

WHEN A DISPUTE CAN BE REFERRED TO ARBITRATION

Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, Section 84, refers to dispute settlement wherein if any dispute (other than regarding action by a multi-state co-operative society against its paid employee or an industrial dispute, defined in clause (k) of Section 2 of the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947 (14 of 1947).



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Smart cities can improve quality of urban life

Smart cities are a concept that has been talked about for a while now. Here, we find out how these smart cities, when built, can improve the life of the people residing there

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With rapid increase in urbanisation, cities are becoming more complex to live in. As per the United Nations, we reached a tipping point in 2008 when the urban population crossed 50 per cent of the world population. By 2050, it is predicted that 64.1 per cent of the developing world and 85 per cent of the developed world, will be urbanised. This means that more than 6 billion people will be living in cities, almost double the number of people living in cities today. What does it mean for common citizens? Starting with poor predictability in transportation to increasing demand in public utilities and services, living in cities is quite challenging for individuals, impacting the quality of life. A smart

city leverages out-of-the-box solutions to simplify complex systems and provide scalable solutions for growing cities. A smart city is a concept in evolution which can not only arrest degradation in urban quality of life, but also improve it manifold. Smart cities deploy smart systems with real-time solutions for utilisation of the city's assets, without which, it will be difficult to address the growing needs of the increasing population.

India is also urbanising at an exceptional rate, with an estimation that 600 million Indians will be living in cities by 2030, up from 290 million in the 2001 census. Let us closely look at just one aspect of urban living - the 'Urban Commute'. Typical commutes for Indian citizens can vary from 30 to 90 minutes. Cities address this basic issue in multiple ways like building flyovers on arterial roads, development of multi-lane ring roads with constant flow of traffic, prevention of slow moving vehicles (like

trucks) during peak traffic times and alternate modes of public transportation like metro rails and mono rails. While these are important and more should be done, the above steps need to be supplemented with smart

planning. Development of infrastructure is capital intensive and time consuming and beyond a point, adding them can be prohibitively expensive. Smart cities deploy ICT in planning, backed by analytics and track the usage in real-time, so that these amenities are used in a smarter way to bring out maximum effectiveness and utilisation. Smart cities are gradually becoming real. Take the example of personal transportation where powerful navigation systems deploying GPS, have made driving in cities easier. Imagine a situation where your navigation system can help you to get to your destination, avoiding traffic congestions or taking you precisely to a vacant parking slot or guiding you to a petrol station sensing that you are running out of petrol and so forth. They can help the drivers with more real-time information, if integrated into the traffic infrastructure of the city. The increase in smartness levels in personal transportation from an integrated navigation system, culminating in autonomous cars, will happen as both, cities and vehicles, get smarter. This infrastructure could be in terms of intelligent traffic signals, Sensors, active lanes, communications and so on. Thus, smart devices when integrated into the city's infrastructure through effective deployment of ICT, can make life in a city lot more seamless. Intelligent Traffic Management systems use roadside sensors, cameras, automatic number plate recognition systems, wireless communication technologies and big data analytics, to track the traffic in arterial highways and roads. Connected traffic infrastructure with analytics, are used to improve traffic throughput and prevent traffic snarls and pileup of traffic. Navigation systems deployed in a smarter city, can proactively predict most congestions and help ease the same by diverting the traffic through alternate routes. Traffic management for an integrated multi-mode public transportation in the context of Indian cities, is even more challenging. The complexities are manifold since the variety of transport vehicles in India is high. Networked Transportation Systems facilitate easy integration of multiple systems in smart cities. Real-time communication allows easy synchronisation of trains and buses thereby, ensuring a shorter commute home. Simple availability of online information as to when the next bus is due on a real-time basis itself, can help in personal time-planning. A city's smart traffic infrastructure

SPACE FOR SHOES

Furnishing a compact apartment needs a great deal of thought. You have to consider furniture that will complement the look of the room while acting as a storage space, and how to make the apartment look spacious while you fit in all the furnishing. A shoe rack is a must in any home. It should be chosen considering space, visual appeal, and convenience. Select a rack that can double up as a seating area.



{ QUICK BYTE }

Smart cities deploy ICT in planning, backed by analytics and track the usage in real-time, so that these amenities are used in a smarter way to bring out maximum effectiveness and utilisation. Smart cities are gradually becoming real and we can see early adaptations of smart city concepts in several cities of developed nations like Singapore. Take the example of personal transportation where powerful navigation systems deploying GPS, have made driving in cities easier. A smart device like a navigation system when integrated with city's traffic infrastructure in real-time, can make driving in a city more intuitive.

with effective usage of ICT, is an obvious and immediate example of smart cities. The applications of smart cities will go beyond this example of revolutionising transportation in improving the quality of life. Traffic cameras with license plate and facial recognition systems, can not only help in streamlining traffic but also improve the overall security in smart cities. Networking with security cameras of adjacent corporate and government buildings and human identification techniques, can be used to improve security throughout the networked city. The next biggest impact that smart cities can create, is on energy and utilities (planning, distribution and consumption). For this to happen, a comprehensive integration of ICT is required in buildings, homes, smart power grids, hospitals and so on. E-governance will become a necessity and basic hygiene to bring excellence and smartness in public services. Smart homes are an integral part of smart cities and when connected to cities public infrastructure, can bring out efficiencies. Obviously, all of this will come at a cost. People living in smart cities need to be more compliant for the city's community to derive the maximum benefits of smart cities. Since life in smart cities will capture the digital footprint of the citizens, it is likely to give rise to problems like individual privacy, information theft and misuse. While there are no easy solutions, up-front planning can improve security and bring down misuse to a manageable level. In the end, the benefits far outweigh the issues. All said and done, smarter urban infrastructure is an essential need today. Otherwise daily life can come to a grinding halt.

(The writer is president - engineering services (ERS), HCL Technologies)

THANE PROPERTY EXPO IS BACK. IT'S BIGGER AND BETTER...

The MCHI CREDAI Thane property expo is being held from January 16-19, 2015 and promises to be a haven for all those looking for a home this new year

MCHI-CREDAI Thane is back with the 14th edition of Thane Property Expo 2015. This much awaited and anxiously awaited real estate and housing finance expo will be open to public from January 16-19, 2015. Like every year, the 2015 expo is bigger in size, scope and scale. The expo is not just about 'property' development but also about 'Thane' development. The expo has come a long way in promoting Thane as a city with best-in-class infrastructure and connectivity.

Convenient accessibility is becoming a reality and with the metro rail arriving in Thane, life for the commuters will get easier. The 2015 expo has plenty of novelties going for it. The Bhiwandi pavilion for instance, focuses on affordable housing and caters to customers who are looking specifically for good, budget homes. Physically, the expo will last for 4 days but online, the expo will be up, 360 days, 24x7. On the MCHI website, there is an ongoing virtual expo that can be viewed, browsed and bookmarked as favourites.

Suraj Parmar, president MCHI CREDAI Thane, shares that "The 4-day expo will showcase a gamut of affordable luxury projects - a trend in the realty sector that's catching up fast. As this trend catches on, this event will be a godsend for consumers seeking quality lifestyles in the peripheral locations of metros."

Sachin Mirani, honorary secretary, MCHI CREDAI Thane Property Expo has become the most awaited annual feature in the city's calendar of events. Meticulous planning and precise execution has made the annual property exhibition a popular mega-event for realtors and discerning buyers. The mega property expo will host over 100 builders.

More than 20 housing finance companies and banks are also participating. Special offers on home loans and spot sanctions are specially available as well.

{ FAST FACT }

Real-time communication allows easy synchronisation of trains and buses thereby, ensuring a shorter commute home

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