Hindu  
Date: 18 September 2019

KOCHI

## Workshop on challenges, potential of smart cities



STAFF REPORTER

KOCHI, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 01:33 IST  
UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 01:33 IST

A workshop on 'Smart Cities and Sustainable Urban Development' will be held on September 20 at Marriott Hotel, bringing together experts from India and Germany to explore the potential and challenges of the smart cities concept and how sustainable urban development can be ensured.

Heidelberg University, Observer Research Foundation, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, and the Impact and Policy Research Institute are organising the workshop in collaboration with the Kochi-based Centre for Public Policy Research. It is supported by Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.

Mayor Soumini Jain will inaugurate the day-long workshop. M. Ramachandran, former Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development; Cochin Smart City Mission MD Mohammad Hanish; Kerala Institute of Local Administration Director Joy Elamon, and former Kochi Mayor K. I. Sohan are some of the speakers.