



Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur- La Trobe University Research Academy



Monthly Webinar Series - Inaugural Lecture

24th January 2022 (11:00 – 12:00 AM IST, 4:30-5:30 PM AEDT)

“SMART CITIES MISSION IN INDIA”

by

Mr. Kunal Kumar



ABSTRACT: Smart Cities Mission in India was launched on 25 June 2015 with the objective to promote cities that provide core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment and give a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of ‘smart solutions’. Mission focus is on sustainable and inclusive development by creation of replicable models (through Area Based Development and Pan city development approaches) which act as lighthouses to other aspiring cities. India’s Smart Cities have been in the forefront in leveraging technology to manage cities especially during disasters like cyclones, floods, and health epidemics including the ongoing global pandemic of Covid-19. Integrated command & control centres (ICCCs) to help cities in evidence-based smart governance, have been operationalised in 75 cities and are in progress in another 25 cities. Going forward, the Mission targets to setup ICCCs in 100 Smart Cities during the year and the DataSmart Cities Strategy will be scaled up in 500 Cities by the end of the Mission. To facilitate secure and authenticated exchange of data amongst various data platforms, 3rd party applications, data producers and consumers, the Mission has operationalized India Urban Data eXchange (IUDX) during 2020-21. The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) was launched to institutionalize citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery across all cities and towns by 2024.

In this webinar, Mr Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary and Mission Director (Smart Cities Mission) at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, will provide an overview of India’s ‘Smart Cities Mission’, followed by Q&A.

This event launches a monthly webinar series on different topics around ‘Smart Cities’, under the IIT Kanpur-La Trobe University Research Academy by Professor Abhay Karandikar, Director, IIT Kanpur, India and Professor Susan Dodds, Acting Vice-Chancellor, La Trobe University, Australia.

BRIEF BIO OF THE SPEAKER: Mr. Kunal Kumar, IAS (Maharashtra Cadre, 1999 batch), holds the position of Joint Secretary & Mission Director (Smart Cities Mission), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India since May 2018. He has been working in the State of Maharashtra since 1999 and has served across various cities of Maharashtra. He worked as District Collector in three districts of Bhandara, Jalgaon and Aurangabad, and Municipal Commissioner in Kolhapur Municipal Corporation. He has also been Municipal Commissioner at Pune Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra for close to 4 years. His ambitious plan of “PUNE Towards Urban Transformation” of USD 5 Billion for transforming Pune over the next 5 years has been the foundation for Pune’s development effort in the recent future and its roadmap for the future.

Mr Kunal Kumar is an Electrical Engineering graduate from University of Roorkee (now IIT Roorkee), and Masters in Public Management from National University of Singapore jointly with Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, USA. He has presented several papers on e-Governance, which received awards/citations like the best e-governed district award for Jalgaon district nationally, the certificate of Appreciation for being a finalist in Manthan Award South Asia 2009. Moreover, he was awarded by the Prime Minister of India for excellence in AADHAR Governance award during his stint as District Collector of Aurangabad. His direction and leadership helped Pune City receive several international and national accolades and recognitions. He is also the winner of BW Business World award for the Smart City Person of the Year 2017. In his role as the Mission Director, Smart Cities Mission, Government of India, he is responsible for the nationwide implementation of what can be termed as the largest and most complex organized urbanization effort globally.

To join the above webinar, register at
https://latrobe.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7fyuCkN8QF25HytdXuvEpA