



15th Urban Mobility India Conference & Expo 2022

04
November, Friday

Azadi@75 – Sustainable Aatmanirbhar Urban Mobility

Grand Hyatt, Kochi From November 4th to 6th

Urban Mobility India Conference & Expo To Commence Today

Shruthy Prakash and Govind S Menon

The 15th “Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Expo 2022” organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will commence today at Kochi. The three-day event will jointly be inaugurated by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Sri Hardeep Singh Puri, and Chief Minister Sri Pinarayi Vijayan.

The theme of this year is “Azadi@75 – Sustainable Aatmanirbhar Urban Mobility”, which focuses on designing and implementing efficient, high quality and sustainable transport systems in cities. The event will emphasize on designing and implementing efficient, high quality and sustainable transport system in the cities.

Rapid Advance of information technology and innovations in the sector are enabling more optimal use of transport systems to meet the mobility needs of all. The innovations have led to a wide range of transport options to emerge, thereby widening the choice available to commuters. Cities are planning innovative circulator services to serve local areas, thereby obviating the need for personal motor vehicles.

The primary objective of the conference is to disseminate information to the cities and to keep officials who will attend, updated on the latest and best urban practices adopted globally. This ties into the Government’s National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) 2006 which lays strong emphasis on building capabilities at the state and city level to address the problems associated with Urban transport.

The event brings together national and international experts, technology and service providers, policy makers, practitioners and officials from the urban transport sector under one roof. This

will help in providing opportunities to help delegates bring home new ideas which can help them in developing their urban transport solutions along a sustainable path.

With the advancement in technology, particularly information technology we have seen innovations in the use of transport systems that have enabled them to run more optimally to meet the mobility needs of all.

The result of such innovations has been alternatives such as Metro Neo and Metro Lite which are more suited to medium sized cities while being cheaper and cost effective than traditional metro rail. The elimination of the need for personal transport and focusing more on the usage of public transport is the end goal that is kept in mind when developing these technologies.

There will be 10 technical sessions, 5 round table sessions, 1 conclave, 2 plenary and 8 research symposiums in the three day event.

In addition, an exhibition comprising display of best practices in urban transport in India and abroad, latest transport technology & services and other related areas will also be organized. The topics which will be discussed are Aatmanirbhar Bharath- Vocal for Local in Sustaining Urban Mobility, Multi-model Integration, Mobility as Service, Intermodal integration system, Sustainable PPP in Bus Transport, Climate Change and Urban Transport Impact.

The Valedictory function on 6th November will be graced with the presence of the honorable Governor of Kerala, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan and awards will be distributed to the cities who have done good work in the field of urban transport in different categories.



The Journey to an Efficient Transportation System: OSD to Urban Transport Speaks

Gayathri Gokul and Kripa V K

Sri. Jaideep is the Acting Director General, IUT and Officer on Special Duty (Urban Transport) & Ex-officio Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. He has worked on several important assignments in the Indian Railways related to train operations, maintenance of rolling stock & traction distribution systems, rolling stock manufacturing, IT systems, etc. He was the executive director and director of the Ministry of Railways, where he was in charge of policy issues. He is known for writing papers about train sets for long-distance operation on the Indian railway network and the choice of traction system used in the metro.

“KMRL is hosting the three-day Urban Mobility India Conference & Expo 2022, and many well-known people, like officials from the Center and State, the Managing Directors of different metro systems, and technical experts from different private firms, will be there and taking part,” says Mr. Jaideep.

“During the three-day meeting, the guests talk about a number of topics that can help us come up with policies for how to improve transportation systems and whether or not they can be put into action.” “The main aim of the conference is to bring about positive and impactful change in the transportation sector in India,” he added.

“Presently, India has the 5th largest metro system in the world. We have 810 km of Metro rails in 20 cities. About 391 km of these are in Delhi, which has the best and most efficient metro system in India. Around 1000 km are un-

der construction, which, after its completion within four to five years, will make India one step closer in the race to be the largest and most efficient metro system in the world. In connection with the other metro system in India, Kochi Metro is in a race to develop virtual tickets with QR codes that can interlink all the transportation facilities in the city. The robust transportation present in Kochi is an added advantage for such developments,” Jaideep said.

“As a regular citizen, we can expect that the next plans to promote “Make in India” with multimodal connectivity will include local-for-local systems. There are many plans and projects in discussion for the upcoming 25 years,” says Sri Jaideep.

The session, which is being led by Shri. Jaideep and is called “Common Issues on Indian Metro Systems,” aims to solve many of the problems and concerns that the managing directors of metro systems from all over the country will bring up. The main things that will be talked about are policy, the safety of the consumers, and the maintenance of the systems, whether it is done by the department, by a third party, or by the company itself. “Every city does not need a metro. It is to be planned judiciously according to what all industries are bringing forth in the future.” According to Mr. Jaideep, “Metros are meant for developing cities with a future vision.” In every city, there are different kinds of growth that work together to improve transportation and the economy.

Dreaming a Holistic, Sustainable Urban Transportation: KMRL MD speaks

Poojaa Nair and Santhra Nimesh

The Kochi Metro, being the first to be commissioned into service in a comparatively short time span, is thriving despite its journey through hurdles. Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) is looking forward to the Urban Mobility India Conference, which is to be held for the first time in Kerala, intending to expand the possibilities of Kochi Metro. The KMRL Managing Director, Lokanath Behera, states certain expectations for the UMI Conference & Expo 2022 and Kochi Metro.

In the present time of increasing population, Kochi Metro keenly focuses on maintaining sustainability. The KMRL MD says that Kochi should have a network of public transport, which would make it more effective. The KMRL plans to provide more facilities, including virtual tickets that function as intermodal integration, to commuters in the near future. The perceptible impact would only happen if the targeted public opted to travel by metro. Thus, various services like more feeder buses, pre-booking, integrated travel tickets, etc. “Another spot outlining availability might be the internet radio facility, which would expand the sides of entertainment and formal announcements,” says Sri Behera.

“To attract commuters, we initiate various forms of entertainment and public information, such as Internet radio, virtual tickets, etc. “People should realize this is a good system,” KMRL’s MD added. The main topic of this year’s UMI Conferences is going to be sustainable transportation in the next 25 years. “We should produce everything in India rather than import from other countries, and new innovations are also intended so that our planet will be a better place,” says Sri. Behera.

“The Atmanirbhar Bharat vision is also promoted through KMRL by being self-reliant and depending upon its own resources.”

Various integrating developments are also demanded through sourcing international agencies for tackling issues of funding, implementing long-term licensing, and adopting the public-private partnership (PPP) mode. “All these possibilities would be looked at in a holistic way for practical implementation,” he added.

“Almost 52 percent of the requirements are generated by solar in terms of electric transport, and other target phases would be met in the next 5 years. Usage of hydrogen and ammonia as fuels, increasing the availability of electric vehicles, developing good charging facilities, and implementing battery-less operations are also being considered. KMRL also has an interest in using the best futuristic technologies for sustaining them in the future. “The integration of Metro cards into being useful as a single-day temporary pass is yet another transformation brought up to date,” MD added.

“Water Metro is basically for islanders; they face a lot of difficulties and don’t get boats when they need them; they might also not get secure and comfortable boats; the 10 islanders surrounding Kochi will be the gainers irrespective of its other potentials,” said Sri. Behera. The first water metro project in India is also eagerly awaited by the public, which sees great potential in serving the poor, the island natives, and Kerala tourism.

The Kochi metro stands out with its variations by being able to provide opportunities for women, maintain sanitation, and have public support.

KMRL is also intending to introduce robots for PR work, which will also commence at the UMI conference. The KMRL MD says, “In 5 years, we want to complete at least 2 lines, which is Phase 2, and we’ll also try to progress the Phase 3 developments.”

