

Changing Dimensions of Urban Planning in India

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Abstract

Urban planning has been currently practiced in India with essential concerns by focusing on the use and development of land in the cities. Development is merely seen as physical manifestation in most of the town planning legislation. The 74th Constitutional Amendment stipulated that the state should endow Municipalities with necessary powers to prepare plans for economic development and social justice. The basic notion of inclusive growth and environmental sustainability are not explicitly incorporated in the town planning in the urban cities. It would therefore be useful to briefly trace the evolution and challenges of urban planning in the context of evolving development strategy. In this paper we have to discuss the comparative analysis of urban planning's.

Keywords: Urban Planning, JNNRUM, AMRUT, SBM, SCM& HRIDAY.

Introduction

Urbanization is inevitable during the process of economic growth. However, growth of large cities is not desirable. Such growth needs to be limited firstly by promoting small and medium towns and secondly by developing new towns. Despite such efforts, when large cities continue to grow, the continued growth of mixed-use, high density in inner city areas is not desirable. The Task Force on Planning of Urban Development appointed by the Planning Commission for the first time comprehensively examined the urbanisation and urban development. It asserted in 1983 "It must be understood that urbanisation is a phenomenon which is part and parcel of economic development in general". It is a natural consequence of economic changes that take place as a country develops. Certain activities are better performed in, indeed require, agglomeration of people while others do not. Planning an urban space won't be any good if we approach it with tunnel vision. Each aspect of a city is intricately linked with the other. If we think of developing housing, there are several aspects like water supply, electricity, garbage disposal etc. to also look at. Holistic development needs to address economic growth, employment, social change. At the same time, it needs to deal with economic deprivation, environmental degradation, waste management, and proper utilisation of space.

Research Problem

Current thinking about urbanization and urban development can be estimated from the Eleventh Five Year plan. The vision of urban development included in the plan is; "Indian cities will be the locus and engine of economic growth over the next two decades, and the realization of an ambitious goal of 9%-10% growth in GDP depend fundamentally on making Indian cities much more livable, inclusive, bankable, and competitive." This is significant in explicitly recognizing the role of cities in achieving rapid economic growth. The current paper evaluates the nature of Development Programmes employed by government to improve the productivity of the cities and it also attempts to compare the program introduced after BJP Government coming into power with the program JNNRUM.

Objectives: The objectives of the study are:

- 1) To analyse the concept of urban planning in the context of India.
- 2) To compare JNNRUM with AMRUT, SWACH BHARAT MISSION, SMART CITY MISSION, HRIDAY.

Research Methodology

Secondary sources of data has been used to analyse the differences among the Programs. Majorly the government reports related to expenditure of various programs and Government website have been referred for reports.

Urban Planning in India

A High Powered Expert Committee (HPEC), set up by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), estimated that the investment requirement for providing adequate urban infrastructure and services in India during the 20-year period up to 2030 is approximately 39.2 lakh crore INR (at 2009–10 prices). To expedite investment and effective planning in urban infrastructure and service provision, the Government of India has been launching several schemes

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)

The turning point of bringing the urban development agenda into focus was achieved with the launch of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (**JNNURM**) in December 2005. JNNURM is the first massive urban development programme of the country and has established the foundation for large-scale central assistance to the urban sector. It was launched as a reform-driven and fast-track programme to catalyze planned development of identified cities. During 2014–15, the central government launched four new schemes to expedite urban infrastructure and service provision and replace JNNURM. These schemes are

- (1) The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (**AMRUT**), focusing on water supply and sewerage improvement;
- (2) **Smart Cities Mission** (SCM), aimed at developing smart solutions for selected urban areas;
- (3) **Swachh Bharat Mission** (SBM), focused on waste management and sanitation; and
- (4) **Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)**, for addressing the development of heritage cities.

AMRUT

The objective of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is to ensure that every household has access to a tap with assured supply of water and a sewerage connection; increase the amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well maintained open spaces (e.g. parks); and reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for non-motorized transport (e.g. walking and cycling). All these outcomes are valued by citizens, particularly women, and indicators and standards have been prescribed by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) in the form of Service Level Benchmarks (SLBs). Earlier, the MoUD used to give project-by-project sanctions.

In the AMRUT this has been replaced by approval of the State Annual Action Plan once a year by the MoUD and the States have to give project sanctions and approval at their end. In this way, the AMRUT makes States equal partners in planning and implementation of projects, thus actualizing the spirit of cooperative federalism. The total outlay for AMRUT is Rs. 50,000 crore for five years from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20 and the mission will be operated as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Smart Cities Mission

In the approach to the Smart Cities Mission, the objective is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment. The Smart Cities Mission of the Government is a bold, new initiative. It is meant to set examples that can be replicated both within and outside the Smart City, catalyzing the creation of similar Smart Cities in various regions and parts of the country. The core infrastructure elements in a Smart City would include:

- a) Adequate water supply,
- b) Assured electricity supply,
- c) Sanitation, including solid waste management,
- d) Efficient urban mobility and public transport,
- e) Affordable housing, especially for the poor,

- f) Robust IT connectivity and digitalization,
- g) Good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation
- h) Sustainable environment,
- i) Safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly, and
- j) Health and education.

Some typical features of comprehensive development in Smart Cities are:

- a) Promoting mixed land use in area-based developments by planning for 'unplanned areas'
- b) Housing and inclusiveness by expand housing opportunities for all;
- c) Creating walkable localities by reduce congestion, air pollution and resource depletion, boost local economy, promote interactions and ensure security.
- d) The road network is created or refurbished not only for vehicles and public transport, but also for pedestrians and cyclists;
- e) Preserving and developing open spaces like- parks, playgrounds, and recreational spaces;
- f) Promoting a variety of transport options;
- g) Making governance citizen-friendly and cost effective;
- h) Giving an identity to the city, based on its main economic activity, such as local cuisine, health, education, arts and craft, culture, sports goods, , hosiery, textile, dairy, etc.
- i) Applying Smart Solutions to infrastructure and services in area-based development

The mission will cover 100 cities and its duration will be five years (FY2015-16 to FY2019- 20). The total number of 100 Smart Cities have been distributed among the States and UTs on the basis of an equitable criteria. The formula gives equal weightage (50:50) to urban population of the State/UT and the number of statutory towns in the State/UT. Based on this formula, each State/UT will, therefore, have a certain number of potential smart cities, with each State/ UT having at least one. The smart city mission will be operated as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) and the Central Government proposes to give financial support to the mission to the extent of Rs. 48,000 crores over five years i.e. on an average Rs. 100 crores per city per year. An equal amount, on a matching basis, will have to be contributed by the State/ULB; therefore, nearly Rupees one lakh crores of Government/ULB funds will be available for smart cities development.

Swachh Bharat Mission

To achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on safe sanitation, the Prime Minister of India launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2October, 2014. The coordinator of the mission shall be Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) with two Sub-Missions, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), which aims to achieve Swachh Bharat by 2019, as a fitting tribute to the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, which in rural areas shall mean improving the levels of cleanliness in rural areas through Solid and Liquid Waste Management activities and making Gram Panchayats Open Defecation Free (ODF), clean and sanitized. ODF would mean the termination of fecal-oral transmission, defined as no visible feces found in the environment/village and, every household as well as public/community institution(s) using safe technology option for disposal of feces, as defined by the Ministry. The mission shall strive for this by removing the bottlenecks that were hindering the progress, including partial funding for Individual Household Latrines from MGNREGS, and focusing on critical issues affecting outcomes. The main objectives of the mission are to achieve "Swachh Bharat" by 2019 by bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation.

Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana

The scheme, with a focus on holistic development of heritage cities. The scheme aims to preserve and revitalize soul of the heritage city to reflect the city's unique character by encouraging aesthetically appealing, accessible, informative & secured environment. HRIDAY strategizes its efforts like planning, development, implementation and management for ensuring the sustainable growth of selected heritage cities in partnership with State

Governments. The scheme will work through a partnership of Government (Central/State/Local), private sector, academic institutions and local community, combining affordable technologies. The scheme will broadly focus on four theme areas i.e. physical infrastructure, institutional infrastructure, economic infrastructure & social infrastructure for reviving and revitalizing the soul of heritage city. HRIDAY is a central sector scheme, where 100% funding will be provided by Government of India. The duration of this scheme is four years i.e. from December 2014 to March 2018.

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF JNNURM AND AMRUT, SCM, SBM & HRIDAY

A comparative analysis is conducted on the differences between JNNURM and the new schemes introduced in 2014-15. The central allocation under JNNURM (UIG and UIDSSMT) at 2014-15 prices works out to be 62,283 crore INR for seven years. On the other hand, the combined central allocation under AMRUT, SCM, SBM-Urban and HRIDAY amounted to 1,13,123 crore INR for five years (two years for HRIDAY). Thus, allocation under the new missions is significantly higher than that under UIG and UIDSSMT. This is justified given that the geographical coverage of the new missions is higher than that of the previous mission. The sectors covered under JNNURM and the current missions overlap significantly. Water supply, sanitation, sewerage, SWM and storm water drainage appear to be top priorities across all missions.

JNNURM is a broad-based mission that simultaneously approaches various urban issues without prioritizing outcomes. On the other hand, the new missions have opted for a more focused and sector-oriented approach. This is because they follow a set list of national priorities (universal access to water under AMRUT), advocate a specific approach and method (Greenfield development, retrofitting and redevelopment under SCM), or are devoted to a particular theme or issue (heritage conservation under HRIDAY and sanitation under SBM). The urban sector components were earlier addressed through a single mission (JNNURM) these components have now been split across missions. The combined geographical coverage of the current missions is wider and more comprehensive than that of JNNURM. UIG and UIDSSMT together covered 736 cities and towns (where the 65 cities identified under UIG were chosen based on population). Under the new missions, almost all cities and towns of India are being covered under one or more missions.

In addition, the new missions have introduced some changes based on the learnings from JNNURM. For example, delayed availability and/or non-availability of land and clearances from the concerned departments have been a major reason for project delays under JNNURM. Hence, AMRUT prescribes that only projects, which have obtained clearances from the required departments and have ensured land availability, will be eligible for funding under AMRUT. Further, unlike the project-to-project sanctions provided under JNNURM, AMRUT emphasizes 'cooperative federalism' by making states equal partners in the planning and implementation of projects. Thus, states have been given a bigger role in decision-making and sanctioning of projects under the new missions.

Conclusion

JNNURM is a broad-based mission that simultaneously approaches various urban issues without prioritizing outcomes. On the other hand, the new missions have opted for a more focused and sector-oriented approach. The combined geographical coverage of the current missions is wider and more comprehensive than that of JNNURM. UIG and UIDSSMT together covered 736 cities and towns (where the 65 cities identified under UIG were chosen based on population). Under the new missions, almost all cities and towns of India are being covered under one or more missions. Further, city or town selection is more comprehensive under the new missions, as it is based on multiple evaluation criteria such as existing infrastructure, past performance (of JNNURM projects) and level of reform implementation, in addition to the urban population criterion mainly used under JNNURM.

The new missions are also complementary to each other and encourage states to access the funds available under different missions to address their deficits. For instance, AMRUT

and SCM have overlapping sectors but different focus areas and approaches. Unlike the project-to-project sanctions provided under JNNURM, AMRUT emphasizes 'cooperative federalism' by making states equal partners in the planning and implementation of projects.

Overall, we can conclude that while JNNURM simultaneously approached various objectives under one umbrella mission, the new missions have divided various urban development issues among themselves and focus on specific goals and objectives. The new missions have relied on the foundation built by JNNURM and incorporated the learnings from this scheme in developing their own strategy.

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