



4/2014

CityMatters

30 CUTS International
1983-2012

Addressing Indiscipline in Jaipur Needs Public-private Partnership



www.google.com

Jaipur continues to take baby steps to achieve its dream to become a world class city, but we need huge mindset changes, which is not the government's responsibility alone. The Jaipur Development Commissioner, Shikhar Agarwal, is blazing new trails by removing encroachments in the shape of worshipping places on public roads in the face of misguided public sentiments. However, more needs to be done. Our city roads are one of the best in the country and timely repairs helps to keep them motorable. In his capacity of the Chairman of the city's Traffic Control Board, he needs to address traffic and civic indiscipline with equal vigour.



The other day a friend, Jagdeep Singh, narrated his woes on Facebook of dropping his daughter to the railway station at 5.30 AM to catch the double decker train to Delhi, when many trains arrive at the railway station. The approach to the station was absolutely chaotic and he got caught in the traffic snarl. His daughter had to walk and run to catch a moving train. Jagdeep took a longer time to unsnarl himself and head back home. There was no traffic constable in sight to regulate the traffic. One wonders whether having a Police Commissionere in Jaipur has had any significant impact on traffic regulation in the city. Zilch, in my opinion. But it is once again not the police which are alone to blame.

Our cars and two wheelers zip across red lights as if they have a birthright to do so. Two wheelers ride in a suicidal fashion and many a times they have hit our cars. You will not find a single car in the city without dents and scratches on their bodies. Most vehicle owners do not know even the basic traffic rules, such as stopping and going while turning in from a side road into a bigger road. Arcing on a turn is absolutely alien to them. Driving on full beam nonchalantly is commonplace and so on.

*Start civic sense
from your side
others will
just follow you*

Speaking about civic sense, Mumbai is perhaps the best city in our country. The story goes that when Morarji Desai was the Chief Minister of Bombay Presidency, before the same was split into Maharashtra and Gujarat, he posted two constables on every bus stop to ensure that passengers queued up. It was one small step but had a singular impact on people being conscious. I recall one instance in Mumbai when my taxi got into the right turn lane at a traffic light, the duty constable ensured that my taxi could not drive straight on the main road but had to turn right and then come back to the main road after some time. If such a thing happens in Jaipur, then the driver will engage into a long debate with the constable and hold up the traffic. Consequently, the helpless constable will just allow him to carry on. Worse violations take place insouciantly on our road network.

In the ultimate analysis it is we the citizens of this beautiful city who have to take up the cudgels of dealing with indiscipline through education and enforcement, and ask the authorities to cooperate.

Pradeep S. Mehta
Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General

INSIDE

- ◆ Safety@Safecity
- ◆ Golden Tweet of 2014
- ◆ Warning to Doctors
- ◆ Counter Magnet City
- ◆ Metro Updates

Eaten Alive by an Anaconda

Paul Rosolie, a naturalist, wanted to acquire public attention towards the destruction of the Amazon rainforest in Amazon basin of South America. So he decided to carry out a stunt guaranteed to get people watching him.

In this attempt for nature conservation, the staunch environmentalist offered himself as a



www.zap2itnews.com

dinner to an anaconda, which is the largest snake in the world and usually suffocates its prey before ingesting it – and was also prepared to be swallowed alive.

Unfortunately, during the stunt, Rosolie was not exactly ingested by the snake, disappointing the viewers who expected his journey into the belly of the deadly beast. Instead, he let the anaconda coil around him before calling the mission off, fearing that he might get seriously injured in the process.

(RP, 09.12.14)

Liver Giver Girl

Rajasthan's first organ transplant brand ambassador, Simran Sharma, is just 18 but her fighting spirit is simply exemplary. She saved her father's life by donating a portion of her liver. She also sacrificed her studies while running from pillar to post for his treatment.

The liver transplant took place in Chennai. After hearing her saga, the State Health Minister Rajendra Rathore declared her as the State's brand ambassador for organ transplant and spoke with the Finance Secretary of the State Prem Singh Mehra to assist the family financially.

Moreover, the department officials are working overtime to introduce organ transplant facilities in the State. The defining moment of her life came on September 27, when 65 percent of Simran's liver was harvested and transplanted to her father.

"The experience was satisfying and beyond words. We were waiting for more than six months for the successful transplant", Simran conveyed.

(Tol, 18.11.14)

Boss of Cleaning

'Yo', a Korean is a millionaire investor with a very peculiar habit for the past 11 years. The business-man living in Bahrain has been waking up every morning before dawn to clean up the streets of his city. He even takes time to sort out and recycle the garbage that he collects.

On being asked about this routine he simply answered "because I want to"! Yo has earned himself the nickname 'Boss of Cleaning', thanks to his diligent morning habit.

Moreover, he seems genuinely interested in keeping the streets clean, and making sure that everyone enjoys a healthy neighbourhood. "There is a lot of garbage, and this makes people sick. It causes problems also", he explained.

(OC, 06.11.14)

Safety@Safecity

Every woman at some point of time experiences lack of safety at work place, while travelling or elsewhere but mostly ignores it due to lack of family support or to avoid hassles, ensuring that the offenders go scot-free.



The website, www.safecity.in, initiated by a group of three women in Mumbai can help women across India ascertain the safety level of a place.

The website started by Elsamarie D'silva, Surya Velamuri and Saloni Malhotra, allows women to share their experiences of harassment they have faced in day-to-day life. The data shared are computed and hotspots marked on a map indicate the trend in a particular state, city, street or lane.

'Safecity' is a crowd-map that converts individual stories into data, which is then placed on a map as it is then easier to see a street location-level trend.

(DNA, 13.11.14)

Vision of Future Offices

Too much of anything can kill you. The same is true for fried food, alcohol, and presently – researchers are finding out, which is sitting. A study reveals that men who sit six hours or more a day have an overall death rate that is 20 percent higher than men who sit for three hours or less. For women, it is found to be about 40 percent.



Prolonged sitting slows calorie-burning to a third of the rate as compared to standing position. Moreover, excessive sitting reduces the rate of metabolism.

Besides, there is a lack of research directly linking standing or treadmill desks to improve health, so any conclusions that are made will have to rely on anecdotes and common sense based on other researches. How about a happy middle, where you spend half your time at a standing desk and the other half sitting? (NN, 18.12.14 & www.techinasia.com)

Harry Potter-like Invisible Cloak

Researchers have brought the magic of Harry Potter a step closer to reality after developing an ultra-thin cloak that makes objects invisible. University of Texas researchers have created the magical cover, which is just 0.15mm thin and made out of a new material called metascreen.

Without the hair of a Demiguise (a peaceful herbivorous creature that can make itself invisible) to hand, the team attached strips of copper tape to a polycarbonate film, making the material thinner and more flexible.

However, there is an obvious flaw for anyone interested in looking to become invisible anytime soon, as the miniature version of the famous wizard's cloak only works in microwave light. By scattering and cancelling out incoming waves, researchers were able to successfully hide an 18 cm tall cylindrical rod from the human eye.

(DB, 03.10.14)

Golden Tweet of 2014

Twitter has released its 2014 trends for India and also the world. The biggest take away from the trends is that Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India was a power player on Twitter in 2014. His victory statement was deemed as 'Golden Tweet for 2014', for India.



Modi's popularity on social media is well known and he is the second most followed politician after the US President Barack Obama. He was even ranked twice amongst the top five conversations in India.

Modi's victory tweet was retweeted more than 70,000 times, while it had more than 45,000 favourites.

The year 2014 was clearly an eventful year. Not only the Indian Lok Sabha elections were held but also Brazil hosted the Football World Cup in June and July. World Cup 2014 was the fastest rising hashtag in India followed by #MH370 referring to the missing Malaysian Airlines aircraft, which is feared to be lost.

(IT, 10.12.14)

Housewife's Yearly Salary

A state tribunal of Tamil Nadu created furore after it stated that the monetised value of domestic responsibilities that home-makers discharge is ₹1250 a month. This is the monetised value of domestic responsibilities that home-makers discharge 24x7, according to a motor accident claims tribunal in the State.



The statement came to light when a tribunal in Virudhunagar district situated in south-west of Chennai awarded a paltry ₹1.62 lakh as compensation for the accident of a woman, keeping ₹1.62

lakh as compensation for the accident of a woman, considering ₹15,000 as the notional income of a housewife. Slamming the tribunal for its narrow-mindedness the Madras High Court raised the compensation to ₹6.76 lakh.

(Tol, 31.12.14)

Living in the Moment

The isolated village of Hogewey situated on the outskirts of Amsterdam, The Netherlands – is known as 'Dementia Village'. All inhabitants of this Dutch village are suffering from a mental disorder 'dementia'.

At first glance, it looks like any other village with shops, restaurants and even a movie theatre. Moreover, Hogewey is a cutting-edge elderly-care facility with only 152 inhabitants – roughly the size of 10 football fields – where residents are given the chance to live normal lives.

Unlike typical villages, however, this one has cameras monitoring residents every hour of every day. Care-takers being in street clothes, and only one door in and out of the town – all part of a security system designed to keep the community safe. Friends and family are encouraged to visit this village.

(TA, 14.11.14)

Warning to Doctors

Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi has courted controversy after threatening the government doctors that he would chop off their hands if they are found truant in treating the poor patients.



"If the doctors will be found truant in treating poor patients, I will chop off their hands...I will not waste any time in taking action against them", Manjhi said. The Chief Minister also declared that there should be no shortage of drugs in government hospitals.

"Since I too come from a poor family I know the problems and trouble they face in their everyday life so they must be treated properly", Manjhi stated. Manjhi recently hogged headlines stating that the marriageable age of boys and girls should be raised to 25 years for their good health.

(TH, 18.11.14)

Beware of Social Media Addiction

A recent study of University of Albany, New York, has concluded that excessive use of online social networking can not only be addictive, but might also be associated with other impulse control disorders, including substance abuse.



Albany University psychologist Julia Hormes has been recently leading a team of researchers in assessing the addictive nature of social media – specifically Facebook.

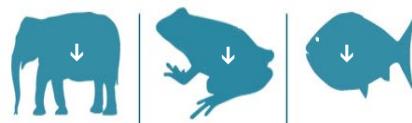
In October, 'Facebook' reported over 1.35bn active users with 800 million people logging on daily. Amongst the active users, a 2013 consumer report found 71 percent people currently accessing social media from their mobile device.

(<http://www.albany.edu/news/56604.php>.09.12.14)

Decline in Wild Animals

The number of wild animals on earth has halved during the past four decades, according to a new analysis. Creatures across land, rivers and seas are being decimated as humans kill them for food in unsustainable numbers while polluting or destroying their habitats, according to a research at WWF (world's largest conservation organisation) and Zoological Society of London.

The steep decline in animal, fish and bird numbers was calculated by analysing 10,000 different populations, covering 3,000 species in total.



This data was then, for the first time, used to create a representative 'Living Planet Index' (LPI) reflecting the state of all 45,000 known vertebrates.

(BL, 01.10.14)

Attest your own documents

In order to make dealing with government agencies easy the Rajasthan Government, in a circular, has abolished the system of submitting affidavits and has introduced a system of 'self attestation' of documents.

An official claimed that after Gujarat, Goa, Kerala, Punjab and



Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan would be the sixth State to adopt the self attestation system. In August 2014, Narendra Modi had asked union ministeries and state governments to facilitate self-certification of documents.

Moreover, affidavits will only be submitted if required as per existing laws and a photograph of a person making the declaration should be necessarily affixed on the declaration.

(HT, 25.11.14)

Counter Magnet City

A high-level meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Urban Development and Housing Department and Department of Self Governance (UDH) of Rajasthan Ashok Jain has directed the officials to seek financial assistance from National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) to make Jaipur a counter magnet city.

Two detailed project reports demanding ₹2,200 crore and ₹1500 crore for drainage and sewerage, respectively would be sent to the Board. The 33rd meeting of the NCRPB under the chairmanship of former Union Minister Kamal Nath had given approval for the development of Jaipur into a counter magnet city.

The concept aims at a superfast growth of the city to stop the migration of locals to Delhi and other national capital region areas for seeking employment. (DNA, 30.12.14)

MyCity: Consultation Series on Urban Governance

A series of the consultations under 'MyCity' project of CUTS Consumer Action Research and Training (CART) were organised in Jaipur, to get the feedback of different stakeholders including elected representatives, officials and civil society organisations (CSOs). On November 27, 2014 the representatives of CSOs took part to discuss the issue of urban governance in the city and role of CSOs to improve the quality of services.

The Consultation was very fruitful in acquiring the feedback from different organisations for going ahead in 'MyCity' project and was helpful for the participants to learn from the views and experiences from the speakers and other CSOs.

Newly elected councilors of Jaipur city were part of another consultation held on December 30, 2014. Other than the councilors, the representatives of the partner CSOs actively participated in the meeting and interacted with the councilors. Jagdish Sharma, Senior Town Planner, Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) applauded the efforts of 'MyCity' for creating the space for citizens' participation.

Consumer-friendly Web-site

The website of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) Rajasthan is set to be more up dated and made consumer-friendly in the coming days. It will have details related to the consumers, such as bill payment and details of various small and big projects of the PHED.

As a result, the people who run from pillar to post to get information on development of any particular scheme in their area, will be updated by just logging into the web-site.

The decision was taken after PHED Minister Kiran Maheshwari explored the web-site of the department and asked to make it more transparent and informative.

(DNA, 26.11.14)

Year of Road Safety

The Rajasthan Government will celebrate 2015 as road safety year and is planning to constitute a separate Directorate for it in the Transport Department. The State Transport Minister, Yunus Khan said that people are not sincere about road safety and increasing fatalities and this is an issue of big concern.

"To create awareness among public, we would like to take up 2015 as road safety year. We will try to reach out to everyone and tell them about the issues involved", said Khan.

Moreover, there is a proposal to set up a separate division whose



www.premaseem.files.wordpress.com

mandate will only be to bring down the road accidents and fatalities in State, indicated the Minister.

(Tol, 21.12.14)

Drive Jaipur

According to a unique road safety initiative 'Times Traffic Marshal' by Times Group, any Jaipur resident having witnessed a violation of road safety rules by anyone can take a picture of the erring person or vehicle and share with a brief description of the event on Twitter@Mytimesjaipur or Email it to drivejaipur@gmail.com with 'Times Traffic Marshal' in the subject line.



(Tol, 05.11.14)

Flying Start to Tourism

Soon, seaplanes would be seen taking-off and landing in the lakes and rivers across Rajasthan. It sounds unbelievable but Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari announced this on the first anniversary of Raje Government in State.

"Next month I would be holding a meeting with the companies



manufacturing such planes. If the proposal goes well then landing of seaplanes would be possible on water

bodies. This will boost tourism sector in State", Gadkari added.

"Such planes can land on 100 metre-long water stretch. Thus no big infrastructure of airport will be required for landing of planes. Priority would be given to Rajasthan to commence this service as it is a tool to enhance the tourism sector", Gadkari added.

(DNA, 14.12.14)



Metro Updates

Phase I Sites Inspected

Delhi Metro Rail Cooperation (DMRC) Chief Mangu Singh has inspected the sites at *Badi Chaupar* and *Choti Chaupar*, where the work of Jaipur Metro is under progress. The first phase of Jaipur Metro will be from *Badi Chaupar* to *Chandpole* and from *Chandpole* to *Mansarovar*.

Singh inspected the sites at *Badi Chaupar* and *Choti Chaupar* in the walled city area where underground stations will be constructed. He also visited other stations from the train. After taking a trial visit to stations from *Chandpole* to *Mansarovar* in the Metro he inspected the *Mansarovar* depot and the yard also. Besides, he expressed satisfaction at the progress of the ongoing work of the Jaipur Metro. (ET, 27.12.14)



Services from March 2015

The Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation (JMRC) officials said that Jaipur Metro phase-1A from *Mansarovar* to *Chandpole* is likely to commercially run from March 2015. The officials also mentioned that Jaipur Metro phase-1A from *Mansarovar* to *Chandpole* being under construction, its civil work would be completed shortly. The Jaipur Metro recently has also obtained safety certificate from Independent Safety Assessor.

Moreover, after getting the approval from Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, Lucknow, rolling stock from Railway Board has to be obtained. Thereafter, the entire system will be checked by the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety, Mumbai. After completing all these processes, Metro rail could be commercially started from March 2015. The officials of the Corporation also said that JMRC has invited tenders from e-rickshaw, four-wheelers and minivan etc. for feeder services. (HT, 31.12.14)

Exploring Investment Possibilities

The possibilities of investment on Public-private Partnership for the phase 2 of Jaipur metro were explored in a discussion between the Singapore team of experts and the officials of Rajasthan Government and JMRC.

As the phase 2 is a project having estimated cost of ₹10,000 crore, the meeting was fruitful as the Singapore

team acquired the detailed project report and would discuss with the various investors in their country.

The Singapore team has shown immense interest after Chief Minister of Rajasthan Vasundhara Raje visited Singapore and had a meeting with the authorities of Land Transport Authority of Singapore.

Moreover, on being asked about the possibility of investors from Singapore for the phase 2, a senior officer said, "The team will brief the land development authority, Singapore, which is a government body and later will also brief about the detailed project report of phase 2".

(Tol, 20.11.14)

One Lakh Smartcards for Metro Run

Anticipating huge rush on Jaipur Metro's inaugural run, which is expected in March 2015, JMRC has procured nearly 1 lakh smartcards for the commuters. For smart access, Jaipur Metro will have various amenities for them.

While the patchwork at the four stations is in progress, JMRC is aiming to complete the work by December 31, 2014 and expecting maiden run by March 31, 2015 the officials are burning midnight oil to chalk out 'passenger-friendly' ticket fares and make ticket collection system easier.

Ashwani Saxena, Director (Project), JMRC indicated that a few runs will be organised before the maiden run to get people acquainted with the usage of smartcards there would be many in Jaipur who have never used smartcards as automatic fare collection system to travel in a Metro.

(Tol, 11.11.14)

Rajasthan: Weaving Magic towards a Promising Future



Rajasthan being rich in natural resources enjoys a unique strategic location and market access. From its colour charged cities to the luminous splendour of its desert with bountiful resources and excellent connectivity the State has systematically created policy environment. Likewise, it also holds vast pool of trained manpower, with policy environment for business to grow and is undeniably progressing towards a bright future. Some of the focus sectors that contribute in Rajasthan Government's vision of growth and development include:

Urban Infrastructure

A number of ambitious infrastructure projects have been undertaken in the recent past. Bus Rapid Transit System and Metro Rail project are already being implemented in Jaipur. Rajasthan has the second largest network of National Highways in the country with a total highway length exceeding 7,310 km. The total road length in the State is approximately 195,850 km. The length of railway routes in the State at the end of March, 2012 was 5,822.28 km. Furthermore, the State is aggressively building an extensive network of major drinking water projects across the the same. It has sanctioned 109 large drinking water projects, which will benefit 83 cities and more than 18000 villages.

Industrial Power

With firm steps to augment availability of power for industrial, commercial, domestic and agricultural consumption, Rajasthan has arrived at a total power generation capacity of over 15000 MW with over 23 percent from renewable energy sources. To fuel industrial development, the State plans to add another 6500 MW in generation capacity, over the next five years. Recognising the role that business can play and valuing partnerships in growth the Government of Rajasthan will be organising the 'Resurgent Rajasthan Partnership Summit' on November 19-20, 2015 in Jaipur. In addition, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will be organising its flagship international investors meet – 'The Partnership Summit 2015' in association with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in Jaipur from 15-17 January, 2015.

IT Enabled Services

The State offers a number of competitive advantages to Information Technology (IT) and IT companies. It has over 1,300 technical educational institutional with an annual intake capacity of over 2.2 lakh students. The State Government has also set up the Rajasthan Knowledge Corporation Limited to promote IT literacy on a large scale. The State accounts for highest number of India's financial professionals: Chartered Accountants (CAs), Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICWAs). The Government has also set up the Rajasthan Knowledge Corporation Limited to promote IT literacy on a larger scale.

Financial Services

Rajasthan is known to produce proficient and skilled finance and accounts professionals like chartered accountants, cost accountants, cost accountants and company secretaries, in large numbers. This coupled with low cost of operations makes the State an attractive location for setting up back office operations in accounting and finance and financial services. Numerous financial Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs) including ICICI bank and Deutsche bank are already operating in the State.

Tourism

Dotted with rugged forts and beautiful palaces, lakes, wildlife and bird sanctuaries, charming cities, fairs and festivals and colourful culture, Rajasthan is one of the most favoured tourist destinations in the country for both, domestic and foreign tourists. 'Lonely Planet' Magazine selected Rajasthan as the best Cultural Destination at the Lonely Planet Magazine India Travel Awards in 2013. Moreover, in 2013, over 31.73 million tourists visited Rajasthan.

Quality of Life

The cities of Rajasthan have excellent educational institutions including public and convent schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) Boards. In addition, undergraduate and postgraduate colleges and technical colleges offer a variety of traditional and new age courses. As far as the healthcare is concerned Rajasthan offers opportunity for private sector investment in medical and healthcare institutions and medical, dental and paramedical colleges.

– This feature has been abridged from the journal 'Rajasthan is Ready' published by the Bureau of Investment Promotion, Rajasthan

Sources: DB: Dainik Bhaskar; DNA: Daily News Analysis; ET: Economic Times; HT: Hindustan Times; IT: India Today; NN: Nafa Nuksan; OC: OddiCentral; RP: Rajasthan Patrika; TA: The Atlantic; TH: The Hindu; Tol: Times of India

CityMatters is a quarterly newsletter published by Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302016, India,

Phone: 91.141.2282821, Fax: 91.141.2282485 Email: cuts@cuts.org, Web site: www.cuts-international.org, and printed by Jaipur Printers P. Ltd., Jaipur, India. CUTS offices also at Kolkata, Chittorgarh and New Delhi (India); Lusaka (Zambia); Nairobi (Kenya); Accra (Ghana); Hanoi (Vietnam); and Geneva (Switzerland).