Visakhapatnam Urban Living Lab Inauguration

Project T-CAP

Transformative Climate Action using Participatory data driven decision making platforms

17th of May, 2023

Venue: *Nautica Hall, Hotel Novotel*

Introduction:

The big data revolution has fundamentally changed how data is viewed, collected, and used. Individuals, organizations, and governments are increasingly relying on data for the insights it generates and the potential it holds to radically transform approaches to most problems, including actions related to climate change impacts. Specifically in the context of cities, the use of data to inform planning and governance could help formulate an accurate understanding of, and consequently better manage cities. With rapid urbanisation, cities are facing complex challenges. Ever-increasing and unsustainable urban expansion, the lack of basic service delivery, existing societal inequalities and climate change-induced impacts are all exacerbating persistent developmental and organizational challenges in cities. The smart city, with its ubiquitous use of data-driven technologies, is being imagined to be a response to many urban problems. Several smart city projects globally, have explored and adopted to varying extents the use of data and its many forms. The use of sensor based data collected from sources like smart meters, street lights, even smart phones have enabled such data to inform the usage of energy and resources to further sustainable and efficient use; data from geospatial technology has aided the design of cities, around optimal routes, points for connecting mode of transportation and even serve to better equip law enforcement, delivery of services amongst many. Further, crowdsourced data from feedback applications such as communication apps provides insight into the interactions between residents and the city. In addition to these types, increasing access to 'real time data' or 'fast data' has enabled tracking of environmental conditions to aid in predictions. In essence, these various forms of data are contributing to advanced and speedy governance and response mechanisms.

Therefore, there is clear recognition in the benefits of data for the regulation and governance of cities, and smart cities have begun to adopt data science toward achieving transformative climate action to bolster urban development and governance mechanism.

The introduction of Integrated Command and Control Centre's (ICCC) which are technology-enabled systems that integrate multiple urban services, such as traffic management, public safety, emergency response, and other municipal services, to provide a comprehensive view of the city's functioning, have helped propel data driven decision making further. It has helped the city authorities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of urban service delivery, enhance public safety, and support better decision-making by providing real-time data.

However, smart cities in general have received criticism from scholars who argue that the introduction of new technologies tend to heighten contemporary forms of inequalities. This has led

to the exclusion of citizens, particularly marginalised communities such as the poor and the digitally illiterate from not only the benefits of the data driven planning and decision making but has also caused them to be underrepresented in the data the city might collect.

Through the concept of an Urban Living Lab (ULL), collaborations can be facilitated amongst a wide range of stakeholders, including citizens, affected groups, academia, businesses, non-profit organizations, and research institutions. By bringing together these diverse perspectives, urban living labs can encourage a re-evaluation, re-assessment, and even a revision of urban planning practices. It can play a crucial role in promoting participatory data-driven governance for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and leveraging systemic urban change by providing a platform for collaborative problem-solving through experimentation, testing and scaling innovative solutions, and engaging citizens in decision-making.

Introducing ULL in Visakhapatnam will help in promoting collaborative actions towards anticipated and existing climatic challenges by using real time data sets to enhance and connect various urban thematic for development and planning. It will provide an environment for affected groups, citizen welfare associations, academia, businesses, NGO/CSO's to voice their opinions, co-create innovative solutions and bring about a systemic change for sustainable development. Moreover, it will provide handholding support to capacitate the officials in utilizing appropriate and sustainable solutions towards climate action.

Tentative Agenda

Timings	Session
9:30 am to 10:30 am (60 mins)	**Registration and Tea/Coffee**
10:30 am to 10:40 am (10 mins)	**Lighting the inaugural lamp** **Welcome Remarks –** Shri. Sanjay Seth – Senior Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Programme, TERI
10:40 am to 11:00 am (20 mins)	**Special Address** by Hon'ble Commissioner GVMC – Shri. C.M Saikanth Varma, IAS **Special Address** by Hon'ble Mayor GVMC – Smt. Golagani Hari Venkata Kumari
11:00 am to 11:15 am (15 mins)	**Project Presentation –** Dr. Himanshu Shekhar, Associate Academic Officer, United Nations University (Lead) *Supported by* Mr. Sarath Babu M.G., Lead, C-CUBE, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and Mr. Sharif Qamar, Associate Director, Transport and Urban Governance, TERI
11:15 am to 11:25 am (10 mins)	**Introduction to ULL –** Ms. Shiren Pandita- Research Associate, Transport and Urban Governance, TERI
11:25 am to 11:35 am (10 mins)	**Inauguration of ULL**
11:35 am to 11:45 am (10 mins)	**Current Scenario – Visakhapatnam (Impacts of Climate Change)** By GVMC
11:45 am to 11:55 am (10 mins)	**Ice breaking session –** Mentimeter exercise
11:55 am to 01:05 pm (70 mins)	**Interactive exercise-** Climate actions and leveraging digital solutions
01:05 pm to 01:10 pm (5 mins)	**Vote of Thanks:** Mr. Sharif Qamar, Associate Director, Transport and Urban Governance, TERI
01:10 onwards	**Lunch**