The Concept of Smart Cities as a Solution to Urban Crisis in India- Challenges For Future

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Abstract

This paper examines the concept of smart cities in the backdrop of urban crisis. Indian urban expansion has been a very several issues the central & state governments have been working tirelessly to improve. But unplanned growth of cities has lead to several vital challenges for governments as nearly half of the urban people do not have shelter nearly a quarter of them do not have drinking water medical aid .Water management has reached a point of climax. All these issues were unmanageable hence central government planned to build smart cities following a global paradigm. But in India the concept of smart cities is attached with   several other issues peculiar to Indian context. This paper analyses these challenges & considers several integrated strategies to overcome such governance lacuna.

Keywords: Smart cities,   urbanization,   policy making, joint stakeholder

Introduction- Indian urban scene is witnessing a collapse as the urbanization is bugged by ever increasing rural to urban migration, severities of congestion, vagaries of health decline etc. Indian cities are burdened with jam-packed population, traffic burden, water crisis, garbage problems loss of greenery etc, these problems are hitting the urbanite harder as right to life is being threatened & this is a violation of human rights. Hence Indian government thought of introducing the concept of smart cities following the global paradigm.

The Concept of Smart Cities

The concept of smart cities is a new & innovative concept which is being conjectured at global levels. It took its origin during the global economic crisis. During 2008 the concept took a new look through IBM where smarter planet proposal was initiated. By 2009 it became popular across the globe as countries like south Korea, UAE , China moved this concept further by investing heavily in Research & Development of smart cities scheme. Soon countries across the world began to take this proposal seriously & India is one such country to herald this proposal with an intention to resolve urban crisis. (Press Releases on Smart Cities In India Smarter

Solutions For A Better Tomorrow Times Of India 20th May 2015).

Smarter amenities in a smart city

A city equipped with basic infrastructure to give a decent quality of life, a clean and sustainable environment through application of some smart solutions .Assured water and electricity supply, sanitation and solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transport, robust IT connectivity, e-governance and citizen participation, safety and security of citizens. Public information, grievance redressal, electronic service delivery, citizens' engagement, waste to energy & fuel, waste to compost, 100% treatment of waste water, smart meters & management, monitoring water quality, renewable source of energy, efficient energy and green building, smart parking, intelligent traffic management system. (Press Releases On Smart Cities In India Smarter Solutions For A Better Tomorrow Times Of India 20th May 2015).

The smart cities – the following are some of the selected   smart cities

1.   Ahmadabad – State of Gujarat
2.   Aurangabad – State of Maharashtra
3.   Kochi – State of Kerala
4.   Krishna pattanam – State of Andhra Pradesh
5.   Manesar - State of Delhi

6.   Ponneri – State of Tamilnadu
7.   Tumkur - State of Karnataka

The process of smart city planning

1.   It includes investment in specified regions

2.   special economic regions

3.   Modified tax regulations

4.   Modified tax structures

5.   Foreign investments

6.   Public   –private entrepreneurship

The benefits of Smart City- the establishment of smart cities will have following benefits. (Press Releases On Smart Cities In India Smarter Solutions For A Better Tomorrow Times Of India 20th May 2015).

1.   The establishment of smart cities helps economic growth as economy is augmented with innumerable investment channels through foreign collaboration , foreign direct investment .

2.   The establishment of smart cities plays a major role in urban India as it would recast urban landscape innovatively

3.   The establishment of smart cities helps to adopt smart solutions enhances the quality of life

4.   The establishment of smart cities waste management water management energy solutions drinking water health care etc will become planned

5.   The establishment of smart cities attracts overseas investments Indian urban economy will boon to add to GDP

6.   The establishment of smart cities helps in permanent infrastructure building

7.   The establishment of smart cities leads to efficient use of available assets, resources, infrastructure

8.   The establishment of smart cities the focus will be on core urban issues

9.   reduces burden on present metro cities allows disintegration of population

10.   The establishment of smart cities it creates opportunities for potential urban sectors to transform themselves into highly equipped self-sustained & ultra-modern urban

11.   The establishment of smart cities better & sustainable infrastructural building

12.   The establishment of smart cities real estate sector will get stimulus

Challenges – The smart cities scheme sounds very viable in the present context of Indian urban challenges. But this concept is not without challenges & risks.

1.   The successful working of smart cities needs optimal usage of technology

2.   The successful working of smart cities needs community stakeholder involvement.

3.   The successful working of smart cities needs entrepreneurs & industrialists to adopt a common process of working

4.   The successful working of smart cities needs energy saving habits among all the residents

5.   The successful working of smart cities the time factor is a biggest challenge as the very idea is time consuming it takes almost 30 years to build such a smart city.

6.   The successful working of smart cities as it is Indian policy makers are always slow to adopt

technologies   innovations as in the west this adds to the slowness of the whole project

7.   The successful working of smart cities the projects needs fathom support form state & national government which is not forth coming in India as state & central governments often do not belong to the same political faction

8.   The successful working of smart cities ever increasing urban migration is a always hindrance even before one urban problems is settles another comes to the fore

9.   The successful working of smart cities is systematic inefficiency in policy vacuum

10.   The successful working of smart cities the over burdened traffic energy   system   water   waste management are already demanding policy makers to

11.   Indian political process are always   addicted   by   political corruption & political ill will

12.   if planned cities have to be built it has to be planned & present problems   should   be   attended immediately

13.   The successful working of smart   cities   needs   a   cohesion between   urban   municipalities corporations state departments

14.   sewage treatment needs an immediate attention   provision for clean drinking water is important

15.   health care system has to be augmented

16.   The successful working of smart cities very efficient transport system has to be take up

17.   The successful working of smart cities this is linked with strong governance   creation of smart cities should   be   meticulously   planned existing cities should be redesigned

18.   The successful working of smart cities urban plan should aim at building a sustainable cohesive cities with long term vision

19.   The successful working of smart cities needs proper research mechanism

20.   The successful working of smart cities citizen engagement along with policy designers

21.   The successful working of smart cities capital mobility

Smart city is a huge investment venture which can become a success only if applicant cities prepare a vision document with micro level planning & innovation (Press Releases On Smart Cities In India Smarter Solutions For A Better Tomorrow Times Of India 20th May 2015).

Conclusion –The concept of smart city   holds   good   only   if   other mechanisms are rectified. Otherwise smart cities will also fall in the bracket of present unplanned urban cities venting problems rather than healthy   lifestyles.   There   is   an