

Interview of CEO Vadodara Smart City

With a lot of fanfare, recently Vadodara Smart City released a book in Gujarati called "Vadodara - Jaanyu Chhata Ajanyu" about Vadodara city. It covers more than 55 special aspects of our city. Vadodara has ancient history and is full of places of cultural importance; this book will surely be a collector's item. However, these days talk of the town is the Smart City Projects. When we see potholes on the city roads, or water logging at places and we get hassled by the traffic chaos where the over bridge is being made we wonder what this SMART CITY is all about. To get answers to our questions, (this was before the deluge or we could have asked questions related to that too). BMA CEO Divya Jaggi and I met with the CEO of Smart City Mission Shri Sudhir K. Patel (Deputy Commissioner of Vadodara Municipal Corporation) (G.A.S.). We were also joined by Shri Manish Bhatt (Director IT) who looks after the IT Cell of VMC and gave us useful inputs, during the discussion.



DJ: Thank you Sir, for giving us time for this interview. You must be keeping really busy.

MG: Good morning. Let us start right away. Tell us something about yourself.

SKP: My father was a primary school teacher. I was also good in studies. But I passed my HSC board with great difficulty. Obviously my father was keen on my education and even I felt that I need to be educated well. So I did my graduation in Arts in 1998, but then I was in two minds – whether to go into the field of management or prepare for competitive exams for administrative services. Luckily I had passed the entrance in both fields. However, my elder brother suggested that I should go for Public Service. So, I worked hard and I appeared for GPSC and cleared Mamlatdar cadre in 2004, where I topped in whole of Gujarat.... and then I have reached this position after a lot of hard work and dedication. I was promoted as an Additional Collector at Vadodara in May 2018.

MG: It must be a proud feeling to be appointed as a CEO of Vadodara Smart City.

SKP: Yes of course, with the higher position, responsibility also comes side by side. For me it is an additional charge. First, I have to perform my duties as a Deputy Municipal Commissioner of VMC. People have so many expectations and need quick results. They think that everything should happen in a jiffy! But it takes a lot of planning, brainstorming, appropriate manpower, adequate funds and time to execute any project.

DJ: Smart City is a very ambitious mission, but most people don't have proper knowledge about it. Can you please explain....

SKP: The Central Government had identified 100 cities under this mission, to be able to provide basic minimum amenities and other facilities to citizens smartly. What is Smart City? A **smart city** is a city that incorporates information and communication technologies (ICT) to enhance the quality and performance of urban services. SCM (Smart City Mission) has a grant allocation of Rs.1000 crores. From this fund, we have planned 29 smart projects out of the list provided, plus VMC additionally has 31 more projects to work on. So currently we are executing 60 projects, under this mission.

MG: Fantastic ! But what are these and how are they funded?

SKP: The Central Govt. is providing 50% of the funds and the State Government and Vadodara Municipal Corporation put 25% each. This is the standard practice and we have to follow as per guidelines given. List of all the projects that we are undertaking, is given in the booklet. A separate company called **Vadodara Smart City Development Limited** (VSCDL) was formed to carry out these jobs in a professional manner. The execution is done under three categories namely...

- i) Smart City Mission (SCM)
- ii) Public Private Partnership (PPP)
- iii) Convergence (other grants).

The two main areas of development are...

- a) INFRASTRUCTURE &
- b) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT).

MG: Is there any project to preserve Vadodara's heritage?

SKP: Yes, every city has its unique



Management Development Program on "Conflict Resolution"

Date: July 23, 2019 | Venue: BMA

Faculty: Mr. Snehal Bhatt



BMA conducted a one-day practical workshop/training on Conflict Management on July 23. Currently, conflicts are one of the key reason for loss of productivity. This training was an opportunity for organizations in Vadodara to build capability to manage conflicts effectively. The response to the training reflected in the post training feedback from the Participants. The training was attended by more than 15* organizations based in the city and around. The training covered building blocks related to the definition, causes, effects, types, typical scenarios and resolution of conflicts. The delivery methodology was highly interactive with a blend of case-studies, group activities, videos and group presentations. The program was conducted by Mr. Snehal Bhatt, who has been the Global Learning Lead for Accenture and has been in the learning domain for more than 20 years. All in all, it was an experience which left the Participants wanting more.

features, so is for Vadodara. We have taken 3 heritage projects in Smart City to preserve our rich heritage. We are already doing the revamping of heritage structures like the Char Darwaja, namely Mandvi Gate, Pani Gate, Champaner Gate, Gendi Gate and Lehpura Gate. We also have a Heritage Tourist Bus.

Our prestigious project is the Integrated City Command and Control Centre (ICCC). All major systems are integrated on one platform at ICCC, Badamdi Baug. We can also monitor our heritage structure and even map heritage tour through GIS map as an initiative of "Vadodara by Foot". We have also introduced Virtual heritage tour, which gives you an experiences of a real visit. We also have an upcoming project of showcasing our rich heritage through Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR).

MG: Wonderful insights about Smart City Mission and the work you are doing. Now I am going to ask you a difficult question. In your position, I am sure there must be a lot of political pressure from the elected wing and since we are from management, we would like to know how you handle it.

SKP: This is a very common question that arises in any local administrative body. But if you look at the positive side of it, it gives you the needs, issues and ambitions of common people. Though, Smart City Missions is a separate company - *Vadodara Smart City Company Limited*. It is designed to work efficiently just like private company. Management, Staff & Board of Directors is independent. However, it works in consent with Administrative and Political team.

MG: Ok – that's about Smart City Mission, but apart from this also you must be facing same resistance, so how do you manage that?

SKP: Yes, but at present, due to positivity of political members and willingness towards work, we work in complete coordination, transparency and integrity. Our target is that whoever coming in person or via social media or any other medium has to be satisfied with our solutions. At least we can try our best. When we work with honestly, transparency and with integrity, most of the problems get resolved.

MG: One last question. Do you think an effective, passionate and dynamic leader/administrator at the top helps to maintain certain decorum all the way down?

SKP: Obviously, As I said, when top level is effective and transparent, then the team below also works in the same manner. We have frequently educated our staff on new technologies, work schedule, analysis as well as on work pattern etc.

Apart from all these activities, I am giving guidance to the candidates who are preparing for UPSC and GPSC, to tell how to use your capability with hard work. No political or monetary influence will help you to get anywhere. I always like to share, "Mehnat aapko karna hai, apne aap ko kabil banana hai!" That is my message for all youngsters.

MG: Thank you for your time and wonderful insights of Vadodara Smart City.

MB: Thanks a lot, we will be happy if your members visit the Control and Command Centre and see how effectively city is being monitored and managed.

DJ: Thanks for your kind invitation. We will surely try to arrange a visit and I personally look forward to it.



“In-House Training at Madhubhan”

Date: July 3, 2019

Topic: Finance for non-Finance Managers

Faculty: CA Rajiv D Khatlawala



A Full Day session was conducted at Madhubhan Resorts and Spa on 3rd July 2019 by BMA. The session 'Finance for non-Finance Managers' was attended by 19 participants comprising the middle and top level managers of the firm. The session was conducted by CA Rajiv D Khatlawala, involved simple yet

effective explanations of various finance topics like elements of the annual report, important finance terminology, financial ratios, cost concepts and evaluation of capital investments.

It was a highly interactive session enriched with real life financial data so that participants could easily relate it to their industry / firm. High emphasis was placed on the interpretation of the financial data which was appreciated by the participants."

Proud to be an Indian

Are you an Indian?

Do you feel proud of it?

Do you feel proud for your ancestors?

If yes, then you should read this that will make you happy and that your beliefs stronger. If no, then you have to read this entire article which will change your view about it. Indus valley civilization is the oldest civilization on earth.

“RIG-VEDA” is the oldest compilation of human wisdom on earth which you can read even today. So we Indians have the oldest book and oldest language on earth.

All other cultures like “Mesopotamia” “Babylon, “Greek”“Roman,“Arabian” , started after Indian Vaidik culture and end before it but we are still following almost all the rituals and festivals of our original vaidik culture.

The mystery of this longest survival is not just cultural but it happens because of the science behind all cultural & spiritual activities in our culture.

All our festivals like: HOLI, SHARAD-POORNIMA, MAKAR-SAKRANTI, KUMBH-MELA,

etc. are based on classical medical science, astronomy, environmental science, and many more

When the entire world was not aware of knowledge of science we knew unbelievable scientific facts about many things like...



- 1) The shape of earth
- 2) The theory of biological evolution
- 3) The whole solar system
- 4) Time, size & orbital period of all nine planets
- 5) The lunar orbital period
- 6) The sharp value of π
- 7) Many super special laws of maths
- 8) Unbelievable sense of Architectural Science
- 9) The science of encryption
- 10) The zinc distillation
- 11) The 8 main branches of medical science
- 12) Science of plastic surgery
- 13) Pharmacology
- 14) Philosophy of spirituality
- 15) Development of systematic agricultural science

& many more scientific values which are deeply instilled in our rituals, festival, mythology, clothing, food patterns, lifestyles, etc.

We all should be proud that we are descendants of the most oldest & scientific ancient culture on earth. We lost our self-esteem in last 500 years of slavery which tried to destroy our culture & taught us wrong and modified version of our own culture and history.

So let's know our greatest scientific culture and be proud of it.

By: Dr Dattatray Pandya

Chief Ayurveda physician

and owner of the

NAKSHATRA AYURVEDAM

Editorial

Dear Members,

Hope the rains and following conditions have not drastically affected you and your families. Not only us in Baroda, but all over Gujarat and many other parts of the country have been badly affected by the floods and the aftermath. Man cannot stand up against nature's fury, but aren't we ourselves responsible for what all is happening. I appeal to all of you through this forum to put your 'management' acumen to use and push the civic authorities for better preparedness in future years.

Talking of administration and the state of affairs in Vadodara- this month Samanvaya carries the interview of the CEO of Vadodara Smart City Mission- Shri S.K.Patel plus an article on "Be a proud Indian" since it is the month of "Independence Day".

Many members are not able to attend the Friday evening talks despite being keen, so we decided to carry gists of the FET for the benefit of such members.

BMA office is busy planning a lot of interesting programmes, we hope to meet you all there, Until then.....

Stay safe, Be healthy and don't fall sick!

Malti Gaekwad



Friday Evening Talks

Sr.	Date	Topic & Speakers
1	02.08.2019	Why people get sick- Cause of disease and regaining health the natural way by Mr. Nimesh Shah
2	09.08.2019	Benefits of alternative therapies of treatments by Mr. Samarth Vyas
3	16.08.2019	Challenges on water resources, provisions and possible future actions by Ms. Sanskriti Majumdar
4	23.08.2019	Productivity management lean six sigma by Mr. Vimal Vyas
5	30.08.2019	3 Inches of Life (How can we celebrate the events called 'Life?') by Ms. Meenakshi Gupta

Venue : BMA, Guru Narayana Centre for Leadership, 2nd Floor, Anmol Plaza, O. P. Road, Vadodara.

Publication Committee

Ms.Malti Gaekwad	Chairperson
Editorial Team:	
Ms.Sarita Sinha	Hon.Secretary
Ms.Malti Gaekwad	Editor
Ms.Divya Jaggi	CEO
Ms.Naisargi Shah	Senior Manager- Programs & Events

Baroda Management Association

Anmol Plaza, 2nd Floor, Old Padra Road,
Vadodara - 390 015. GUJARAT.

Phone : +91 265 2344135, 2353364, 2332919

E-mail : bmabaroda1@gmail.com

Web : www.bmabaroda.com

