

'Adequate Technology Use Enough to Build Smart City'



President founder for futuristic cities, Karuna Gopal and mayor of city of Carmel, Indiana State, USA, James Brainard, at a round table conference in Hyderabad on Monday | VINAY MADAPU

Express News Service

Hyderabad: Adequate use of technology is sufficient to build a 'smart' city and there is no need to increase taxes in order to make a city better or smarter, James Brainard, mayor of Carmel, one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States, has said.

Speaking at a round table organised by the US consulate-general and Foundation for Futuristic Cities on 'Smart Cities and Sustainability' here on Monday, he said, "Any city, to be called smart, should have people who thrive to develop, good public education, good transportation, lots of green space, safety and reasonable taxes." Use of adequate technology was important but its not the only thing, he said.

"When I started building the Carmel city two decades ago, I wanted it to be beau-

US consulate, Foundation for Futuristic Cities hold round table on smart cities

BRAINARD'S PANACEA

- Mixed land use & lots of greenery
- More roundabouts in place of traffic signals and instead of widening of roads
- Building stores near homes
- Efficient management of diversity
- Aggressive marketing to lure investors

tiful, walkable and people-friendly. Mixed land use made a lot of difference for us, we have dedicated lanes for people to walk and ride

bicycles. It not only made our city environmental-friendly but also healthier. Also, we started building stores near houses so that people can walk and shop. Taxes that citizens are paying now is less than what they paid 20 years ago."

Brainard said that in order to ease traffic, roundabouts are better solutions than widening of roads. "Widening of roads can never solve the traffic issues completely. That is the reason why I have encouraged the construction of roundabouts in place of traditional signalled intersections in Carmel. It not only solves traffic issues but also reduces vehicle emissions. Our city now has more than 50 roundabout intersections," Carmel's first five-term mayor said.

He said beautification of city should also be given certain importance. "We have lots of greenery in the

city and architecture was given importance. The creation of downtown and Arts & Design District has breathed a new life into forgotten areas of the city. All these improvements have given the citizens of Carmel increased opportunities for recreation and cultural activities," Brainard said.

"Aggressive marketing of the city is very important. That is how we have brought in many new high-tech firms into the city. As the cost of living is less in our city, many companies tend to move in there. Also, managing diversity is very important. People from all over the world live in Carmel and we see that everyone lives comfortably and peacefully in Carmel," he added.

Carmel city has been honoured with several awards for its high quality of life and environmental initiatives.