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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Innovative Conception of Smart City and its Analysis

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Abstract

Smart Cities focus on their most pressing needs and on the greatest opportunities to improve lives. They tap a range of approaches - digital and information technologies, urban planning best practices, public-private partnerships, and policy change - to make a difference. They always put people first.In the approach to the Smart cities, the objective is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' Solutions. The focus is on sustainable and inclusive development and the idea is to look at compact areas, create a replicable model which will act like a light house to other aspiring cities. The Smart Cities Mission is meant to set examples that can be replicated both within and outside the Smart City, catalysing the creation of similar Smart Cities in various regions and parts of the country.

The concept of smart city is not a new thing to know, it is nevertheless a loosely-defined mark that often conjures up images of technologically-integrated and meticulously-planned cities that rely on information machinery as panacea for many of their problems from the use of sensors to smart grids and data analytics that allow city infrastructure and services to meet citizen demands efficiently and reliably. For many, this objective remains elusive in the Indian context, given that the basic amenities and infrastructure in many existing cities such as water supply, sanitation, sewerage, electricity and traffic management are generally not in place.But ironically, this is also accurately why India desperately needs a system of smart cities. India's cities are growing faster than its aptitude to manage them. Therefore, city models with smarter approaches to city planning and management, which not only depart from business-as-usual activities but are also able to leapfrog and convert India's cities through modernization and high-quality urban management, are critically needed.

Smart cities are not an IT solution, rather the configuration of good governance, investments, institutions and time. It was in the course of this lens that forum participants debated on what smart cities might mean for India. It always has found such forums much more interesting when, in the procedure of discovery, they raise more questions than provide answers, which was the case in this exchange. Smart cities can maintain to remain as a placeholder to depict India's urban aspirations, so never mind the formula and the lack of definition now. After all, the urban development of successful cities such as Singapore started with the vision of a "garden city" in the late 1960s, to integrate the environment with urban development. Since then, Singapore has developed and implemented its own unique brand of the "city in a garden" concept – a densely built-up yet highly livable global city set within generous greenery and

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open spaces, amongst many other desirable qualities. Going forward, India's 100 smart cities must similarly strive to differentiate themselves so as to become India's model for urban development and growth, that is all at once – "innovative", "sustainable", "ecologically-friendly", "resilient", "livable" and, of course, "smart."

The perception of Indian government's Smart Cities initiative is to improve the quality of urban living for all residents with the use of smart technologies. That said, the transformation from a normal city to a smart city is more evolution than revolution. A smart city is different than normal cities in terms of liveability, workability and sustainability. The information and infrastructure technology component used in infrastructure will do most of the heavy-lifting work such as improving infrastructure, environment and governance through data-driven systems.Apart from highly advanced infrastructure and evolved residential experience, citizens of Smart Cities will also get advantages like- Overall digital connectivity, which means that broadband communications infrastructure and innovative services will combine to meet the needs of, the Government and its employees as well as citizens and businesses, collective intelligence, which not only helps urban planners and increases the city's competitiveness but also provides opportunities for active participation from citizens in processes that make Smart Cities smarter, open government thanks to open data.

It would be a mistake to assume that only high-earning college graduates or tech-savvy younger citizens will receive the benefits in Smart Cities. The objective of this movement is to improve the quality of urban living for all residents, not just the young and rich. Nevertheless, Smart Cities will still have to 'sell' themselves to the common man, who will need to be made aware of how this transformation could improve their lives. With the deep penetration of smart phones into our society, getting citizens to understand the value of connectivity should not be too big a challenge.

To think that better services will come with additional costs is a mistake, since the smart initiatives employed in these cities will reduce many costs and improve productivity, in turn reducing the burden on their residents. Also, Smart City implementation will mostly come as a government subsidy and not as a loaded expense on residents.The evolutionary transformation (an existing city's development into a Smart City) will prove to be more affordable than revolutionary (Greenfield) development. However, revolutions inspire a lot more emotion and commitment than evolutionary changes. India needs more retrofitting of existing cities and infrastructure through the Smart Cities initiative, and not just development of Greenfield cities. "Make more efficient use of of physical infrastructure through artificial intelligence and data analylitics to support a strong and healthy economic, social, government."(Holland)

It would be easier to develop Greenfield Smart Cities, except for the aspect of land acquisition. The current controversies associated with land acquisition bill and the lack of an environment that enables land acquisition easily, seamlessly and without delays would be a serious bottleneck in positioning these Greenfield Smart Cities. The advantages for positioning Greenfield Smart Cities are numerous: proactive planning and design would mean that there are little or no difficulties related to upgradation and/or improvement of smart systems. Greenfield Smart Cities would also allow for better management and forecasting for budgetary expenses, and it would be easier to expand capacities, with minimal disruption of city operations, at a later stage.

Areas with better infrastructure will fetch better real estate value due to higher demand and hence, in Smart Cities formation, land and property values will increase. The implementation of Smart Cities will have to be looked at in totality instead of a few locations in isolation.If Smart City principles are implemented strictly, these property markets will address demands of the end-users and not speculative investors. The formation of housing development corporations and other authorities as part of smart governance will prevent speculation from these realty markets.A smart city is one that has digital technology embedded across all city functions. (overview by smart city council)

Cities accommodate nearly 31% of India's current population and contribute 63% of GDP (Census 2011). Urban areas are expected to house 40% of India's population and contribute 75% of India's GDP by 2030. This requires comprehensive development of physical, institutional, social and economic infrastructure. All are important in

improving the quality of life and attracting people and investment, setting in motion a virtuous cycle of growth and development. Development of Smart Cities is a step in that direction.

The Smart Cities is an innovative and new initiative by the Government of India to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local development and harnessing technology as a means to create smart outcomes for citizens.

The total number of 100 Smart Cities have been distributed among the States and UTs on the basis of an equitable criteria. The formula gives equal weightage (50:50) to urban population of the State/UT and the number of statutory towns in the State/UT. Based on this formula, each State/UT will, therefore, have a certain number of potential Smart Cities, with each State/UT having at least one. The number of potential Smart Cities from each State/UT will be capped at the indicated number. This distribution formula has also been used for allocation of funds under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation - AMRUT.The distribution of Smart Cities will be reviewed after two years of the implementation of the Mission. Based on an assessment of the performance of States/ULBs in the Challenge, some re-allocation of the remaining potential Smart Cities among States may be required to be done by the Ministry of Urban Development.

Comprehensive development occurs in areas by integrating the physical, institutional, social and economic infrastructure. Many of the sectoral schemes of the Government converge in this goal, although the path is different. There is a strong complementarity between the AMRUT and Smart Cities Mission in achieving urban transformation. While AMRUT follows a project-based approach, the Smart Cities Mission follows an area-based strategy.

Similarly, great benefit can be derived by seeking convergence of other Central and State Government Programs/Schemes with the Smart Cities Mission. At the planning stage itself, cities must seek convergence in the SCP with AMRUT, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)- External Website that opens in a new window, Digital India, Skill development, Housing for All, construction of Museums funded by the Culture Department and other programs connected to social infrastructure such as Health, Education and Culture.

References

- Hollands 2008, 303-320

Definitions and over views by Smart cities council.