

# ROAD TO SMART CITIES AND SMART VILLAGES: GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

**Dr. Jayshree Singh**

*Lecturer, Head, Department of English,  
Bhupal Nobles Post Graduate College, Udaipur.*

## **Abstract**

*In contemporary times the people of India have got unexpected opportunities through innovations in science, technology and education to focus on urban reforms. According to Gurucharan Das, a columnist for The Times of India, “the intriguing phrase 'smart cities' conjures a vision of technological and sustainable future for an aspiring India” (Sunday, 20 Dec., 2015). The idea of autonomy, governance, development and work culture have to be the prima facie of actions to execute the process of nation building and to imbibe an actual sense of life and work. As per the present social conduct and social responsibility of the stakeholders, bureaucrats and politicians, it appears that the representation of pseudo civil codes inherently and inadvertently neglects the sensitivities of land and capital. This paper attempts to follow up the questions that arise before us as citizens – how accountable are we to reform cities, protect greenbelts, preserve culture and nation, conserving energy and natural resources? – how capable are we to generate independent revenue sources through our self-designed, self-crafted, self-planned and self-propelled 'Start-Ups'? – how much can we fight against revenue-sharing arrangements of government in the form of taxes and service charges, corrupt services of public interest and exposure to emissions, polluted environment? – how far can India draw FDIs in the development of 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' to encourage 'Indiapreneur' program to boost the image of 'Incredible India'? – how should Indians make efforts to 'Stand Up' for age old ethical values of non-violence, tolerance, faith and solidarity to eliminate religious offensive attitudes and aggressive rationalist expression in our day to day interpersonal interaction within our pluralistic and multicultural society?*

## **Introduction**

The representatives of the people in parliament are thinking of motivating Indians to create, to search, connect and collaborate with the local and global sources to generate economic resources, so that their indigenous resources (both natural and intellectual) may be saved thereby ensuring sustainable development? Every Indian needs direction, a kind of mindset, to understand the process of growth and nation building, to follow new plans of self-entrepreneurship and self-development, so as to work towards a better tomorrow. Same is the goal of globalization, which is based on the talent, toil and tolerance of multicultural races. To embrace the

### **Regulating Labour via Technology**

A person equipped with technology can help a citizen or a labourer working in any area whether working for Swachch Abhiyan Yojna, Mudra Yojna, insuring the agricultural lands and farmers' life, facilitating tourists travel across the country, marketing or making available any day to day amenities, accessories and aids for advancing lifestyle or in basic skills like approaching banks, hospitals, trading-investment offices, education sector, social welfare and domestic zones. For instance these can be called 'Start Up's or 'Stand Up' potentialities to be explored by every Indian and every state government in order to be connected with the project of the central government 'Make in India' because more the employment possibilities, more the ordinary citizen will look for his or her enhancement and every family, whether possessing a girl/boy child, will attempt to perceive growth possibilities as a resource, as reinforcement, as potentiality, as investment, and as facility. For example One thousand Chinese enterprises are staking big bucks as investment in Haryana state to give pace to start up's in travel and tourism, banking and insurance, telecoms and internet and in e-commerce and business. The FDI investments in digitization of the state in various sectors will naturally broaden the spectrum of capital venture, locally and globally, but will also become efficient in competing with the U.S. and U.K. sources of social and economic capital. Similarly, in Rajasthan, the state government has taken lead through its Resurgent Rajasthan Partnership Summit 2015, in view of being in with the Make in India policy across India, to attract investment from private sectors to sensitise the opportunities in the field of tourism, smart cities, urban infrastructure i.e. highways, transportation and medical units for the sake of 'Make in Rajasthan'. Many leading tycoons of industrial world, both national and international, have agreed to coordinate with this program.

### **Models for Success in Times of Crisis**

We should learn from role model narratives such as Dilip Singh Maliviya, an elderly artisan from Bhojapura village in Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh, who has come forward to lend free services as labour if anybody donates toilets for the village. Another example from Rajasthan is of Rajendra Singh who has been working for three decades as 'Jal Yodhas'( Amanda, 2005), water warriors who harvest rainwater to replenish underground water and they have restored water in Rajasthan's traditional earthen dams to overcome urban water shortages and have even settled many violent political frictions over this social cause. It is one of Environment Ministry's biggest projects to boost conservation practices and to initiate efforts for conserving eco – tipping points and renewable energy and environmental resources. This should be prompted at every doorstep to increase the power of nation and the hope of nation.

Recently in the month of December, 2015, the central government has undertaken a global solar alliance with 120 countries at the Paris COP21 Climate Summit to bring access not just to clean energy, but also to get

sense of oneness and connectedness, it is necessary to be smart locally to catch with every little job, to recognize every little effort and to step outside the barriers of traditional taboos, conventional modes and narrow mindset. The harmony, health and happiness are indispensable to growth, development and progress. For imbibing the techno-insight to map the road to smart cities following steps will make young generation efficient and self-sufficient:

### **Enhancement of Soft Skills**

In an article Bonala Kondal and Durga Prasad write that “Smart phones have become a very easy source of learning various language skills without much difficulty in one's pace within their free time productively. Different activities are available to the learners to find out skills with the help of mobile phone and internet connection. Smart phones combine functionality of a computer with all the facilities to access online materials to learn language skills such as listening, reading, writing, speaking, vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar” (IJELLS Vol.4, Issue 4: p. 111). The mobile facilitates day to day exchange of communication of all sorts, but if it is also equipped with certain applications downloads which can be a worthy tool to enhance soft skills located anywhere in India. Various Mobile Apps are available like Learn Listening English, Listening tests, IELTS listening, English listening, English daily listening, English listening practice, Advanced English listening Mobile Apps to Learn Speaking, Speak English, daily speak English, IELTS speaking practice, learn to speak English, English speaking course and practice speaking Mobile Apps to Learn Reading Reading comprehension, SSAT reading comprehension, English reading text and comprehend. Mobile Apps to Learn Writing Writer, book writer free, creative writing, English writing skills, easy writing free, writing prompts, general letter writing. Mobile Apps to Learn Vocabulary Test your English vocabulary, GRE English vocabulary, SAT vocabulary, vocabulary builder, vocabulary trainer and vocabulary cats. Mobile Apps to Learn Pronunciation English pronunciation sounds: pronunciation, pronunciation training, check pronunciation and perfect English pronunciation Mobile Apps to Learn Grammar British Council's learn English grammar, English grammar, practice English grammar, 600 English grammar tests, English grammar in use (115). These apps can not only personalize the learning strategies environment but also make learning easier, faster and self-propelling.

Once the young generation will know the use of mobile assisted language learning, it will be a supplementary aid in schools and colleges for computer based assisted learning and when there will be a better understanding of language whether it is Hindi or English. Naturally, communication skills both in interpersonal interaction and in business dealings, will be appropriate. Recently in the speech “Man Ki Baat” Prime Minister Modi emphatically stated “digitisation is an intellectual wealth and technology should be modified according to the needs of India” (Dec. 27, 2015).

electricity for villages and homes. This will not only give meaning to sharing technology with developed European countries, but it will also mobilize financial resources, encourage industrialists of India to revisualise their leadership in this vista of solar photovoltaic industry for the production of technologies and storage for solar energy. It is estimated that “The Indian government is investing an initial \$30m (£20m) in setting up the alliance's headquarters in India. The eventual goal is to raise \$400m from membership fees, and international agencies” (The Guardian, Dec. 2015)

### **Mapping Measures to Smart Cities and Villages**

If the Municipal Corporation and Urban Improvement Trust work beyond their political interest for the sake of the public, then no city or village can remain bereft of the of services leading to public welfare and social upliftment. In connection with the municipal governments' role in urban areas, the Vice-President of Frost & Sullivan Information and Communication Technologies Growth Consulting, Brian Cotton said, “As citizens demand higher levels of public safety and service from government, advanced data management tools and analytics can help mayors, police chiefs and city managers meet these demands. Such strategic use of data also tends to improve decision-making of not only representatives of people, but people themselves” ( The governance of cities has to control the cleaning of the garbage, to take charge of resources for renewable energy from the remains of fossil fuels, conserve energy and save deforestation, protect natural resources from contamination, install underground cable lines, sewerage lines for clean and safe drainage, conserve dilapidated monuments, old buildings, renovate old forgotten parks, maintain greenery in the surroundings and last but the most important road safety, traffic control and traffic rules and insurance. Further, govt. has to build domestic capabilities as regards independent digital innovations for security programs, intellectual property, trading and protection of investors, minimize the hassles of partnership levels by eliminating taxes and helping citizens to have more capital gains from self-capital ventures. In order to spark swadeshi talk, district and state level governance has to be bold enough to seek measures that can increase indigenous production, manufacture, design of software i.e. at micro level, such as railway stations, bus stations, highways, hotel-industries, sightseeing places, healthcare, communication etc. The government has to ensure the patent rights of software do not clash with the interest of the multi-national companies' commercial interest. The startups followed in this sector need free basic facilities, which requires monitoring during mobilization, because it can endanger security of overseas investors as well as the domestic tech companies. Many projects like cleaning of lakes, rivers, catchments, wetlands and paytm facility for the billing of electricity, water, telephone, mobiles as well as taxes are to be incorporated in start ups, where non-governmental organizations, volunteers, self-financed agencies can come to provide comfort and convenience on one hand, while on the other hand such services can be relaxed from taxed. Even the soft power industry from the point of tourism can be looked upon as start up to create such sources through which the handicrafts artisans, artists and writers can be brought forward either through incentives or through capacity awareness programs and development. The

Map for Attractions for tech and innovation biggies in IT, education and energy is unlimited for a country like India because there is immense scope to make India green and clean, there is still huge possibility to open up educational set ups for training and coaching, there is no dearth of workforce in Young India that still needs to be well equipped with computer and digital literacy.

### Conclusion

The only mission should be to overhaul and sensitise mindsets to contribute towards promoting India as the most preferred global manufacturing destination and change labour intensive economic activity as well as to encourage legal framework to raise capital for resolving insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings on job creation. It is well said in a blog that 'The intriguing phrase 'smart cities' conjures a vision of a technological and sustainable future for an aspiring India. Yet no one quite knows what it means, including those in charge. I believe the Indian city will only become 'smart' if it builds around the way Indians actually work and live; and second, if it seizes autonomy from state governments. Until our cities have directly elected, empowered mayors who can raise funds for the city, and to whom municipal commissioners report, urban India will not become 'smart' ( Gurucharan Das, Times of India, 2015).

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