

Event Report

Rajasthan Mayors' Conference

April 15, 2015, Jaipur



Context

Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International in partnership with The Asia Foundation (TAF) is implementing urban governance intervention named MyCity in Jaipur city since August 2012. Its specific objective is '*Improving the Service Delivery by Urban Local Government through Enhanced Civic Engagement*' using social accountability approaches. The project is continuing its activities in 2015 also in selected wards of the city.

The project is appreciated among its stakeholders, including citizens, officials and public representatives of the targeted wards in the city and remained successful in reaching its outcomes. Citizens are benefited by the platform provided to them to resolve ward level issues through elected representatives and concerned officials. Local problems are being resolved at the local level. The project is aimed to make Jaipur city more convenient and livable for its citizens through their active engagement. There are several other larger issues, which need to be addressed at higher level of decision makers.



Apart from other findings, one major finding of the intervention is lack of resources available with Urban Local Government (ULG) and delegation of powers from state to ULG. Coupled with this, there are policy-related issues which need to be taken forward through a collaborative effort of all stakeholders including heads of ULGs, i.e. Mayors. In this sequence, it has been realised that there is no formal platform where Mayors from Rajasthan can discuss the urban governance-related issues and come out with a strategy.

In this context, creating a platform for Mayors of Rajasthan State was proposed by the CUTS. The specific objective of this platform is to improve the urban governance in Rajasthan through enhanced sharing of experiences and learning from each other. To initiate this forum, CUTS organised Rajasthan Mayors' Conference Jaipur on April 15, 2015.

Participation

There are seven municipal corporations (MCs) in Rajasthan, i.e. Ajmer, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Kota and Udaipur. Mayor of Jaipur, Bharatpur, Kota and Deputy Mayor of Bharatpur participated in the conference. VS Vyas, Former Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board, Rajasthan; Ramavtar Raghuvanshi, (Retd. IAS), Director, Institute of Local Self Government, Rajasthan; and Manish Pareek, Ex. Deputy Mayor of Jaipur were special invitees in the conference.

Proceedings

Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS welcomed the delegates in the conference and introduced all Mayors and participants. He shared the objective behind organising the conference and said that this platform is being created to improve the urban governance in Rajasthan through enhanced sharing of experiences and learning among heads of MCs.



George Cherian, Director, CUTS stated that this initiative is a humble beginning to bring Mayors and Deputy Mayors of Rajasthan on a common platform to share their ideas and experiences with each other. CUTS' role would be to facilitate the process. He spoke on the state of urbanisation within India and Rajasthan. Stating that India is going to lead the urban flood, he mentioned the change in growth rate from 1901 (11.4 percent) to 2011 (30.6 percent) to the expected growth rate in 2040 (40.7 percent). Jaipur is the seventh fastest growing city in India with the growth rate at 3.5 percent.

He spoke on the constitutional significance of urban local bodies and their unfortunate present conditions where they are dealing with issues of funds, functions and functionaries. He also cited the reference of ward committees of Bangalore city and the powers held by the Mayor of New York during the 9/11 unfortunate incident. He concluded these are platforms for Mayors and they should decide further where to lead and how to achieve the objective of strengthening urban local bodies (ULBs).

Amar Deep Singh presented a brief overview of the MyCity project through a power point presentation. His presentation mainly highlighted the engagement of citizens in the project and improvement in services of Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) through active engagement of citizens. He stated that project is helpful in solving problems by local solutions, but the same time there are several larger issues which need to be taken up at higher level and idea of Mayors' Conference was generated from there only.



Ramavtar Raghuvanshi (Retd. IAS), Director, Rajasthan Institute of Local Self Government quoted that due to rapid influx of people from rural and semi-rural areas to urban areas, challenges have emerged in front of MCs and other urban local bodies (ULBs). Although constitutional status is given to ULBs but financial teeth is not provided. They are dependent on State Finance Commission for even their day-to-day expenses. ULBs have to look out for generating resources and also need to rely on public participation for effective delivery of basic services. He cited the example of

Hyderabad, Bangalore and Surat ULBs, which earlier were facing fund deficits; now represent as best ULBs of our country. Credit goes to their well-defined taxation policies which are known as 'Tax without tears' policies, decentralisation of powers and public participation.

Manish Pareek, Ex- Deputy Mayor, Jaipur shared his experience of working with the MyCity Project and how the project has facilitated in strengthening the awareness level of residents of his ward area. Acknowledging the condition of ULBs, he spoke on issues of fund crunch and lack of staff within the JMC. There is a great confusion between the administrative and financial power holders. Although various designations have been created but almost all of them are devoid of powers. He spoke in favour of decentralisation within ULBs. He further added that there is a wrong practice going on in Jaipur. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JMC has all powers of sanctions, financial and administrative functions which are violation of Section 243 of the Municipal Act. It needs to be stopped immediately by taking over the administrative responsibility by Mayors.



V S Vyas, Former Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board of Rajasthan mentioned that the position of Mayor is very crucial and so many big leaders, such as Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel etc. were leaders of local bodies in their respective cities at one point of time. While highlighting key challenges in front of municipalities in Rajasthan in general, he mentioned that usually the focus of municipalities shift away from the inner to outer city areas which shall be balanced in any case. He also stated that municipalities shall also either innovate on their own or learn from others' experiences of becoming economically self-reliant bodies and enhancing the productivity of manpower by their training and orientation. There has to be a balance in all parts of the city in development work. He spoke on issues of finance, need to mobilise own resources, capacity building and sensitisation of municipal staff, citizen engagement through ward committees.



Nirmal Nahata, Mayor of Jaipur shared that discussions are going on at various levels in the government about poor conditions of the ULBs in state. As a result, some good decisions are taken by the present government for empowering boards under ULBs. Efforts have been made at the JMC level for generating more revenues from various means. JMC is also trying to enhance public participation in services.

He also stated that citizen should also support their local bodies in delivering of public services in better manner. On taxation issues, he shared the example of Mumbai and Surat where each household is paying Rs 3200 and 1600 respectively as the utility charges to their local bodies. But in Jaipur city it is less than Rs 100. Revenue generated through taxes is very less to cater to the need of whole city. JMC also has a shortage of talented staff. He also said that NGOs and civil societies need to come up with the campaign on creating awareness among general masses about taxation and civic responsibilities. Best practices of ULBs should be shared in such conferences or by other means which will help us to perform better way. Collective efforts will improve services of ULBs.

Mahesh Vijayvargiya, Mayor of Kota said that some of services in the Kota Municipal Corporation (KMC) are monopolised by certain groups which can only be broken through creating alternative means of using machines replacing men. He said that 47 percent of posts are vacant in Kota municipality and existing staff is overburdened. Increasing revenue is important as financial crunch is affecting the quality of services. Public always raise issues and demand for new work or services but they support ULBs or elected leaders. On the issue of devolution of powers, he stated that many a times he is not aware about the development work going on in the city and has to check with the commissioner about it.



Shiv Singh Bhont, Mayor of Bharatpur said that Mayor is such a weak position that he cannot even initiate an action or transfer of an erring official who is not working well. Necessary steps to provide required power to Mayors are need of the hour. He shared some examples when CEO and commissioners does not listen to him on important issues. He as an elected representative has to face public, but not having that much authority for delivery of services. He requested all Mayors to meet with the concerned and chief minister to discuss issues.



Inderpal Singh, Deputy Mayor, Bharatpur shed light on the issue of unauthorised colonies in Bharatpur and other developing cities which is adding to the existing challenges of ULBs. There has to be city-specific planning rather than 'one size fits all' approach. He also mentioned that now so many colonies have developed an agricultural land and MCs cannot do any development near city despite regular demands of local ward members of these colonies. Therefore, state should regularise these colonies so that development work can be done.

Recommendations

- Best practices of MCs can be documented/collected to share with other corporations so that they can learn new approaches
- Taxation is required for improving resources of ULBs. CSOs can play an important role to engage community and make them aware about the necessity of taxation for better availability of services
- Such conferences should be organised regularly to raise issue of ULBs which will prove helpful
- Senior officials, such as Principal Secretary, Secretary of Local Self Government and Department of Local Bodies should be part of platform so that they could be aware of issues
- CSOs can support ULBs through generating awareness in public about the civic role
- Advocacy is required with the state government on issues of devolution of powers, specifically related to finance and functions of MCs



It was decided that next Mayor's Conference will be held in Kota city with the support of KMC. It was also resolved that CUTS will document and share the best practices from various cities of India in the next Conference.

Madhusudhan Sharma, Senior Project Coordinator, CUTS, summarised the discussions held and delivered the vote of thanks to all delegates.

Rajasthan Mayors' Conference

'MyCity'

'Improving the quality of municipal services in the city of Jaipur through enhanced civic engagement'

Hotel Country Inn & Suites, Jaipur on Wednesday, 15th April 2015

11:00 -11:30	Informal Discussion with Tea	
11:30-11:45	Welcome of Dignitaries & Brief about MyCity Intervention: <i>Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS</i> Opening Remarks of Mayors' Conference: <i>George Cherian, Director, CUTS International</i>	
Opening Session	"Urban Local Governance: Challenges & Way Forward" Special address: Sh. Ramavtar Raghuvanshi, Retd. IAS <i>Director, Rajasthan Institute of Local Self Government</i> Sh. Manish Pareek, <i>Ex. Deputy Mayor of Jaipur City</i> Keynote address- Prof. V.S. Vyas, Former Deputy Chairman, <i>State Planning Board of Rajasthan</i> Open Discussion	
12:30-12:40	Tea Break	
12:40-01:25	Rajasthan Mayors' Conference-Way Forward Hon'ble Mayors & Deputy Mayors of Rajasthan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discussion points emerged from the opening session</i> • <i>Sustainability of the Platform</i> 	Facilitation: Prof. V.S. Vyas
01:25 - 01.30	Summing up & Vote of Thanks: <i>Madhu Sudan Sharma, Sr. Project Coordinator, CUTS</i>	
01.30 onwards	Lunch	

Media

'स्थानीय निकायों को अधिक सशक्त करने की जरूरत'

जयपुर (कासं)। कट्स व 'द एशिया पाइण्डेशन' के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में 'माई सिटी परियोजना' के अन्तर्गत बुधवार को शहर के एक होटल में आयोजित राजस्थान महापौर सम्मेलन में जयपुर के महापौर निर्मल नाहटा, कोटा के महापौर महेश विजयवर्गीय, भरतपुर के महापौर शिव सिंह खोट व उप महापौर इन्द्रपाल ने हिस्सा लेकर शहरी व स्थानीय निकायों की समस्याओं पर चर्चा की।

जयपुर के महापौर निर्मल नाहटा ने कहा कि शहरी व स्थानीय निकायों को शक्तियां दी जानी चाहिए। साथ ही महापौर के साथ स्थानीय सरकार के जनप्रतिनिधि (पार्षदों) को भी अधिक शक्तियां दी जानी चाहिए जिससे कि वे अपना कार्य आसानी से पूरा कर सकें। कोटा के महापौर महेश विजयवर्गीय ने कहा कि कोटा में सफाई नहीं होना सबसे बड़ी परेशानी है। सफाई कर्मचारियों द्वारा भी समस्य पर कार्य पूरा नहीं किया जाता है। भरतपुर के महापौर शिव सिंह खोट ने कहा कि भरतपुर निगम में कर्मचारियों के

राजस्थान महापौर सम्मेलन में जयपुर के महापौर ने कहा



साथ ही संसाधनों की भी कमी है। भरतपुर के उपमहापौर इन्द्रपाल सिंह ने कहा कि शहरों की योजनाएं एक समान न होकर स्थानीय जरूरतों के मुताबिक होनी चाहिए।

राज आयोजना बोर्ड के पर्व उपाध्यक्ष श्री.एस. व्यास ने सम्मेलन की अध्यक्षता की। राजस्थान स्वायत्त शासन संस्था के निदेशक रामावतार रघुवंशी ने सम्मेलन में अपने विचार

व्यक्त करते हुए देश में बेहतर काम करने वाली स्थानीय निकायों की कार्यशैलीयों के बारे में बताया। जयपुर के पूर्व उपमहापौर मनीष पारीक ने 'कट्स की ओर से आयोजित महापौर सम्मेलन की सराहना करते हुए भविष्य में भी इस तरह की गतिविधियों का आयोजन करने का आग्रह किया।

कार्यक्रम के शुरू में 'कट्स के निदेशक जारीचरियन' ने बताया कि वर्तमान समय में शहरीकरण के चलते समस्याएं भी बहुत तेजी से बढ़ रही हैं। इस कारण स्थानीय प्रशासन को स्थानीय नागरिकों की भागीदारी भी बढ़ाई जानी चाहिए। 'कट्स के परियोजना अधिकारी अमरदीप सिंह ने 'माई सिटी' परियोजना की विस्तृत जानकारी दी।

गौरतलब है कि अगस्त, 2012 से जयपुर शहर में यह परियोजना चलाई जा रही है, जिसका उद्देश्य आमजन की सेवा वितरण प्राप्ताती में भागीदारी बढ़ाकर स्थानीय निकायों की गुणवत्ता में सुधार लाना है।

Mayors call for empowerment of local bodies and city development

JAIPUR: Resolving challenges created by rapid urbanisation and empowering local bodies are keys to delivering municipal services, said participants at the first-ever Rajasthan Mayors' Conference held here on Wednesday.

Prof VS Vyas, former deputy chairman of the State Planning Board, said there had to be a fine balance in all parts of the city in development work.

He spoke on finance, the need to mobilise resources, capacity building and sensitisation of municipal staffers and citizen engagement through ward committees.

The conference was organised by CUTS International, a consumer Unity and Trust Society.

Jaipur mayor Nirmal Nahata said the government was working to improve the condition of urban local bodies. He said he was trying to generate more revenue and enhance public participation in the Jaipur Municipal Corporation.

Kota mayor Mahesh Vijayvargiya said 47% of posts in Kota municipality were vacant. Some services in the municipality are being monopo-

Mayors stress on innovative ways for better services

Mayors of Municipal Corporations in Rajasthan on Wednesday laid emphasis on innovative ways and means of implementing services in order to improve municipal services delivery to citizens. Speaking at a conference, the mayors said that alternative ways and means for the service delivery need to be developed so that services can be made more effective and accessible to people. Jaipur mayor Nirmal Nahata said that discussions on the present condition of the Urban Local Bodies were going on at various levels in the state government and the government was taking good decisions.

शहरी निकायों को अधिक शक्तियां दी जाएं

जयपुर @ पत्रिका . कंज्यूमर फूनिटी एंड ट्रस्ट सोसायटी (कट्स) की ओर से बुधवार को 'राजस्थान महापौर सम्मेलन' में महापौरों की पीड़ा खुलकर सामने आ गई। माई सिटी परियोजना के तहत आयोजित सम्मेलन को संबोधित करते हुए महापौर निर्मल नाहटा ने कहा कि शहरी निकायों को

शक्तियां दी जानी चाहिए। शक्तियों का बंटवारा समान रूप से होना चाहिए, ताकि महापौर और पार्षद अपने काम को आसानी से पूरा कर सकें। सम्मेलन में कोटा के महापौर महेश विजयवर्गीय, भरतपुर के महापौर शिव सिंह खोट और कट्स के निदेशक जार्ज चेरियन ने भी विचार व्यक्त किए।

नगरीय विकास की एकरूपता के लिए जुटे महापौर

सम्बेलन: स्थानीय निकायों को अधिक सशक्त करने की आवश्यकता जताई, मार्गसिटी परियोजना के तहत राजस्थान महापौर सम्बेलन का आयोजन



महाराष्ट्र समरेकन का संवाधित कारत अवृत्तुर मध्यर निमित्त - ४०

जयपुर। द पश्चिमा कांडेश्वरन के समयों से मार्गीती पर्याप्तजन के तात्पर यजमान महाराजा प्रभावी विद्युत विद्युत व्यवस्था को जगानी में किया। यह सम्बोधन की अप्रकृति तात्पर यजमान द्वारा की एक पुण्य उत्तमता थी। योग्य यज्ञ से की सम्बोधन में ही हार्दी कर्मान्वयन की सम्भाल्यो एवं संभवित सम्भालनों पर यज्ञ चली। यजपुर के महाराजा निवास नाटक, कोटा के महाराजा मार्गीती, भूदेवत, भरतपुर के महाराजा विजय शह भौत, तथा नायनाराज व पूर्णप्रभ महाराजे मनोज पालने ने यज्ञ चलाया। सम्बोधन में जयपुर के महाराजा निवास नाटक से कहा गया हार्दी कर्मान्वयन के लिए कामों की मध्य उपलब्ध नहीं कराया गया है। जहाँ से अपनी सम्भालनों के द्वारा जयपुरीता का सरोकर को अपनाया जाता है।

जिवनप्रतिष्ठान में काम का सम्बोधन के द्वारा यात्रीयों के लिए कामों की मध्य उपलब्ध नहीं कराया गया है। जहाँ से अपनी सम्भालनों के द्वारा जयपुरीता का सरोकर को अपनाया जाता है।

ऐसा कोई मंच नहीं,
जहां बता सकें सरकार
को अपनी पीड़ा

व्यारो/नवज्योति, जयपुर

सफाई कर्मचारी पूरी तरह से काम नहीं करते हैं, कर्मचारियों की ओर से जनप्रतिनिधियों और भेयर को सहयोग नहीं देते हैं। इन समस्याओं के लिए महापौर को ऐसा **एक**

काइ मच नहा मिलता, जिस पर वे अपनी समस्याओं से सरकार को अवगत करा सकें।

जयपुर, कोटा और
भरतपुर के महापौर ने
बुधवार को एक होटल में
आयोजित संस्था के कार्यक्रम
में वह पीड़ा व्यक्त की। कोटा
के महापौर महेश विजयराम
ने कहा कि कोटा में सफाई
की परेशानी है तथा सफाई कर्मचारियों
की ओर से समय पर कार्य पूर्ण नहीं
किया जाता है। कर्मचारी जनप्रतिनिधियों
को सहयोग नहीं दे पाते हैं। जयपुर के

महापौर निर्मल नाहटा ने कहा कि स्थानीय स्तर के जनप्रतिनिधियों को भी अधिक शक्तियां दी जानी चाहिए, जिससे वे अपना कार्य आसानी से पूर्ण कर सकें।

संस्था
र्यक्तम
ने
र,
उर के
र
अपनी सेवाओं की गुणवत्ता में सुधार
ला सकते हैं। अब देशों की तरह
भारत में भी महापौर को अधिक शक्तियाँ
मिलनी चाहिए।

» एक संस्था
के कार्यक्रम
में बोले
जयपुर,
कोटा,
भरतपुर के
महापौर

स्थानीय निकायों को अधिक सशक्त करने की आवश्यकता

जयपुर ■ नया इंडिया (संसू.)

जयपुर के महापौर निर्मल नाहटा ने कहा है कि महापौर के साथ स्थानीय स्तर के जन प्रतिनिधि को भी अधिक शक्तियां दी जानी चाहिए जिससे कि वे अपना कार्य आसानी से पूर्ण कर सकें। नाहटा माई सिटी परियोजना के अंतर्गत राजस्थान महापौर सम्मेलन में बोल रहे थे।

नहीं किया जाता है। नगर निगम के कर्मचारियों द्वारा जन प्रतिनिधि व महापौर को सहयोग नहीं किया जाता है। सरकार द्वारा महापौर के लिए कभी कोई मंच उपलब्ध नहीं कराया गया है जहां वे अपनी समस्याओं से सरकार को अवगत करा सकें।

भरतपुर के महापोर शिव सिंह भॉट ने कहा कि भरतपुर निगम में कर्मचारियों के साथ साथ संसाधनों की भी कमी है। अगर संसाधनों की उपलब्धता एवं वार्ड कमेटी का गठन हो तो हम अपनी सेवाओं की गुणवत्ता में सुधार कर सकते हैं। महापोर को अधिक शक्तियां मिलनी चाहिए व सरकार का उसमें हस्तक्षेप नहीं होना चाहिए। भरतपुर के उपमहापोर ने कहा कि एक समान न होकर वहाँ की स्थानीय आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार होनी चाहिए।

ऐसा कोई मंच नहीं, जहां बता
सके सरकार को अपनी पीड़ा

जयपुर में बोले - कोटा के महापौर महेश विजय

अन्य दशा का तरह महापार
को भी मिले अधिकार

नवज्योति/कोटा

कोटा के महापार महेश विजयवर्गीय ने कहा कि कोटा में सफाई की प्रेरणानी है।

होटल में आयोजित संस्था के कार्यक्रम में यह पीड़ा व्यक्त की। जयपुर के महापौर निर्मल नाहटा ने कहा कि स्थानीय सरकार के जगत्रितिनिधियों को भी अधिक शक्तियां दी जानी चाहिए, जिससे वे अपना कार्य असामानी से पूर्ण कर सकें। साथ ही बढ़ते शहरीकरण में आमजन को मुलभूत सुविधाएं मुहूर्या का जवानी को जरूरत है, जिसमें जनना का भी सहयोग जरूरी है। भरतपुर के महापौर शिव सिंह खेंट ने कहा कि भरतपुर निगम में कर्मचारियों के साथ-साथ संसाधनों की भी कमी है। अमर संसाधनों की उपलब्धता एवं वार्ड कमेटी का गठन हो तो हम अपनी सेवाओं की उपलब्धता में सुधार ला सकते हैं। अन्य दौशों को दरह भारत में भी महापौर को अधिक शक्तियां मिलानी चाहिए। सरकार उनमें हस्तक्षेप नहीं करें। भरतपुर के उपमहापौर इन्द्रलाल सिंह ने कहा कि शहरों को जोनाएं एक समान न बोरकर वाह की स्थानीय आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार होनी चाहिए।