

Report

**Mayors' Conference
Rajasthan City
Mayors' Learning Platform (RCMLP) Project**

**April 10, 2017
Hotel Country Inn, Jaipur, Rajasthan**



Context

CUTS in partnership with The Asia Foundation, created a 'Rajasthan City Mayors' Learning Platform (RCMLP)' with specific objective to improve the urban governance in Rajasthan through sharing of best experiences and learning of each other. Under this project, CUTS is organizing mayors' conferences, knowledge enhancement workshops for officials and exposure visit for Mayors. This platform is being used to discuss the larger issues of urban local governance.

In the series of mayors' conferences, fifth Mayors' Conference was organised at Hotel Country Inn, Jaipur with active collaboration of Jaipur Municipal Corporation on Monday, April 10, 2017.



Participation

The conference was witnessed with the presence of Justice VS Dave (Retd), Dr. Ashok Lahoti, Mayor of Jaipur; Ghanshyam Ojha, Mayor of Jodhpur; Shiv Singh Bhont, Mayor of Bharatpur; Narayan Chopra, Mayor of Bikaner; Manjubala Purohit, Chairperson of Banswara; Sangita Pareek, Chairperson of Ladnu and Mahavir Modi, Chairperson of Bundi. Ramavtar Raghuvanshi (Retd. IAS), Former Director, All India Institute of Local Self Government-Rajasthan and few other officials of ULBs were present in the meeting.

Proceedings



Conference commenced with the welcome address by Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS which was followed by the opening remarks from George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS in which he highlighted recent ranking of cities done by Janaagaraha. Out of 21 Cities, Jaipur was in 6th position in designing and planning but 21 positions in Transparency and Peoples participation. CUTS initiated people's participation through its intervention named My City. It was felt during course of project implementation that cities only can be strengthening by empowering city mayors. To further address the issue, Rajasthan City Mayors Learning Platform (RCMLP) initiated by CUTS. Mayors, deputy mayors and chairpersons of various urban local bodies takes part in this platform to learn from others experiences. This is an exclusive platform for Mayors of Rajasthan state to discuss the issues of urban local governance and learning on sharing basis.



Amar Deep Singh while sharing the overview of RCMLP talked about activities conducted so far and the key learning. Since there was strong need felt to institutionalize this City Mayors Learning Platform, He also briefed about the activities under taken throughout the tenure of this project.

Dr. Ashok Lahoti, Hon'ble Mayor of Jaipur while delivering his inaugural speech in Mayors' Conference he said that there are more than nine development agencies working for several infrastructure works in Jaipur but there is no cooperation between those agencies,. All these agencies should come under one umbrella for better cooperation and implementation.

He also stated that there are several issues in urban local governance, but we need to focus on specific selected issues.



Cities in South have number of good practices since 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA) is being properly implemented. Duties and rights are not clear. He highlighted several issues which are still need to be addressed and are very basic like housing for all, potholes in road, increasing revenue of JMC etc. Smart City and other big project are in also need to implement. He showed interest to continue City Mayors Learning Platform and also informed that Jaipur Municipal Corporation is planning to organise World City Mayors' Conference in Jaipur. Matter is being discussed with State Government. He expressed that CUTS can be one of the organising partner of this event.



Justice (Retd.) VS Dave, Former Chairmen of Supreme Court's Empowered Committee on World Class City shared his thoughts and experience about urban local governance. He mentioned that ward committees should be formed as per constitutional provisions. Without ward committees, peoples participation cannot be ensured, which is very crucial for success of any urban project. He stated that there is lack of cooperation and coordination among development agencies and departments. Such Mayors Platform or forum should be there for heads of ULBs to discuss larger city issues.

Satyapal Singh, Project Officer, CUTS shared the key learning from Hyderabad exposure visit of Rajasthan Mayors' in which he talked about the sanitation workers group management and major learning from the visit of integrated solid waste management site of Jawahar Nagar and hazardous solid waste management plant of Bachupally and experiences of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.



Ghanshyam Ojha, Jodhpur Mayor shared the experiences of the Hyderabad city exposure visit and talked about the public participation and focused on putting things online so that everything can be accessed by common public easily and which will definitely decrease the corruption, and make things speedy. We need to work on basic structure and try to bring civic amenity service providers under one umbrella so that better coordination can be developed. He gave an example various municipal corporation like Hyderabad, Bangalore and Surat which are really working well in the field of revenue collection.



Shiv Singh Bhont, Bharatpur Mayor also shared non-cooperative behaviour of the administration and Government and insufficient fund to implement their programmes. Proper planning of the programmes is missing. He also stated that sewage infrastructure work is not all discussed with Municipal Corporation it is not as per proper planning. Narayan Chopra, Mayor Bikaner shared his experiences and difficulties they are facing in implementation of the programme and lack of support from administration.

Manju Bala Purohit Chairman, Municipal Council of Banswara, spoke on the unavailability of experienced staff and lack of coordination among the service delivery departments. Sangita Pareek Chairman, Ladnu talked about the lack of funds for the execution of service delivery. State government should provide more funds for smooth functioning of ULBs. She shared one of the best practices about banning plastic bags in the city. They got award from the Chief Minister of Rajasthan for implementation



of plastic ban. Mahavir Modi, Chairman, Bundi, unlike others he said that they are not facing any kind of problem in service delivery, as commissioner and all departments are working well together for development of the City. Officials working in their council are providing good support to elected representative and making city more livable. One of the initiative ‘Rang De Bundi’ got attention of participants.



Under this initiative, walls of cities were painted with the support of citizens.



Ramavtar Raghuvanshi (Retd. IAS), Former Director, All India Institute of Local Self Government-Rajasthan, shared his experiences when he was member of 13th finance commission. He cited the example of Hyderabad, Bangalore and Surat ULBs, which earlier were facing fund deficits; now represent as best ULBs of our county. Credit goes to their well-defined taxation policies which are known as ‘Tax without tears’ policies, decentralisation of powers and public participation. Other officials also took active part in the discussion.

Summing up and Vote of Thanks

At the conclusion of event, Amar Deep Singh summarized the discussion took place in the conference. He mentioned that since there is need felt by participants to sustain this platform, Mayors need to take agenda forward. In common consensus, resolution has been passed to continue Rajasthan City Mayors' Learning Platform. Ghanshyam Ojha, Jodhpur Mayor was elected as chairperson of the platform and he along with Jaipur Mayor will discuss next meeting plan. Amar Deep Singh proposed vote of thanks to all the delegates to take part in the event.

Programmed Schedule

10:30-11:00 AM	Informal Discussion with Tea	
11:00-12:00	<p>Welcome Address: <i>Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks: <i>George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International</i></p> <p>Brief Overview of Rajasthan City Mayors Learning Platform</p> <p>Inaugural Address: Dr. Ashok Lahoti, <i>Hon'ble Mayor of Jaipur</i></p> <p>Address by Guest of Honour: Justice VS Dave (Retd), <i>Former Chairperson, Supreme Court's Empowered Committees on World Class City</i></p> <p>Sharing of learning from Hyderabad visit by Mayors of Rajasthan -<i>Hon'ble Mayors and CUTS Team</i></p>	
12:00-12:30	<p>Address by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ashok Lahoti, <i>Hon'ble Mayor of Jaipur</i> • Sh. Ghanshyam Ojha, <i>Hon'ble Mayor of Jodhpur</i> • Sh. Shiv Singh Bhont, <i>Hon'ble Mayor of Bharatpur</i> • Sh. Narayan Chopra, <i>Hon'ble Mayor of Bikaner</i> • Sh. Ramavtar Raghuvanshi (Retd. IAS), <i>Former Director, All India Institute of Local Self Government-Rajasthan</i> 	
12:30-01:05	<p>Future of Rajasthan City Mayors' Learning Platform and Way Forward</p> <p>Hon'ble Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Chairperson of ULBs</p>	<p>Chair by : Sh. Ghanshyam Ojha, <i>Hon'ble Mayor of Jodhpur</i></p>
01:05 - 01.15	<p>Summing up & Vote of Thanks:</p> <p><i>Amar Deep Singh, CUTS</i></p>	
01.15 PM Onwards	Lunch	

‘शहरी विकास के लिए कार्यरत विभागों में समन्वय की आवश्यकता’

जयपुर (कासं)। जयपुर नगर निगम के महापौर डॉ. अशोक लाहोटी ने कहा कि जयपुर शहर में नौ से ज्यादा एजेन्सीज या विभाग शहर के विकास के लिए कार्य कर रहे हैं, जिनमें समन्वय की कमी है। इस मुद्दे पर भी सरकार को अपना ध्यान केन्द्रित करना चाहिए।

विकास कार्य बिना किसी विभागीय समन्वय के गति नहीं पकड़ पाते हैं। शहरी विकास के कार्य में लगी सभी एजेन्सियों को एक छत के नीचे लाना होगा ताकि बेहतर समन्वय के साथ कार्य हो सके। डॉ. अशोक लाहोटी ने ये विचार ‘कट्स’ की

ओर से आयोजित मेयर कॉन्फ्रेंस के उद्घाटन सत्र में व्यक्त किए।

उक्त कार्यक्रम राजस्थान सिटी मेयर लर्निंग प्लेटफॉर्म के तहत जयपुर नगर निगम के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में आयोजित किया गया। उन्होंने बताया कि जयपुर शहर की मूलभूत आवश्यकता जैसे सभी को आवास, सड़कों की स्थिति व वित्तीय संसाधनों का विकास पर जोर देने की आवश्यकता है। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा गठित एम्पावर्ड कमेटी के पूर्व अध्यक्ष जस्टिस वी.एस. दवे ने बताया कि 74वें संविधान

संशोधन के अनुसार शहरी निकायों को बहुत से अधिकार दिए गए हैं। इनमें मुख्य बात वार्ड कमेटियों के गठन की है। लेकिन राजस्थान में अभी तक वार्ड कमेटियों का गठन नहीं हुआ है।

स्थानीय शहरी निकाय वार्ड कमेटियों का गठन कर विकास कार्यों में नागरिकों की भागीदारी बढ़ा सकते हैं। जोधपुर के महापौर घनश्याम ओझा ने कहा कि राज्य के बाहर के अन्य बड़े शहरों में स्थानीय नागरिकों की सेवाएं ऑनलाइन तरीके से प्राप्त हो रही है। राजस्थान में भी स्थानीय निकायों को इस दिशा में कार्य करना होगा

ताकि नागरिकों को बेहतर सेवाएं स्थानीय निकाय प्रदान कर सकें और भ्रष्टाचार का खात्मा हो सके। इसके साथ ही उन्होंने कहा कि विकास कार्यों में सभी विभागों में समन्वय होना जरूरी है। अभी किसी शहर में यह ज्ञात नहीं किया जा सकता कि नगर निगम के अधीन कौनसी सड़क है, यू.आई.टी. और जेडीए की कौनसी है। इससे पूर्व ‘कट्स’ के निदेशक जॉर्ज चेरियन ने जनाग्रहा द्वारा विभिन्न नगरों को दिए गए श्रेणी क्रम के बारे में बताते हुए कहा कि 21 शहरों में से जयपुर का डिजाइनिंग और प्लानिंग में छठा स्थान है।