

## Urban Governance and Smart Cities: Challenges and Prospects

Rapporteur: Department of Social Science

**24-25 Apr. 2019:** The School of Liberal Studies hosted a two day national level workshop on '*Urban Governance and Smart Cities: Challenges and Prospects*' from 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The workshop was organised by School of Liberal Studies in Collaboration with International City/Country Management Association and Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, Osmania University, Hyderabad. The event was coordinated by Dr. D Sriram and Dr. Anurag Srivastava, Faculties of Public Policy and Public Administration of SLS, PDP. The Chief Guest of the event was Prof. Y. Pardhasaradhi, Director of Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental studies, Osmania University, Hyderabad. The Guest of Honour was Shri C.K.Koshy, Retired IAS, Former Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Gujarat. Prof. Shivanand Swamy, Executive Director, CoE-UT, CEPT University was also invited as the special guest of the event.

The workshop brought together 180 undergraduate and post graduate students of *Public Administration and Urban Governance* who extensively participated in discussions and interactive dialogue to collaboratively understand the challenges and prospects of Urban Governance and Smart Cities. In the direction of building up a holistic understanding of the topic distinguished government officials, professional practitioners from the field of public administration, urban planning, electronics and communication, gender studies and police administration were invited to facilitate few sessions for the participants.

The course was introduced with the intent to impart knowledge about various challenges and prospects in dealing with Urban Governance and Smart Cities in today's era. The topic covered in lectures and discussions by Prof. Y Pardhasaradhi included *Urban Governance and Smart Cities* in India which helped students to understand concept of urban governance, role of delivery agencies in city planning and in this third civilisation how youngsters are going to inculcate this innovations. Experts such as Shri. CK Koshy talked about *Policy Paradigms in Urban Governance* whereas Prof. Shivanand Swami and Prof. Saswat Bandyopadhyay talked about *Urban Mobility and Urban Governance* as well as *Smart City Planning* respectively. Mr. Neeraj Tyagi briefly talked about *Urban Governance and Smart City Planning* while Dr. Sundaravalli Naraynswami discussed about *Business and Policy Perspectives of ICT in Smart Cities and Urban Transportation*. Mrs. Hetal Shah and Dr. Akshat Mehta gave valuable insights on *Engendering Urban Development and Smart Security in Changing Scenario of Urbanisation* respectively. At last Mr. Lalit Dashore talked about *Smart Urban Resilience Strategies* in various cities of India with reference to Surat, Gujarat.

On the other day the workshop started with various activities which mainly included identification of problems in creating smart cities and solutions for the same. Students identified the problems in the *Problem Wheel* which was categorised into: Core, Interlinked, Practical and Others and pinned their problems in the wheel as per their understanding. Simultaneously, there was a different section for the solution where students wrote the solutions to the problems they identified in the wheel. The course concluded with presentations from participants to assess their overall learning experience by Dr. D Sriram,

Dr. Anurag Srivastava, Dr. Subranshu Goswamy, Mr. Abhikshit Chauhan, Mr. Aditya Joshi, and Mr. Rajdeep Raut. The participants gave various models of smart cities which showcased their learning outcome of the workshop. At the end of the workshop, certificates and prizes were distributed to participants as a token of appreciation by the Director General of PDPU, Prof. C. Gopalkrishna, Registrar of PDPU, Mr. Tarun Shah and Director of School of Liberal Studies, Dr. Nigam Dave.

The two days national workshop proved to be a significant learning experience for the participants who have the utmost desire to understand the concept of urbanisation and its pros and cons in creating Smart Cities. ICMA Team Members Anurag, Tanay Abhijeet, Drashti, Utkarsh, Yashvi, Kshitij and others Charvi, Deshna, Kuldeep, Mahima, Pinal, Riya, Ryan, Sohini and Shashwat worked as the student coordinator of the event.