

Greetings!!!

The transportation sector is currently at a juncture characterized by both great opportunities and challenges. The introduction of new technologies, new players and changing customer behaviours provide the sector with the potential to transform as a system, to develop new business models and for different modes to provide more concrete responses to the challenge of environmental sustainability and carbon emissions reductions in the sector.

The transportation sector has responded to these challenges by actively seeking and implementing solutions to reduce its impact on the environment. Ambitious carbon emissions reduction targets have been defined both by entire industrial sectors (such as the air and marine transport sectors) and individually by leading companies in the sector.

Integrated transport system reckons to multi-modal transport system where different modes of transport are efficiently connected with each other. This implies that there should be smooth movement of freight over several modes of transport like road, railways, ports, coastal shipping, inland water and civil aviation. Logistic cost in India is 13-14 percent of GDP while it is 7-8 percent of GDP in developed economies. Integration of transport systems is vital for reduction of logistic costs and strengthening economic growth. The efficiency of logistic system will also help in proper and timely distribution of agricultural produce to the market. Integrated or multi modal transport system enables to achieve efficient, faster, safer, cost effective and pollution free mobility and will create employment opportunities in local and rural areas.

National Electric Mobility Mission 2020 (NEMM) encourages the industry to produce efficient electric and hybrid vehicles in India. The automobile industry can focus on green technologies like hybrid vehicles, low emission and fuel efficient engines and frugal engineering for clean transport. Participation of different sectors will boost the integration of transport system and clean transport. FDI inflows can be directed towards India with multi-modal and integrated transport as it will lead to ease of doing business. Mobility and integration of transport is a key element of 'ease of living'.

The Sustainable Transportation Ecosystem report examines the question of how to develop a more holistic approach towards environmental issues facing the global transportation sector. It outlines a framework of how the transportation sector as a whole can achieve

environmentally sustainable growth and reach its carbon emissions reduction targets and how different stakeholders in the system can take action to support this goal. Sustainable transportation is the capacity to support the mobility needs of a society in a manner that is the least damageable to the environment and does not impair the mobility needs of future generations.

Rapid urbanization has made sustainable urban transport an urgent development priority. Indian cities are expected to grow from 377 million in 2011 to 600 million by 2030. With cities poised to invest in infrastructure that will last for decades, huge opportunities lie to develop sustainable transport systems. This can avoid a lock-in of emission and energy intensive development patterns.

For the sustainable environment and maintenance of environmental balance, for the cleaner & greener mobility and pollution free atmosphere, almost all the global countries including India have been trying in every possible way to take on Electric Vehicle system so that green, clean and eco-friendly environment can be regained.

Transport plays a vital role in Tourism sector and it is a key determinant of destination development. Development of transportation, transportation vehicles, infrastructure and using new technologies also speed up the development of tourism.

Integrated transport ecosystem is a concept made in tune with sustainable development mechanism. So the CMAs have to act dynamically in these circumstances. Cost and benefit analysis is the key weapon in the hands of CMAs and they will be able to take powerful decisions having far reaching effects in near future.

This issue presents a good number of articles on the cover story theme '*Integrated Transport Ecosystem: the Way Ahead*' by distinguished experts and authors. We look forward to constructive feedback from our readers on the articles and overall development of the journal. Please send your mails at editor@icmai.in. We thank all the contributors to this important issue and hope our readers enjoy the articles.

