

Governing Cities: Reflections from South Africa and India

Bengaluru, Monday, 29th April 2019 4:00 to 6:30 PM IST

Venue: Omidyar Network, SKAV 909, 15th floor, Richmond Circle, Bengaluru 560001

Cities are crucial to India's socio-economic future. India's urban population is estimated to grow to over 800 million by 2050 and over 70% of India's GDP and new jobs by 2030 are expected to come from cities. It can be argued that cities will be crucial from three inter-dependent perspectives:

Quality of Life: citizens in cities need access to basic infrastructure and services like water, housing, power, safety, sanitation, clean air and transport. These form the basis of an inclusive, vibrant and productive society

Economic: cities attract capital and talent, deploy the **capital** productively, create jobs and drive economic growth. Cities therefore should create an enabling environment for productive economic activity

Democratic: over 50% of India's citizens will live in cities by 2050, so the quality of democracy in cities, including trust between citizens and governments and nature and extent of citizen participation, will determine the quality of India's democracy.

Pace of governance reforms in India's cities, essential in managing urbanisation well, has been excruciatingly slow. Governance reforms in India's cities virtually have not happened. Lack of a metropolitan governance paradigm, lack of empowered political leadership at the city level, fragmentation in service delivery and accountability across agencies, outdated master planning laws and policies, weak capacities (financial, human and IT), and absence of formal platforms for citizen participation have all been challenges that have persisted even from the time of the 74th CAA in 1992. There have only been episodic, patchy efforts to surmount these, both at the central and state levels.

There is growing recognition of the fact that governments alone will not be able to fix India's cities. A coalition approach with government, academia, civil society, business and philanthropy is necessary. Even globally, governments (even rich ones in the west!) are realising that they alone can't solve today's development challenges. They are creating new institutional forms and collaboratives and alliances across governments, business and civil society for place-based problem solving.

Several such global examples of local leadership are already emerging. It is now being called "New Localism". This is systems thinking in practice, across stakeholder groups, across silos or sectors, based on a realisation that 21st century development problems require multi-disciplinary thinking and multi-stakeholder action. In India, "New Localism" (by whatever name called), has added significance. Government capacities in India across levels of government- centre, state and local- are weak. Particularly in the case of governing cities, government capacities in terms of both human resources and finances, are even poorer, besides the challenge of fragmented accountability between the municipality, parastatal agencies and state government.

We need to envision partnerships that will work for India's cities. A Partnership for India's cities which comprises government, business, philanthropy and civil society is inevitable for us to confront 21st century development challenges. Any partnership with different stakeholders is hard to convene and sustain, more so in the public sector.

We therefore wanted to convene consultations to brainstorm on whether and how such partnerships can be made feasible in India. The questions we want to explore include what principles need to underpin such partnerships, what institutional forms should they take, what will be their boundary constraints, and what will be the determinants of their success.

Agenda

Time	Agenda
16.00-16.05	Context by Srikanth Viswanathan, Janaagraha
16.05-16.10	Introductions
16.10-16.25	The Bengaluru Governance Bill by Sudhir Krishnaswamy and Mathew Idiculla, Centre for Law and Policy Research
16.25-17.00	Governance of Cities: Lessons from South Africa by Andrew Boraine , CEO, WCEDP
17.00-18.00	Reflections from Indian experience (comments from participants and responses from Andrew on South African experience)
18.00-18.30	Relevance of WCEDP model for India's cities
18.30	High Tea

About Andrew Boraine



Andrew Boraine has been involved in South Africa's local government, urban and economic development and transition processes for the past 41 years, as student leader, activist, advisor, negotiator, government planner, city manager, chief executive, facilitator, partnership and partnering specialist, systems change practitioner, designer, communicator and writer.

Andrew is currently CEO of the [Western Cape Economic Development Partnership](#) (EDP), a collaborative intermediary organisation based in Cape Town which facilitates issue-based and area-based partnering solutions, and knowledge-sharing and learning, aimed at strengthening grassroots, local, metropolitan, regional and provincial socio-economic development systems. The EDP is currently supporting the development of a partnering implementation framework for South Africa's Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF).

Some of the positions Andrew has held over his career include that of Chief Executive of the Cape Town Partnership (CTP), a cross-sector partnership established in 1999 to drive the regeneration of the Cape Town Central City, city manager of Cape Town City and convener and chairman of the board for the [South African Cities Network](#) (SACN). As Deputy Director General (Local Government) in the Department of Constitutional Development (1995-1997), he helped to draft the local government chapter of the [South African Constitution](#). Andrew is a Nonresident Senior Fellow with the [Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program](#) in Washington and teaches on the subject of Partnering for Systems Change in a number of Masters programs.

About Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP)

The EDP was established in April 2012 to improve the performance of the Cape Town and Western Cape socio-economic development system. It is an independent not-for-profit company (NPC) established in April 2012 in terms of the South African Companies Act and is governed by a Board of Directors. The EDP is a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) and is funded by the Western Cape Government, City of Cape Town, various municipalities in the region and the SA Government. WCEDP helps leaders and institutions from different sectors - public, private, civil society, education and research - to work together to grow the local, metropolitan and regional economy and address complex system challenges. The organisation helps partners to deliver issue-based and area-based partnering solutions. As a collaborative intermediary organisation, the EDP seeks to find ways for a 'top-down' authorising environment and a 'bottom-up' mobilising environment to better connect and communicate.

Some examples of WCEDP's current partnering work include - Water Systems Governance (Greater Cape Town water supply area); Strengthening Township Economies (Mfuleni, Delft, Blue Downs); Metro Central Partnership (Cape Town); Small-business Ecosystem Support (Saldanha); Energy Risk Management (City, Province, Eskom); Smart City Growth and Sector Investment Strategies (South Cape Economic Partnership); Urban Sustainability Partnering Summit (Cape Town); Partnering Implementation Framework for the Integrated Urban Development Framework - IUDF (national government).