Event Report – Indo-German Smart Cities Workshop: Sustainable Urban Development, Ranchi, 19 - 20 November 2018, Radisson Blu Hotel, Ranchi

Despite Challenges, Ranchi is Committed to Become a Smart City

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A two-day Indo-German Workshop on Smart Cities: Sustainable Urban Development was held on November 19-20, 2018 at Hotel Radisson Blu in Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand. This international Workshop event was jointly organized by Heidelberg University, Germany (Branch office, New Delhi) and Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPRI) in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), School of Planning and Architect (SPA), Council for Social Development (CSD) and Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC). The Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Jharkhand and Ranchi Smart City Corporation Limited (RSCCL) as well as Central University of Jharkhand (CUJ) and Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ranchi, acted as local partners of the Workshop. The event was supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF). This Workshop was held in continuation of similar initiatives previously organized in Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Kochi, Kolkata, New Delhi, Pune, Shimla and Aizawl since 2016, and continue beyond 2018. The Ranchi Workshop was the first of a kind organized in Jharkhand that brought together scholars, students, policy makers,
bureaucrats, government authorities, civil society representatives from both national and the state levels. The workshop was attended by over 140 participants.

The concept of “smart cities” is an area of extensive research, policy formulation, practice, and implementation, it encompasses the adoption of a variety of approaches. The idea of ‘smart cities’ cannot be realized without inter-disciplinary inputs and collective ideation. Towards this, the workshops intended to not only openly discuss opportunities and benefits of smart cities mission, but also critically look at the challenges that may arise. Consequently, the Workshop sought a look at urban challenges from an integrated, holistic and inclusive perspective, to foster sustainability and to explore the opportunities that Information and Communication Technology, as well as active participation and involvement of civil society, offer. Respectively, the Workshop had technical sessions on ‘Governance and Inclusive Cities’, ‘Infrastructure’, ‘Resources Management’ and ‘Mobility’. The participants committed the findings and recommendations of the workshop will be published and circulated to all relevant stakeholders, at national, state and local levels.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Mr. C.P. Singh, the Hon’ble Minister for Urban Development, Housing and Transport Department, Government of Jharkhand. Appreciating the initiatives, he opined that his Department in the Government looked forward to working closely with the organizers, which would complement the efforts to build Ranchi as a model Smart City in the country. Speaking to the participants, he said, “Ranchi is poised to become a Smart City, and inputs from this Workshop would be utilized as a tool to foster the state government’s initiatives and efforts”.

Dr. Sandeep Chachra, a social anthropologist by training and currently the Executive Director of ActionAid India, as well as the co-chair of World Urban Campaign, UN-HABITAT, delivered the Special Address in the Inaugural Session. He highlighted the need for just and democratic governance and economic justice while creating the mission and action plan for smart cities, especially focusing into the aspects of employment for all sections of society.

Prof. Dr. Amitabh Kundu, currently Distinguished Fellow at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi and formerly Professor of Economics and Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, delivered the Keynote address on Vision and Mission for Smart Cities- Inclusivity and Sustainability. The overall focus of his address was his urge to the practitioners and policy makers to pay special attention to the vision along with inclusivity and sustainability, and critical matters pertaining to the operations of the mission, which caters to the needs and aspirations of every section of the population, especially the local tribal population of Jharkhand.

The Deputy Mayor of Ranchi, Mr. Sanjeev Vijaywargiya, expressed his anticipation of the contributions of the conference that, according to him, would help the city government in building an inclusive livable city.

The Guest of Honour for the Workshop, Hon’ble Chief Secretary of the Government of Jharkhand, Mr. Sudhir Tripathi, while delivering the Special Address, pointed out that while the government is keen to build the cities as engines of growth, it would also give special attention to maintaining environmental
balance. Noting that Ranchi Smart City Corporation Limited has chosen greenfield under the area-based development component, Mr. Tripathi said that environmental concerns especially protection and preservation would be an important dimension while implementing the projects under the framework of the smart city mission. This vision, in itself, is a multi-dimensional exercise with multi-stakeholders. Quoting the chief minister, he said “the USP of Ranchi smart city has to be Ranchi itself. It should be indigenous and have all the characteristics of the city.”

The Principal Secretary, Urban Development & Housing Department and CEO, Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company (JUIDCO), Mr. Ajoy Kumar Singh, gave a comprehensive overview of the current and future initiatives of the Smart Cities Mission in Ranchi and Urban Development in Jharkhand as well as the plans for further expansion of the projects. He stated that only an integrated approach would succeed in increasing the quality of life of Ranchi citizens. According to Mr. Ajoy Kumar Singh, the government has adopted a model tried successfully in Pune for Ranchi as well as other Jharkhand towns.

Mrs. Asha Lakra, Mayor of Ranchi Municipal Corporation, expressed her keenness to learn and collaborate with the expert partners of the Workshop, to make Ranchi city a Smart city par excellence by 2022.

The Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration, as well as the CEO of Ranchi Smart City Corporation Ltd. (RSCCL), Mr. Ashish Singhmar, shared the best and successful/efficient practices, which are being followed by his team to ensure the improvement of the governance capacity and practices of all, not only in Ranchi but other cities as well. He also highlighted the concerns about unavailability of skilled manpower resources for Ranchi smart city projects.

Concluding the proceedings of the first day, Vice-Chancellor of Vinoba Bhave University, Prof. Dr. Ramesh Sharan highlighted the historical shift of rich soils of Ranchi giving way to concretization regarding building of roads, flyovers, buildings, etc., over last few decades. He urged for greater consciousness in designing, planning and building up cities. According to Prof. Sharan, water conservation and zoning laws, have to be efficiently implemented. Moreover, public utilities are required, and the ban on manual scavenging must be strictly enforced.
The Technical Sessions of Day 1 included the following:

- **Governance and Inclusive Cities**: The panelists for this session included: Prof. Dr. Uday Shankar from IIT Kharagpur, *Do we need Smart Laws for Smart Cities?*; Prof. Dr. Satyaki Sarkar from BIT Mesra Ranchi, *Sustainable Urban Development through Strengthening of Road Infrastructure – Case of Jharkhand*; Ms. Praveena Anand and Ms. Madhu from Jagori, New Delhi, *Creating Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls in Jharkhand*; and Dr. Firoz Ahmad from BIT Mesra Ranchi and Dr. Laxmi Goparaju from JNTU, Hyderabad, *Urban Planning: An approach using Geospatial Technology*. This session was chaired and moderated by Prof. Dr. K. B. Saxena, Distinguished Fellow, CSD, New Delhi.

- **Infrastructure (Planning & Design, Housing and Infrastructure)**: The panelists for this technical session included the following speakers: Mr. Subha B. Roy, PMC Team Leader from Ranchi Smart City Corporation Limited (RSCCL), *Presentation on Ranchi Smart City*; Ms. Priyanka Sharma from Ekjut, Ranchi, *Urban Homelessness*; Mr. Anjor Bhaskar, Director of IMPRI Ranchi, *Environmental Planning*; Mr. Ismail Haque, Senior Research Fellow, JNU and Consultant & GIS Lab Coordinator, IMPRI and Dr. Arjun Kumar, Director, IMPRI, *Understanding Standard of Living and its Correlates in Ranchi: Insights from neighbourhood level Census Data*. 

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- Resource Management- I: For technical session- III, panelists were: Dr. M. Dinesh Kumar, Executive Director of the Institute for Resource Analysis and Policy (IRAP), Hyderabad, *More than Just being Smart: Managing Complex Water System in different Urban Typologies of India*; Dr. Simi Mehta and Arjun Kumar, IMPRI New Delhi, *Soils and Waste Management in Urban India*. This session was chaired and moderated by Dr. Rumi Aijaz, ORF, New Delhi.

Day 2 began with the Welcome remarks by Dr. Rumi Aijaz, Senior Fellow and Head, Urban Policy Research Programme, ORF, New Delhi. According to Dr. Aijaz, to generate awareness regarding smart cities mission and sustainable urban development in Indian cities, one needs to adopt a holistic approach to curtail the smart city challenges.

The welcome remarks were followed by the Special Address of Dr. Gurjeet Singh, Coordinator, Social Audit Unit, Government of Jharkhand. Dr. Gurjeet Singh emphasized that accountability and transparency in smart city management need to be strengthened, by adopting a people-centric approach. For better smart city governance, there is a vital need for transparent audit mechanisms. Dr. Singh also stressed on people-friendly technology and importance of peripheral area development in smart city mission, which will
secure the open spaces and preserve the inclusive characters of the city, enabling excluded or disadvantaged citizens, such as, slum dwellers, labor class, street vendors, and vegetable sellers, to have an equitable and fair access to urban space.

Dr. Singh’s address was followed by Technical Sessions IV and V, which focused on Mobility and Resource Management- II.

- **Mobility:** The speakers of this session were: Prof. Dr. R. B. Bhagat from the International Institute for Population Science (IIPS), Mumbai, *Demographic Dynamics and City Planning*; Dr. D. Dhanuraj, Chairman of the Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Kochi, *Urban Mobility in Smart City Initiative- Prospects and Challenges*; Mr. Sandeep Jha, President of the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA)- Jharkhand Chapter, *Slums and Housing in Jharkhand*; and Mr. Rajiv Chadda, Architect at Chadda and Associates, Ranchi, *Urban Renewal in Ranchi*. This session was chaired and moderated by Prof. Dr. Jandhyala B.G. Tilak, Distinguished Professor, CSD, New Delhi and Former Vice-Chancellor, NUEPA, New Delhi.

- **Resource Management- II:** The technical session V and last session of the Workshop had the following speakers: Prof. Dr. Brajesh K. Dubey from IIT Kharagpur, *Smart Resource Management for Sustainable Urbanisation*; Dr. Amit Kumar & Ms. Diksha from Central University of Jharkhand, *Urban Growth and Environmental Sustainability*; Mr. Sunil Kumar Aledia, Director of Centre for Holistic Development, New Delhi and National Convenor, National Forum for Homeless Housing Rights (NFHHR), *Homeless Shelter Rights and Challenges in Cities*; Mr. Rajeev Gupta, CEO, Ranchi Mall, A tech Startup, *Role of Technology in in City Development*; Mr. Suranjeen Prasad Pallipamula, Senior Advisor, JHPIEGO, *Planning for Food and Nutrition Security for Smart City*; Dr. Soumyadip Chattopadhyay, Visva Bharati University, *Financing Strategies for Smart Cities in India: An Analytical Perspective*. Prof. Dr. Harishwar Dayal, Director-in-Chief of the Centre for Fiscal Studies, Planning-cum-Finance Department, Government of Jharkhand, was the discussant of this session, which was chaired and moderated Prof. Dr. Ashok Pankaj, Director, CSD, New Delhi.
Photographed above are:
1. Dr. Gurjeet Singh, Coordinator, Social Audit Unit, Govt. of Jharkhand
2. Prof. Dr. Jandhyala B.G. Tilak, Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi and Former Vice-Chancellor, NUEPA, New Delhi
3. Prof. Dr. Ashok Pankaj, Director, Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi
4. Ms. Diksha, Central University of Jharkhand
5. Prof. Dr. R.B. Bhagat, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai
6. Dr. D. Dhanuraj, Chairman, Center for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Kochi
7. Mr. Rajeev Gupta, CEO Ranchi Mall-A Tech Startup
8. Ms. Praveena Anand, Jagori, New Delhi
9. Group Photograph
10. Prof. Dr. Harishwar Dayal, Director in Chief, Centre for Fiscal Studies, Planning-cum-Finance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand
11. Prof. Dr. Brajesh K Dubey, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur
12. Dr. Soumyadip Chattopadhyay, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal
13. Dr. Uday Shankar, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur
14. Mr. Ismail Haque, Senior Research Fellow, JNU and Consultant and GIS Coordinator, IMPRI
15. Prof. Dr. Ramesh Sharan, Vice-Chancellor, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh
16. Dr. M. Dinesh Kumar, Executive Director, Institute for Resource Analysis and Policy (IRAP), Hyderabad
17. Mr. Anjor Bhaskar, IMPRI
18. Mr. Sunil Kumar Aledia, Director, Center for Holistic Development, New Delhi and National Convenor, National Forum for Homeless Housing Rights (NFHHR)
19. Mr. Rajiv Chadda, Chadda and Associates, Ranchi
20. Mr. Sandeep Jha, President, Indian Institute of Architects (IIA), Jharkhand Chapter

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Prof. Dr. K.B. Saxena, a career bureaucrat, working in and on Jharkhand since 1965 and currently Distinguished Fellow at CSD, New Delhi delivered a Special Address, where he enumerated the hurdles and challenges of the Smart Cities Mission and the implementation of its projects. Prof. K.B. Saxena stated that unless the basics of equity and equality are not fulfilled, and that the vulnerable sections of the population including, women, children, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the specially enabled and the elderly are not prioritized, the goal of the Smart City Mission, to increase the livability and quality of life in Indian cities, will remain unaccomplished.

The two-day Workshop was coordinated and facilitated by Dr. Simi Mehta (CEO and Editorial Director of IMPRI), Dr. des. Radu Carciumaru (Resident Representative, Heidelberg University, Branch Office New Delhi) and Dr. Arjun Kumar (Director of IMPRI). Rapporteur was undertaken by scholars from IMPRI and CUJ.

Dr. des. Radu Carciumaru emphasized on the need for participatory city where focus is given on upliftment of the standard of life of every citizen. He highlighted the commonalities in terms of opportunities and challenges for German and Indian cities as well as cities around the globe, which can be harnessed for positive impact by mutual learning and sharing of knowledge.

Dr. Arjun Kumar, on behalf of the organizers, highlighted and expressed his gratitude to Dr. Sunil Kumar Barnwal, Secretary to the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, for his overall guidance and support towards the workshop and mobilizing all the relevant stakeholders for impactful deliberations.

Dr. Simi Mehta thanked and congratulated every stakeholder of the Workshop for their active participation and contribution towards successful commencement of the event.

The two-day Workshop in Ranchi witnessed the enthusiastic participation from distinguished scholars, leading in their areas of expertise, young and motivated researchers, high-ranking government representatives, locally and nationally reputed NGOs, students and mass media.

The lively, zealous engaged interactions and debates witnessed during the two-day Workshop demonstrated the aspirations and commitment of the participants to build an inclusive Smart City of their dreams. In essence, these reflected their optimism that sustainable urbanization in Jharkhand would cater to the needs of every section of the society and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations in a time-bound manner.

The print and electronic media in English and Hindi covered the Workshop widely, for example: Dailyhunt, Prabhat Khabar, Khabarmantra, Navbharat Times (Indiatimes), Dainik Bhaskar, Dainik Jagran; ET Reality, The Week, Eletsonline, Moneycontrol, Business Standard, Eenaduindia, Reporter post, Devdiscourse, India.com, Times of India and the Telegraph.

A comprehensive report containing the deliberations findings and recommendations of the workshop will be disseminated to all the relevant stakeholders and interested citizens in Ranchi and beyond.
News-clips above are:

1. The Times of India, Nov. 20, 2018
2. Dainik Bhaskar, Nov. 20, 2018
3. Dainik Jagran, Nov. 20, 2018
4. The Telegraph, Nov. 20, 2018
5. Khabar Mantra, Nov. 20, 2018
6. Hindustan, Nov. 20, 2018
7. Prabhat Khabar, Nov. 20, 2018