Smart City ideas begin to flow from IT capital

Even as the Narendra Modi government has started working on its ambitious 100 smart cities plan, think tanks have plunged into consultation exercises here. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has started a regional dialogue on providing solutions, with emphasis on increasing and integrating intelligence and technology usage to enable cities become smart.

At a session on Tuesday, ‘Think out of the box’ emerged the buzzword, a suggestion offered by R K Pachauri, director-general, TERI, and chairman, Inter-governmental Panel.

NEEDED: INTELLIGENT DESIGN, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

People seldom ask what type of building will be more sustainable than what the norms say. Smart technological packages are available to make smart buildings. Most importantly, transport infrastructure needs to be designed intelligently so that it can considerably increase sustainability. It is an exciting challenge to create 100 smart cities, just spread the policies across the country.

RK Pachauri | TERI DIRECTOR GENERAL

Let's not visualize plush green landscapes as smart cities. Increasingly, citizens don't need to commute to compute, which will take care of transport and pollution factors. By 2017, India will rank second after China in internet usage. Technology is an enabler, and it's inevitable to percolate the use of internet and technology through education, healthcare, governance, energy and even in construction.

Ayushik Choudhury | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CISCO GLOBALISATION CENTRE

Our town and country planning act is outdated. States need to think of economic development agencies, a national-state level urbanization agency and an implementing agency. Wisdom of the crowd is not placed in any of the schemes. A collaborative approach between government, businesses and citizens is a must. Lastly, outsmart those who have vested interests in running these operations.

V Ravichander | CHAIRMAN, FEEDBACK CONSULTING

The Centre and states should be working on the definition of smart as Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic and Time-bound. Think of making cities livable. Also, checking migration from rural to urban areas will enhance improvement of rural areas. Otherwise, if everyone moves to smart cities and they are to increase in numbers, the system will collapse.

Naresh V Narasimhan | PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT, VENKATARAMAN ASSOCIATES