Making cities inclusive and sustainable in emerging economy: India

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Session II- Group III - Making Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable
UN DESA Symposium on "Building Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions and Public Administration for Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development“ Incheon, South Korea, December 7th 2017
On the one hand, over a billion-and-a-quarter people are still living in poverty. On the other, patterns of unsustainable production and consumption are endangering our planet’s eco-systems. This threat presents us with an opportunity to work together....

THE 13TH PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE
(Oct 6, Inauguration of World Sustainable Development Summit 2016, New Delhi)
Context

- 8th BRICS Summit in 2016 in India called for enhanced cooperation to deal with multi-dimensional challenges/opportunities of urbanisation

- Emphasised on strengthening urban governance, making cities safe and inclusive, improving urban transport, financing of urban infrastructure, and building sustainable cities (Goa Declaration, 2016)

- While select BRICS cities are highly competitive for investment; loci of global business; they are also challenged for socio-economic disparities, income polarization, spatial fragmentation

- Making cities smarter is a collective responsibility of nonstate and state actors

- Political leadership is critical to give greater priority to improving cities, harnessing potential, and excellence in governance.
Smart Cities Mission – India

• 100 Smart Cities Mission – launched in June 2015
• To promote sustainable and inclusive 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.
• A relatively new phenomenon in India
• Synergises with Urban Competitiveness
• An opportunity to create an accountable framework - well being, equity, efficiency
• Enhance capacity
• Decentralisation
• Reduce development- resources conflicts
• Inclusiveness
• Redevelopment
• Pan City Initiatives and Area Based Projects
• Easier to build new smart cities than transform old ones – Upgrading cities in India is imperative
Smart Cities and Emerging Economies
Competitive advantages & challenges

• Young population
• Newer infrastructure
• Unique talent
• Rich cultural heritage
• Others...

Challenges
• Part to whole
• Comprehension, measures and standardization
Smart Cities and Emerging Economies
Ongoing momentum

• Local economic development
• Business growth in inner cities
• FDI and inward investment
• Infrastructure development integrating ICT
• Regional network and access to markets
• Basic services as health and education
Smart Cities and emerging economies
Need for enhanced focus

- Governance
- Innovative financing mechanism
- Ranking on tangible outputs and outcomes
- Effective strategies for Intangibles
Smart Cities and emerging economies
Intangibles for tangible outcome

Strategies for inclusiveness

Innovative financing mechanisms
Sustainable consumption and production
Sustainable redevelopment for resilience

Effective local urban governance
Integration of culture and heritage in development
Efficient urban green infrastructure and unbuilt environment

Singhal, 2017
UC and emerging economies

• Improving HDIs alongside economic growth
• Engagement and ownership
• Effective knowledge exchange – Research – Leapfrogging for resilience through technological advancement
Urban related ongoing research
At TERI School of Advance Studies

Forth coming publications

• Policy paradigm for sustainable cities in India
• Towards synthesis of culture with urban planning: a framework of inter-linkages for comprehensive planning of pilgrimage towns in India
• Urban Green Infrastructure and Competitiveness of Cities In India
• Inclusive cities: The current and future challenge for urban sustainability - Significance of creativity for inclusive Indian cities
• Analyzing the influence of metro rail ridership on group housing property prices in Delhi (Tyagi and Singhal, 2017)
• Captivity of public transit users in Delhi: analysing access trips of metro and bus users through a case study of Nehru Place business district (Sharawat, Arora and Singhal, 2017)
• Examining synergies between redevelopment, resilience and smart city strategies
• Analysing urban ecology and development conflicts in Delhi through a DPSIR framework
• Higher education framework for mainstreaming Sustainable Consumption and Production in policy making

M Tech Urban Development and Management; MA Public Policy and Sustainable Development (Sustainable Urbanisation)
Thank you!

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Creating a shared flexible vision focusing to enhance competitiveness of cities in emerging economies.