

TheCityFix Labs Workshop, March 28th and 29th, 2019
India Habitat Center, New Delhi



WRI India Ross Center's [TheCityFix Labs India](#), in partnership with the Citi Foundation, hosted the two-day (March 28th and 29th) final Workshop at ConnectKaro 2019 on operationalising sustainability and scaling private solutions in waste, water and energy management in urban India, in Delhi.

The five convenings over brought together officials from various government bodies, Smart Cities, with investors and TheCityFix Labs Cohort made up of 10 enterprises working on solutions for these key public services. The convenings saw participation of around 300 stakeholders from these different sectors.

The keynote speaker at the Inspiring Innovation for Urban Transformation Session on the 28th, **Kunal Kumar** (Mission Director, Smart Cities Mission) highlighted the importance of the adoption of innovative technologies by Smart Cities to improve quality of life and spoke about SPIRIT – an initiative by the Smart Cities Mission for the same. **Mridula Ramesh** (Sundaram Climate Institute) also lauded entrepreneurs in the sectors of water and waste, them being difficult sectors for the private sector to transform.

Raj Cherubal (CEO, Chennai Smart City Limited), a Jury speaker at the Accelerating Innovation in Smart Cities Session, echoed the need for Start-up associations who can protect and encourage start-up interests. Smart Cities Representatives from **Chennai, Bhopal, Amaravati, Thane and Kochi** and a representative from **Niti Aayog** were present as Jury members. **Sameer Unhale** (Thane Municipal Commissioner) gave valuable feedback on the relevance of the government as a customer for the three sectors.

The third session on the 28th, Unlocking Finance for Sustainable Infrastructure brought together speakers with varied backgrounds in finance. **Bhaskar Deol** (Mynergy) in particular noted that decentralised infrastructure is the new approach and it is important to involve small scale entrepreneurs to solve these massive urban problems.

On the 29th, The Leveraging Private Capital for Sustainable Development in Cities welcomed investors like **Shailesh Vikram Singh** (Massive Fund), **Bharath Visweswariah** (Omidyar Network), and **Aparna Dua** (Asha Impact) and **Ravinder Voomidisingh** (Caspian) who offered valuable one-on-one advice to startups, getting down to the specifics of their business model and product. Some investors did set up follow-up meetings with cohort members to explore deeper engagement.

The final session, Scaling innovations for the Public Sector, on the 29th, closed on a high note, with **SK Lohia** (MD and CEO, IRSDC) inviting the startups discuss pilot opportunities in select stations. Various officials from **MoHUA** were present for the session and discussed with each sector opportunities for collaboration and pilots. **Shashi Shekar** (Consultant, Ex-Civil Servant, Ministry of Power) spoke about the immense potential of the private sector and emphasised the need for platforms like TheCityFix Labs India to encourage innovation and collaboration between

stakeholders towards scaling sustainable solutions for urban India.