**Press Release**

**One day Smart City Conclave organized in Udaipur today**

**“A SMART CITY IS ABOUT INCLUSIVE GROWTH, QUALITY OF LIFE AND EVEN HAPPINESS INDEX”**

**-Rajpal Singh Shekhawat**

**Urban Development and LSG Minister**

Udaipur, 21 May: The Urban Development and LSG Minister, Government of Rajasthan, Shri Rajpal Singh Shekhawat today said that the Smart City was also about inclusive growth, quality of life, happiness index, convenience of living and being green. He said that some cities may have been ‘smart’ earlier but to be counted as ‘smart’ in 2016 was different in the context of having planned core infrastructure as well as a clean and sustainable environment.

He was speaking on the occasion of a one-day Smart City Conclave at the City Palace in Udaipur today. The conclave has been organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in association with Department of Local Self Government (LSG), Government of Rajasthan; Udaipur Municipal Corporation and Udaipur Smart City Ltd.  The event has been organized with an objective for discussing the challenges and opportunities towards smart city programme, sharing best practices, evolving technological and managerial solutions and providing inputs for policy interventions.

Shri Shekhawat said that each city has its own strength in terms of heritage, geographical location and environment. The Smart City Mission will keep these factors in mind while developing smart cities in Rajasthan. There cannot be a universal formula for developing a smart city – however making governance citizen friendly and cost effective will be one of the key objectives. It will also expand housing opportunities for all.

During his address, Minister for Home, Shri Gulab Chand Kothari congratulated the local and government bodies operating under the Smart City Project.  He expressed his satisfaction that Jaipur and Udaipur have been selected among the first lot of 20 cities under the Smart City programme. He urged the citizens the local bodies to take this up as a challenge and make Udaipur a top quality Smart City in India.

The Denmark Ambassador to India, Mr. Peter Taksøe-Jensen said that, the financial plan for the smart city in Udaipur will play a big role in its development. He said that though funding will be received from international banks as well other sources it was fundamentally important for the city to generate its own funds through different cases of businesses and viable projects.

The Mayor of Udaipur, Shri. Chandra Singh Kothari while appreciating the selection of the City under the smart city programme cautioned against the challenges being faced in terms of sewerage, parking, traffic,drinking water etc.

On the occasion, Principal Secretary, Local Self Government, Shri Manjit Singh said Rajasthan Government is fully geared up for the Smart City projects. Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) have already been created. The Project Management Consultants (PMC) will be appointed by the end of this month and the work will begin by 15 June. The State Government has signed a MoU with FICCI for Udaipur and Kota Smart Cities while with CII for Jaipur and Ajmer Smart Cities. He also said that a MoUhas been signed with USTDA, USA with Ajmer Smart City. NCC (Nottingham City Council) has also signed a MoU with Jaipur Municipal Corporation.

Delivering his theme address, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs, Prof. Jagan Shah said that the mission for smart cities was very clear in its objective that the identity of the city in terms of heritage and economic activities will be retained while strengthening the core infrastructure and improving the quality of life.

The theme paper on the Udaipur Smart City, prepared by Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IIDC) was released during the inaugural session. It focuses on strategic focus, vision statement, financial plan and even has a SWOT analysis.

The Chairman and Managing Trustee of the Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, Shriji Arvind Singh Mewarwhile delivering the inaugural address said there is a need to save and sustain the natural assets while developing the smart cities. He also outlined suggestions relating to cleanliness of public places, GPS enabled services, CCTV etc.

The concluding remarks were made by Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Indus Towers Ltd. Shri Sameer Sinha and Head, Rajasthan State Council, FICCI, MrAtul Sharma welcomed the guests and moderated the event.

Later in the day there were two plenary sessions. The first session was focused on ‘Greener and Healthier Cities’. It covered ‘Sanitation for All by 2019’ as outlined in the Swachh Bharat Mission as well as ‘Integrated Solid Waste & Water Management’. The second session was focused on ‘Smart & Vibrant Cities’. It covered ‘Innovations and Technologies for Applications in Smart Cities’.