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City Matters

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Pink City turns Medicity?



Hindustan Times



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With investments worth several hundred crores likely for setting up of state-of-the-art private hospitals, the Pink City is set to emerge as a medicity. It might become one of the country's best destinations for medical tourism. The Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) has completed the land allotment process to six big investors in June 2008. Among the fore-runners are Anil Dhirubhai Ambani group's Reliance Health Ventures Ltd, Fortis Healthcare Ltd., and Bombay Hospital and SPA Enterprises.

However, the current scenario in government hospitals presents a rather dismal picture. During October-November 2008, leading local *dailies* carried reports on the state of medical facilities in the largest government hospital of Rajasthan, Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital, Jaipur. Holter monitoring, 2-D echo and computerised tread mill test (CTMT) machines at the cardiology department of the hospital had been lying non-functional for over a month. Similarly, in the department of medicine, machines for testing thyroid levels; and in the department of orthopedics, C-arm and orthocop machines were unusable and needed repairs. Patients were, therefore, compelled to visit private clinics/laboratories and pay higher costs.

Further, the Department of Medical, Health and Family Welfare provides alarming figures on child mortality rate, which is 65 per thousand against the national figure of 57 and mother mortality rate of 445 per lakhs against the national figure of 301. Government funds for providing health services are increasing every year, but no perceptible improvements are evidenced.

This amply illustrates the dichotomy that prevails in the medical and health services. At one end of the spectrum, good private hospitals are increasingly being recognised as a source of medical tourism, and at the other, citizens are starved of basic medical facilities in the government hospitals.

It also puts claims of the State Department of Medical and Health in perspective, that the government hospitals are well equipped with sufficient number of doctors and services. Jaipur has 20 hospitals under the Department of Medical, Health and Family Welfare, with a collective strength of 4458 beds: SMS Hospital has 1601 beds followed by Mobile Surgical Unit with 500, Zenana Hospital with 416, Sir Padmavat Mother & Child Health Institute with 319, TB Hospital with 290, and City Mental Hospital with 280 beds. Yet, the citizens face an uphill task to avail the basic medical services in any of these hospitals.

Jaipurites suffering from disease are often driven into penury due to heavy cost on healthcare, which they are forced to expend in private hospitals and clinics. At the same time, huge amount of money is being wasted on government dispensaries and hospitals which do not function efficiently. Thus, there exist socio-economic inequalities in access and utilisation of health services.

Private hospitals and nursing homes often engage in a range of malpractices as there is no appropriate law to regulate or monitor their functioning with regard to the requisite level of facilities, space, equipment, doctors and nurses. No systematic information is available about the quality and type of services, as well as prices charged by different private hospitals except improper information channels, which often lead to exploitation.

The need, therefore, is two-fold. While the government needs to usher in some regulatory measures to rein in the private medical hospitals/laboratories, private hospitals and nursing homes should consider organising well-articulated public awareness campaigns so as to ensure that the common patient is not given the short shrift.

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Bisalpur Project – A panacea for all water ills

For a state that has been historically and geographically short on water availability, Rajasthan is currently in the grip of an acute water crisis. Jaipur, the capital, is also witness to myriad water-related problems – at all ranging from contaminated supply and low pressure to even no supply in some areas. It is feared that the ground water resources in many parts of Jaipur will be substantially exhausted in the near future unless appropriate measures are taken to significantly reduce the rate of water abstraction.

Fast Facts	
Population of Jaipur	37 lakh
Population catered to by PHED	27.25 lakh
Current Supply by PHED	3,950 lakh litre
Current demand	4,287.7 lakh litre
Per annum revenue	Rs 31.21 crore
Source: Times of India, September 09, 2008	



As of now, the entire Jaipur city depends on groundwater and tube wells, and before supplying water, the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) just gets the water chlorinated. With the completion of the BWSP, residents of Jaipur city can hope to get supply of water for 10 hours everyday by December 2008 and up to 16 hours a day by 2016.

On March 31, 2004, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation had signed agreements for eight projects worth Rs 58.65bn (US\$1,234mn) with the Government of India as an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan package for fiscal year 2003. One of these eight projects is the BWSP.

The Project has been divided into two Phases. Phase I will supply a total of 540 million litres per day (MLD) to Jaipur city for the year of 2016, and Phase II will increase the supply to 869 MLD.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to co-finance Phase I of the Project as a part of the Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP). The total estimated cost of Phase I of the Project is Rs 556 crores (US\$11.35mn). Of this, Rs 276 crores (US\$5.63mn) will be provided by the ADB and the remaining Rs 280 crores (US\$5.71mn) by the State Government. The State has confirmed its commitment to provide any additional funds that may be required beyond the available loan amount.

The initial Phase I of the BWSP is expected to benefit about 2.2 million people, and the system is expected to be progressively expanded to a level sufficient to supply about five million people in the major settlement areas by the year 2021 through a combination of the BWSP and existing water resources.

It is, however, learnt that by December 2008, the BWSP water would be available to the entire Jaipur city which would increase the capacity by 20 percent enabling the PHED to increase not only the frequency but also the duration of water supply in the city.

The State Government has made long term plans to augment the Jaipur water supplies by developing sustainable surface water resources in the region. The Bisalpur Dam and reservoir, which is located on the Banas River about 120 km south west of Jaipur city, was constructed in the mid-1990s by the Department of Irrigation, Government of Rajasthan for the purpose of providing potable water supplies to Ajmer and Jaipur cities as well as other towns in the region, and also to provide supplemental irrigation for agricultural lands downstream of the dam site.

The proposed Bisalpur Water Supply Project (BWSP) is an essential component of the Government's long-term strategy to ensure a sustainable drinking water supply to a population currently suffering from impending water shortages, sub-standard water quality, and lack of a reliable piped water supply.

TCS Project

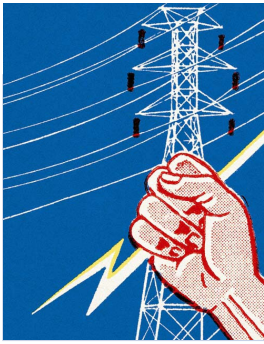
Research Component and Site Selection

The research component in the project – 'Traffic Calming Strategies to Improve Pedestrian Safety in India' – primarily includes Before Studies & Its Analysis, After Studies & Its Analysis and preparation of a manual. The Swedish Conflict Technique will be used as the research tool.

A primary survey was carried out to collect accident details from registered FIRs by visiting 37 police stations across Jaipur city. A format was developed to collect the information in a systematic manner, i.e. Accident Severity (Fatal/Non-Fatal), Victim (Sex & Age), Date & Time, Impacting Vehicle and Accident Location. Sites for data collection were short listed on the basis of this information.

In all, 31 sites were short listed for the purpose of final selection for 'Before Studies'. Traffic at each of these identified locations was observed and location of the camera was finalised.





Power Sector Scenario

Being the most important constituent of infrastructure, performance of the electricity sector directly impacts the overall economy of the country. Electricity reforms brought about during the last few years have enabled a transition from a vertically integrated private or public monopoly market structure to one of competitive wholesale and retail mechanism. The sole purpose of these reforms is to promote competition among market players and to make the electricity market more efficient, liquid and complete.

Electricity Reforms in Rajasthan

The Government of Rajasthan decided to reform its power sector with the objective of creating conditions for sustainable development of the sector and improving efficiency and quality of service to the consumers by allowing private participation, particularly in electricity generation.

Electricity Reforms in Jaipur

Electricity transmission loss has come down in Jaipur by 50 percent from 24.23 percent in 2000-01 to 12.21 percent in 2007-08. In order to promote energy conservation by using energy-efficient Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) among the power consumers in Jaipur, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between *Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.* (JVVN) and Indo Asian Fusegear Limited (IAFL), a leading manufacturer of electrical equipment and switchgears. The MoU entails schemes to provide energy conservation and electrical safety products.

Now, the power connection in Jaipur is a telephone call away. The applicant needs to dial a toll free number (155333) to get a new electricity connection. A JVVN employee will reach the specified place of the applicant and will help him complete the application formalities. The corporation will charge the applicant only a nominal fee of Rs 50, which will be passed on to the employee for his extra efforts. Given the work of laying underground cable underway, Jaipur will become a cable free city within the next two years, which will ensure uninterrupted

power supply. The JVVN has earmarked about Rs 300 crores for this purpose.

Quality Power

As part of an effort to supply quality electricity in Jaipur, JVVN has started installing eight MVA power transformers at prime locations. An extensive network of eight MVA transformers would be established across the Pink city to replace the existing five MVA converters. A total of 35 new transformers would be installed this year in Jaipur. The Jaipur Discom will spend Rs 14.70 crore for the new network, with Rs 42 lakh earmarked for the installation of each transformer. This would not only provide quality power to the consumers but would also drastically reduce transmission and distribution (T&D) losses from the present 13 percent to 8 percent this year.



Measures towards Electricity Reforms

However, high-powered sodium lights would not be installed in colonies or outside houses and in its place only energy-saving tube lights would be used. In parks, solar-powered energy devices for lighting purposes are to be installed. Installation of energy saving lights and solar heating plants would be made mandatory in all the government buildings in the state capital.

CUTS' Initiative for Clean City

Several recommendations were given by CUTS to the Government of Rajasthan in the State Assembly through the 'All Party Committee', formed under the CUTS initiated 'Vidhyak Samvaad'. It is a forum of MLAs at the State level in Rajasthan, which addresses the basic issues and plays a key role in implementing related policies and programmes aimed towards people's welfare. The discussions made in the *Samvaad* were mostly related to the welfare of common man and were directed towards better basic amenities, thus gave some suitably valid points to the government officials to act on:

- After analysing the ever existing water crisis in Jaipur, it was proposed by CUTS to examine the conditions affecting smooth water supply in the city. It was asked as to when Bisalpur Water Pipeline will provide relief to the people of Jaipur in terms of streamlining the water supply in the city.
- The JDA took appropriate action against encroachments at *Amani Shah Nallah*. Efforts made through the investigation team revealed that the areas of *Amani Shah Nallah*, which comes under Sushilpura and Madrampura at Ajmer Road were severely occupied by the encroachers. It was found that the 70 mts wide water passage has turned into a narrow passage of 6 feet only! Finally an encroachment removal squad was sent. The team faced lots of difficulties in tracing out the exact *Nallah* passage and its centre in a severely encroached stretch of 2 km. After much struggle for hours, the team was successful in removing 16 illegal boundary walls, 10 illegal shops including 2 liquor shops and 6 illegal houses which not only made the area clean but helped a smooth water passage for the future as well. *Vidhyak Samvaad* will keep highlighting such sensitive issues in future and help in contributing towards fruitful changes for making a better Jaipur.

Ultra High-tech Flyover Proposed

The JDA has approved the construction of an ultra high-tech, triple traffic layered flyover at Gurjar Ki Thadi traffic junction. This decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Ashok Jain, the JDA Commissioner.

The proposed flyover will be between Mansarovar and Gopalpura Bypass, which will allow heavy traffic on this road to pass smoothly. The estimated cost of the project would be 50 crore though the final layout plan is still to be prepared.

Once completed, the project will fully ensure smooth movement of heavy traffic from all directions, without stopping at red light signals and wasting time while passing through Gurjar Ki Thadi.

(DB, 14.10.08)

Interceptors: Means to Collect Money

Interceptor Vehicles, launched to check the overspeeding vehicles on the city roads, have become the means for traffic police to collect money from motorists. Sometime back a vigilance police team had caught a Deputy Inspector of Police and some policemen red handed when they were taking money from a motorist.

After suspending the guilty policemen, the SP ordered the Interceptor Vehicles to be run under the supervision of Dy. SP. For some time, things went smoothly before normal bribe-taking habits returned back as usual.

On an average, an Interceptor stops and checks around 300 vehicles per day but the percentage of *challans* found to be only half of it. Some police officials accepted that every Interceptor Vehicle gets achievable target system for making *challans*. It seems that once the daily target is achieved, the self-profit making starts.

(DB, 20.10.08)

Land Acquisition for Ring Road

The JDA has started land acquisition for the construction of 97 km road in the third phase of the 145-km long Ring Road project across Jaipur. The proposed stretch will be constructed between Agra Road and Delhi Road via Sikar Road up to Ajmer Road. For this, land acquisition proposals are being prepared for JDA Zones.

Under the project, land with 360 metres width will be acquired, out of which 90 metres will be used for making road network while 135 metres at both the sides will be used as low speed corridors.

Land acquisition process for the first and second phases, under which a stretch of 48 km, i.e. Ajmer Road to Tonk Road and Tonk Road to Agra Road is in the final stages.

(RP, 09.10.08)

Semi Low-floor Buses for BRT

Now, instead of low floor buses for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors, semi-low floor buses will run in Jaipur city. To this effect, JDA has made slight modification to the tender notice for buying buses.

Low floor buses were comparatively costlier adding a big burden to the initially proposed BRT running cost of Rs 34 per km. It was estimated that an initial fleet will have only 60 buses in a time period of 109 days whereas introducing semi-low floor buses would allow 100 buses in 90 days. Passengers only have to bear an additional 250 mm, compared to low floor buses as these come with a 400 mm foot-rest from the ground whereas the semi-low floor buses are 650 mm high.

All measures have been taken for reducing the ever increasing costs especially when a comparative cost study was made from the time of proposing the project up to its implementation.

(DB, 01.10.08)

Tunnel at Ghat ki Guni



Facilitating the traffic to move fast, three and a half km long tunnel project with an investment of 115 crores, proposed from Transport Nagar Crossing to Agra Road is still lying pending, even after getting the no objection certificate from the Central Government.

Earlier it was the State Forest Department which caused delay to this project and later when the work was about to start, some technical errors were noticed in the project reports which again led to re-write them, consuming months of valuable time.

However, JDA chief assured to start the project soon. Since the tunnel will be passing through the forest lands it has been decided that JDA will be providing 10 hectares of land to the State Forest Department at *Langadiavaas* and another 4.5 hectare at *Smriti Van*.

(Tol, 22.10.08)

4000 Houses to be Demolished

If the sector plan is enforced at Prithviraj Nagar, almost 4,000 houses will be demolished in the area. While there will be more demolitions in the northern side than those in the southern side of the area.

Some of the existing 843 houses and 1300 boundaries in the southern area will be demolished, whereas the densely populated northern area will suffer a loss of almost 3000 houses and constructions.

After analysing the heavy loss on the construction on the northern side in the area, the State Government has planned to increase the width of the road by converting the existing 15-20 ft roads into 30 ft, whereas 30 ft roads into 60 ft and 60 ft roads into 100 ft.

(RP, 09.10.08)

BSNL to Launch 3G Services

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is likely to launch third generation (3G services) from December 2008 allowing the customers to opt for Apple i-Phone and Blackberry.

G K Agarwal, Chief General Manager, BSNL, Rajasthan revealed that much awaited 3G services would be launched first in Jaipur and Jodhpur in December 2008. It has been estimated that around 3 lakh new connections will be provided in the first phase of 3G services.

Agarwal further disclosed that talks for Apple and Blackberry tie-up are on the anvil. It has been estimated that BSNL will be able to sell 12 lakh 3G connections within a few months from its launch.

(DB, 08.10.08)

Sources: DB: Dainik Bhaskar; RP: Rajasthan Patrika; Tol: Times of India