



# PREPARING FOR SMART CITIES

## Concept • Planning • Governance

*Civic BRICS Conference*  
*Organised by Observer Research Foundation*

*17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2016*

Jai Mahal Palace,  
Jaipur, India

---

The Observer Research Foundation proposes to conduct a Track 2 dialogue with other members of the BRICS on the subject of 'Smart Cities' from the 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> August 2016. To give the conference a federal character, ORF proposes to host the event in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

India has the second largest urban population with 410 million people, or over 30% of the population, living in urban areas in 2014. This number has increased rapidly since 1990, when 222 million people (26% of the population) inhabited urban areas and is expected to reach 840 million (50% of the population) by 2050. While urban areas offer higher levels of income and better living standards, the availability of basic urban services and infrastructure remains poor. To meet the growing demand of rapid urbanization, total investments of at least \$640.2 billion are needed. The funding gap is estimated at \$80–110 billion.

The Government of India, taking cognizance of the growing demands of and on urbanization, initiated the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in 2005 with the aim to encourage reforms and fast track planned development of identified cities. In 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Smart City initiative under which 100 will be equipped with the latest and most sustainable technologies and infrastructure.

This two-day conference will look to address various themes around the concept of 'Smart Cities' (such as Technological Solutions for Public Services Delivery, and Resource Mobilisation and Capacity Building). Deliberations will be focused around how the BRICS can cooperate to address the growing demands of urbanization and how they can together build Smart Cities.



## TENTATIVE PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

**DAY Zero: 17/08/2016**

### CONFERENCE RECEPTION

06:00 pm	INAUGURAL SESSION
06:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks by ORF (10 mins)
06:10	Theme Address by 5 BRICS Representatives (10 mins each)
07:00	Keynote Address by State Government Minister / Official / Expert (20 mins)
07:20	Vote of Thanks by ORF (10 mins)
07:30	Conference Dinner

**DAY TWO: 18/08/2016**

### CONFERENCE SESSIONS

09:00 Conference Registration

**10:00 – 11:15 Session 1:** Designing Smart Cities- How can they be Innovative, Inclusive, Sustainable Urban Centers

This session will discuss the role of technology in “assessing the urban demographic”, and using Big Data to craft policy solutions for urban governance. It will also deliberate how private sector participation in urban governance can be leveraged - how to create a regulatory environment where companies which serve as the guardians of new technologies and user data can collaborate effectively with local governing councils.

**11.15 – 11.30 Tea / Coffee Break**

**11:30 – 12:45 Session 2:** Smart Cities and BRICS – Sharing Urban Planning Learning and Experience

This session will discuss urban planning processes followed in BRICS nations, essential features of urban plans including provisions for low income/disadvantaged communities, and the plan implementation experiences. Given the growing emphasis on making cities smart, the session will deliberate how best practices from BRICS member nations can be adopted according to country needs.

**12:45 – 14:00 Lunch**

**14:00 – 15:15 Session 3:** Smart Governance - Public Engagement in Governance



This session will discuss how the urban collective can be designed through technological platforms - can digital communities replace townhall meetings and community gatherings to offer governance recommendations? It will also deliberate upon responsive feedback mechanisms for e-governance and public delivery channels: can sentient technologies and artificial intelligence platforms enable a customised, user-friendly approach to smart cities?

**15:15 – 15:30 Tea / Coffee Break**

**15:30 – 16:45 Session 4: Technology and Public Services Delivery**

This session will discuss the experience of BRICS nations in e-governance initiatives relating to financial inclusion and public utilities delivery such as the Jan Dhan Yojana and the Bolsa Familia programme. It will also focus on fostering innovation by incubating urban governance start ups focused on public services delivery, creating “clusters” of private tech industries responsible for end-to-end delivery of public services through contracts.

### DAY THREE: 19/08/2016

09:00 Conference Registration

**10:00 – 11:15 Session 5: Resource Mobilisation and Capacity Building – Finance and Human Resources**

This session looks to explore two challenges facing the creation of smart cities. First is that of revenue mobilization - implementation of urban development projects and city management is severely affected by the non-availability of funds. Discussions will focus on how to raise financing from the private sector, and multilateral development agencies such as the NDB, to bridge this shortfall. Second challenge is that of human expertise needed to prepare and implement smart city plans. There exists a knowledge-gap among stakeholders about formulating smart and realistic strategies for various urban sectors, or about how to run cities. A collaborative effort of BRICS nations, where best practices are shared, and training programmes are conducted to strengthen institutional capacities, is required.

**11.15 – 11:30 Tea / Coffee Break**

**11:30 – 12.45 Session 6: Smart cities are Safe Cities - Old and New Safety and Security Concerns**

This session will throw light on the diverse safety threats confronting cities in BRICS nations and the mechanisms to be developed for ensuring peace, harmony and security. The enormous concentration of population and economic activities in cities results in generation of huge revenue. Furthermore, city inhabitants represent people belonging to various social, cultural, religious and economic backgrounds. When triggered by internal and/or external forces, the prevailing conditions become ideal for cities becoming vulnerable to numerous kinds of attacks, violence and conflict.

**12:45 VALEDICTORY SESSION**

12:45 Concluding Remarks by 5 BRICS Representatives (5 mins each)



Ministry of External Affairs  
Government of India



**ORF** OBSERVER  
RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION  
Ideas · Forums · Leadership · Impact

- 01.10 Valedictory Address by State Government Minister / Official / Expert (20 mins)
- 01:30 Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks by ORF
- 01:35 End of Conference

**13:35 Lunch**