

Week 4 - Lessons from the Indian Government

“The Smart Cities Mission of Prime Minister Modi”

29th July 2019 | Tay Kok-Chin, Chairman, Smart Cities Network

When Narendra Modi won the Indian elections in 2014, one of the first things he did was to launch the Smart Cities Mission as a development strategy for India.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smart_Cities_Mission

"100 Smart Cities Mission" was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 June 2015. A total of ₹98,000 crore (US\$14 billion) has been approved by the Indian Cabinet for the development of 100 smart cities and the rejuvenation of 500 others."

There are important lessons (i.e. Budget, Challenge and Deliver) from such a national scale movement for smart cities.

1) Allocation of Budget for Smart Cities Development

The Indian government was willing to allocate a budget for State Governments across India to develop the first 100 Smart Cities over a 5-year period.

2) Smart City Challenge - State Level Competition

Every State government in India was supposed to nominate cities who are willing to embark on Smart Cities via the Challenge format. This means they need to justify why they want to become Smart Cities.

Each selected Smart City was asked to setup a separate company or Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to conduct the development of the city.

3) Deliver Infrastructure Projects and Improve Quality of Life for the citizens

Projects by Smart Cities range from Smart Infrastructure (Command and Control Centres, Smart Waste Management, Smart Solar, Smart Water and Smart Road) to Public-Private Partnership projects.

The delivery of such projects should ultimately improve the quality of life for the citizens through the use of innovations and technology by the city government and the community.