

National Urban Conference on the Communities of Practice under SUDSC II project

Resilient Infrastructure . Digital Transformation . Municipal Finance

16-17 November 2023 | Fortune JP Palace, Mysuru | [Click to join online](#)

OBJECTIVE

The National Urban Conference on the Communities of Practice (CoP) under the Sustainable Urban Development – Smart Cities II (SUDSC II) project, which is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), seeks to support knowledge exchange on some of the contemporary urban topics for improving resilience of cities in the country. The conference will focus on co-creation of smart and sustainable urban solutions through peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and discussions on the topics identified under the communities of practice by partner cities, by bringing together experts and diverse stakeholders.

LOCALISED ACTIONS FOR URBAN RESILIENCE

Cities across the globe, including in India, are vulnerable to natural and human-induced disasters, derailing from achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These challenges are further aggravated by factors, such as rapid increase in population, unplanned urbanisation, increasing inequalities, environmental degradation, and climate change-induced vulnerabilities to disasters, among others. To address these challenges, it is imperative for communities, public and private sectors to respond effectively. At the global level, the New Urban Agenda and the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction call for a coordinated, integrated, inclusive, and risk-informed resilient development of cities based on four fundamental drivers: Policy and Legislation; Urban and Land Use Planning and Design; Governance; and Financing Mechanisms.

The session will discuss on 'building resilient cities' encompassing risk-informed development, disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and recovery. It will further discuss experiences of localised actions adopted by cities for addressing risks from climate-induced disasters, and for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Key discussion points

- Common and differentiated challenges faced by cities and solutions based on localised actions to address climate change-induced disasters.
- Strategies to engage local government, civil society, private sector, and other stakeholders to promote community-based disaster risk management plans and practices.
- Framework for mainstreaming the culture of dialogue and exchange on national and international good practices for building disaster resilience.
- Policy interventions and implementation of regulatory frameworks to support localisation efforts in states/cities.

Key questions

- How can cities effectively engage with its stakeholders to develop inclusive, community-based disaster risk management plans and practices?
- What are some of the good practices (policy, framework, plan, etc.) for disaster resilience that have been successfully implemented?

DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN URBAN GOVERNANCE

Efficient and intelligent management of resources is essential for a city's well-being. At an urban scale, digital solutions are vital to optimise planning, operationalising, and managing solutions for efficient urban governance. Further, digital tools can be used to demonstrate compliance within the regulatory framework. For instance, digitising circular economy approach for waste management optimises the business model by improving resource flow and empowers consumers to make

informed decisions. The Government of India has taken various initiatives through missions to promote digitalisation to bring efficiency, transparency, and accountability, such as NUDM, Swachh Bharat Mission, City Finance Ranking, etc.

The session will discuss pathways and experiences of digital technologies in urban governance in Indian cities. As a case study, the session will discuss how digitalisation can accelerate this transition to circular economy and enhance its benefits.

Urban Labs are multi-stakeholder format for innovative, data-based solutions for cities that follow principles of risk-informed, integrated, resilient, inclusive, and sustainable urban development. The Labs intend to implement innovative, data-based projects in the partner cities of SUDSC II project.

Key discussion points

- Digitalisation as a transformational strategy for urban governance
- National and international good practices on digitalisation of urban governance.
- Policy interventions, regulatory frameworks, and implementation to support digital strategies for good governance of cities.

Key questions

- How can digital interventions be effectively deployed for informed decision-making?
- What are the key drivers and challenges to implement digital solutions?
- What strategies can be adopted to bridge the digital divide across cities and gender? What role does government missions and schemes play in addressing this gap?

MUNICIPAL FINANCE

India is witnessing rapid urbanisation, with urban population projected to increase to over 600 million by 2031 and contributing to over two-third of the country's GDP. While rapid urbanisation brings enormous opportunities for economic growth, it also increases the roles and responsibilities of the local governments manifold. The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (74th CAA) had decentralised 18 functions from states to the city governments including transfer of funds, functions, and functionaries (3Fs). Currently, Indian cities face a huge mismatch between growing urban needs, responsibilities, and finances, limiting their capacity for efficient governance. Appropriate urban governance with sound municipal finances is critical for the sustainable development and provision of quality municipal services to citizens.

This session will deliberate on current issues and challenges and good practices related to municipal finance in cities across India.

Key discussion points

- Challenges faced by cities regarding municipal revenues and finance.
- Strategies to bridge gaps between policy, plans and practice on municipal finance.
- Key steps for municipal borrowing and accessing capital markets for project financing and service delivery.
- Steps to address lack of credible and verifiable municipal finance data.

Key questions

- What are the challenges and roadblocks for generating municipal revenues and finances? How can the gaps between policy, plans, and practice with regards to municipal finance in Indian cities be bridged?
- What are the strategies to strengthen the existing ecosystem, which can enable ULBs to access capital market?
- What are the various financing instruments available to support implementation of localised urban resilience projects?
- In what ways can municipalities leverage technology and data analytics to improve financial planning, revenue collection, and expenditure monitoring?

AGENDA

DAY 1: 16 November 2023 (Thursday)

TIME	DETAILS
09:30 – 10:00	REGISTRATION
10:00 – 10:45	INAUGURAL SESSION Welcome address Dr Teresa Kerber Project Director, Sustainable Urban Development – Smart Cities II (SUDSC II), GIZ Keynote address Mr Dinesh Kapila Economic Adviser, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Govt. of India Vote of thanks Ms Tora Saikia Technical Advisor, SUDSC II, GIZ
10:45 – 11:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11:00 – 13:00	SESSION 1: LOCALISED ACTIONS FOR URBAN RESILIENCE Moderator Mr Surendra Thakur Jt. Director, National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India Panellists Prof. Dr N. Sridharan Former Director, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh Ms Sriparna Iyer Vice President, IPE Global Limited, New Delhi Ms Jaya Dhindaw Executive Director – Sustainable Cities, World Resources Institute (WRI) India Ms Magdalena Hoerst International Expert on Disaster Risk Reduction, Germany
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:00	SHARING EXPERIENCES ON URBAN LABS SET ACROSS CITIES Introduction Dr Teresa Kerber Project Director, SUDSC II, GIZ Presentations Mr Mario Donga and Ms Magdalena Hoerst Dr Florian Bemmerlein-Lux, Mr Luigi Cipolla, and Mr Neelabh Singh International Experts on Digital Transformation and Disaster Risk Reduction
15:00 – 15:15	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
15:15 – 17:00	SESSION 2: DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN URBAN GOVERNANCE Moderator Mr Dinesh Kapila Economic Adviser, MoHUA, Govt. of India Panellists Mr Manpreet Singh Chief Program Officer – National Urban Digital Mission, National Institute of Urban Affairs Mr Ulhas Parlikar Board Director, Material Recycling Association of India, Bengaluru Mr Aneel K. Advisor – Smart City Consultant, Hyderabad Mr Luigi Cipolla International Expert on Digital Transformation

17:00 – 17:30	CLOSING REMARKS
	<p>Mr Gaurav Kumar Jha Joint Director (Housing Division), MoHUA, Govt. of India</p> <p>Dr Teresa Kerber Project Director, SUDSC II, GIZ</p>

DAY 2: 17 November 2023 (Friday)

TIME	DETAILS
10:00 – 10:30	RECAP OF DAY 1
	<p>Mr Neelabh Singh INTEGRATION International Management Consultants GmbH, Germany</p> <p>Mr Kiran Rajashekariah Senior Advisor, SUDSC II, GIZ</p>
10:30 – 10:45	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
10:45 – 13:00	SESSION 3: MUNICIPAL FINANCE – ROADMAP FOR INDIAN CITIES
	<p>Moderator Mr Dinesh Kapila Economic Adviser, MoHUA, Govt. of India</p> <p>Panellists Ms Sujatha Srikumar Promotor Director, Power Tech Engineering, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh</p> <p>Mr Prabhat Kumar Head – Public Finance Management, Janaagraha, Bengaluru, Karnataka</p> <p>Dr Debolina Kundu Professor, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi</p> <p>Mr Neejyoti Das Assistant Town Planner, Guwahati Municipal Corporation, Assam</p> <p>Summing up and way forward Mr Gaurav Kumar Jha Joint Director (Housing Division), MoHUA, Govt. of India</p>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 17:00	OPEN HOUSE
	Discussion on key findings

DAY 3: 18 November 2023 (Saturday)

TIME	DETAILS
10:30 – 13:00	SITE VISIT
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH AT HOTEL
14:30 – 17:00	SITE VISIT