

The Making of Smart Cities



Ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the creation of 100 smart cities by 2024, the optimists and naysayers are divided in their opinion. With a few calling it a grand vision while others not doubting the intent, but the execution of such a mammoth project in a country like India where getting a dug up road repaired takes months. However, this initiative has created a huge potential for firms in the areas of water, sustainable energy sources, construction, environment, transport, waste management, security, weather forecasting, healthcare to name a few. And there is every possibility of making it a reality if the government's intent is absolute was the consensus at the first in the Series of seminars on 'Smart Cities in India: Reality in the Making' co-hosted by the World Trade Centre Mumbai, AIAI and the Indo French Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IFCCI) in Mumbai last week



Smart cities will require smart investments. According to the government estimate for such an ambitious project, investment requirement would be in the tune of 1.2 trillion USD over the next 20 years. So how do these smart cities of Modi's vision would be Smart cities will have smart buildings and these smart buildings would save up to 30% of water usage, 40% of energy usage and save building

Waste Management: Dr. Amiya Kumar Sahu, Founder, National Solid Waste Association of India (NSWAI), pointed out that our country has remained oblivious to the needs of garbage

and waste management, a prerequisite for any smart city.

Smart cities must be built in a designated area far away from the existing large metropolises so as to keep these cities insulated from outside waste. This will ensure clean air and clean water," he said.

According to Sahu a major challenge before the smart cities will be the management of e-waste. "Smart cities will generate and absorb a huge amount of high-tech gadgets resulting in huge quantity of e-waste. This will pose great environmental threat to these cities," he said.

“Further, modern lifestyle and change in food habits will lead to enormous amount of dry waste which needs to be treated. Therefore the aim of the smart cities should be to promote zero garbage concept by handling waste properly,” he added. According to Dr. Sahu, waste can be recycled to produce energy and he advocated the setting up of waste – based power plants owned by the public sector.

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