

Conference on Infrastructure Finance

September 4-5, 2019, Nagpur

Brief of Speaker Sessions

1. **Dunu Roy** – in the opening session would provide an overview of infrastructure sector in India, the projects under it, the policy changes that are being implemented to boost infrastructure development, broader economic-socio-political and environmental implications for such large infrastructure development programs.
2. **Vishwas Utagi** – would link infrastructure projects and their finances with stressed assets of the public sector banks, the contribution of infrastructure development projects to stressed assets of banks, necessity of due diligence before supporting infrastructure projects and mechanisms to make banks accountable.
3. **Gaurav Dwivedi** – Focusing on finances related to large infrastructure projects, projections by various institutions, finances, financial institutions, financial mechanisms used to implement the projects and transformations these projects and finances are creating.
4. **Vinay Baidur** – would talk about the increasing trends of predatory urban infrastructure as well as the influence of the privately controlled urban vision groups which formulate plans for urban projects with conditions that push for policy and economic reforms and now are integrated with the smart city projects.
5. **Shweta Damle** – would talk about the cities as sites for investments by global capital and the way global capital drives the cities to a particular model of development. Shweta will discuss the impact of FDI in real estate and how urban infra displaces poor from habitats and livelihood.
6. **Ashok Datar** - would talk about how infrastructure has become a buzzword and that improving infrastructure would solve most of the problems in India. Typically infrastructure is thought as high cost transport infrastructure such as hi-speed trains, metros, highways etc not necessarily public or non-motorised transport. He would discuss cost:benefit analysis of all major projects which must be done rigorously along with the identification of beneficiaries. He would also discuss cost and alternatives that must be considered and approved as well as the learning from past projects.
7. **Rajendran Prabhakar** - would talk about increasing privatisation and commodification of urban commons like land and water, leading it to financialisation of these commons and its impacts on urban communities.
8. **Vijay Kumar** – would present a case study of Bhopal smart city related projects, the institutional and administrative changes the city is observing at the municipal level under the smart city mission and its implications for the citizens

9. **Marina Joseph** – would look into urban transformations and urban poor with focus on financing mechanisms for urban housing and resettlement looking into PPP models and related emerging issues
10. **Susana Barria** – would look into the development and installation of digital gadgets and infrastructure under smart cities program for large scale data collection and monitoring of online/mobile activities of the city residents and what this means in the coming future.
11. **Shailendra Dubey** - would focus on the power sector and its changing scenario, policies and critiques, growing financial crisis and huge loans in both power generation and discoms, its implications in the current juncture of large infrastructure projects like smart cities and industrial corridors.
12. **Viren Lobo** - would talk about the overall development model and development of infrastructure projects for transportation in different regions across the country and its impacts on forest rights, pastoral communities and marine ecology drawing from case studies from different geographical parts.
13. **Jesu Rethinam** – would focus on coastal Infrastructure under Sagarmala Program, this could include a discussion on the projects, possible financial institutions and its impact on the local people and the environment.
14. **Krishnakant** – would talk about the ongoing bullet train project and will critically evaluate the socio-economic and environmental aspects of the project as well as the process of engagement of the community groups with some of the financiers of the project.
15. **T. Peter** - The session will look at the overall impact on fishworkers and marine resources in the context of huge infrastructure projects cutting through coasts and coastal land. These include thermal power plants, coastal roads, Port based development projects, coastal sez, petrochemical industries etc. The session will reflect on the cumulative impact on the fishers and the resistances from the coasts.
16. **Philip Kujur** - would talk about the mining projects in Jharkhand and the socio-political-economic changes the state is observing due to the entry of large mining corporations. He would also discuss the impacts of widespread mining activities on the local communities as well as the resistance these projects are facing from these communities.
17. **Praveen Mote** - would talk about the various development projects in the central states like Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh and their impacts on forest communities and on the implementation of the Forest Rights Act.
18. **Macanzy Dabre** - would talk about the ongoing infrastructure development projects in urban areas and their impacts on livelihoods of informal workers and the informal economy.

