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ABOUT US

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CIVIC SENSE OR STATE FAILURE? A CRITICAL SOCIO-LEGAL INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC APATHY IN INDIA

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B. List of Abbreviations

	rsus
	d
R	tended Producer Responsibility
C	lian Penal Code
GT	tional Green Tribunal
L	blic Interest Litigation
I	rruption Perception Index
VA	sident Welfare Association
GO	n-Governmental Organisation

List of Cases

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C. Abstract

Indian civic sense functions as a continuous socio-legal challenge through widespread public indifference combined with legal lawlessness and weak municipal accountability. The current civic sense crisis requires investigation to determine if it stems from limited law enforcement or unresolved cultural values within society. Using a socio-legal analytical framework this study evaluates the performance of current civic laws together with municipal governance functions and public adherence to civic duties. This study explains that the lack of civic discipline manifests itself in two directions through existing case research coupled with law analysis and global inspections—both weak administration teams and rule-breaking stand as influences yet societal detachment and cultural traditions work against civic mindfulness. The research indicates that a workable solution requires mass awareness initiatives to supplement rigorous legal enforcement practices for civic education. The research provides specific recommendations about both legal codifications and behavioural-based programs to enhance civic awareness throughout India.

Keywords: Civic sense, public apathy, Legal enforcement, Governance failures, Cultural insensitivity, Municipal governance, civic obligation, Corruption, Civic awareness, Policy interventions.

1. Introduction

Civic sense, generally defined as the consciousness and accountability of people towards upholding public order, sanitation, and regard for law, is the backbone of the functioning of any society. In India, however, civic sense has become a recurring socio-legal problem, manifesting itself in mass public indifference, disdain for laws, and poor civic responsibility. From traffic rules and littering to vandalism and encroachments, civic negligence has become an integral part of daily life. In spite of several legal provisions and government policies for promoting civic discipline, public places are still plagued by mismanagement, and civic obligations are not being

followed in large numbers. This poses a key question: Is Indian civic indiscipline mainly an outcome of failures in governance and poor legal enforcement, or is it the result of deep-seated social attitudes and cultural insensitivity? This research takes a socio-legal perspective to critically analyse the underlying causes of civic indiscipline in India.

This paper allows the reader to examine the efficacy of current civic legislation, the function of municipal government, and the level of public cooperation with civic duties. Through case studies, legal provisions, and cross-national comparisons, the study maintains that the crisis of civic sense is not one but a multifaceted phenomenon related to state inefficiency and societal nonchalance. Though weak law enforcement, corruption, and administrative failures are major contributors to civic unrest, cultural attitudes and overall public lack of accountability also exacerbate the problem. The focus of this study is to place the legal and social gaps producing civic irresponsibility in context. It wishes to investigate the question of whether a stricter regime of legal punishments will solve the problem or if an overarching policy involving civic awareness and education carried out by a community is in order. Identifying the law, society, and policy-linked aspects of the problem, this study intends to recommend a nuanced strategy that produces more civic discipline with the addressing of governance failures.

1.1. Research Methodology

This paper has been made by using methods of doctrine analysis. The pieces of information basing which this Research Paper has been made include statutes and some secondary sources like books, articles, blogs and online sources.

1.1.1. Research Objectives

1. To define and contextualize civic sense in the Indian setting.
2. To examine the existing legal framework governing civic behaviour.
3. To investigate the role of the state in enforcing civic responsibility.
4. To analyse social attitudes and public compliance toward civic laws.
5. To critically assess the relationship between legal enforcement and civic awareness.
6. To recommend socio-legal reforms for enhancing civic sense in India.

1.1.2. Research Question

Whether the clearly noticeable lack of civic sense in India the result of poor

law enforcement or the negative perspectives of people or simply a combination of both of these factors?

1.1.3. Research hypothesis

In India, a lack of civic sense has prevailed due to the backwardness of social attitudes and weak legal enforcement, while governance failure has worked upon the public apathy.

2. Understanding Civic Sense in India

Civic sense is nothing but ethics to be followed in public. But what are these ethics? We all have a generic idea about it. Most of us have a restrictive understanding of the term. But actually, civic sense is not restricted to keeping the roads and streets clean and properly using and maintaining the public property. Its scope and dimensions are much more. To respect other fellow beings, abide by the laws, not resorting to unethical means in day-to-day activities, being considerate and tolerant towards others and the like are some of the examples of having a basic civic sense.¹

Civic sense, or public etiquette, reflects how citizens conduct themselves in public spaces and impacts societal harmony. For many Indians, however, this awareness appears minimal. From gutka spitting on public walls to reckless driving and littering, these actions reflect a disregard for public spaces and the people who share them. The issue isn't just a lack of civic sense, but a deeply ingrained attitude of treating public areas as extensions of private ones. Addressing these behaviours is crucial for India's growth and harmony. In this article, we will look at how we as Indians lack behind in civic sense and the causes behind the same and in the end, discuss the solution.²

This segment analyses Indian civic sense through historical and modern influences which affect public conduct. The analysis investigates how lawmaking processes and government management together with societal opinions affect civic responsibility levels which persist weak although laws and education attempts exist.

2.1. Cultural and Historical factors that shape the civic behaviour³

A big part of civic sense consists of cleanliness and sanitation. Today, the clearly seen lack of hygienic public spaces in the country can be a reason of poor

¹ 'Civic Sense in India' by Sujata, Indian Youth

² 'The Lack of Indian Sense amongst Indians: A deep-rooted concern' by Mohd Ziyaullah Khan, Countercurrents

³ 'India @ 70: A Brief Colonial History of Sanitation in India' by Saptarshi Dutta, NDTV

governance. Historically, India has seen very low emphasis and attention on sanitation policies.

However, we can also not deny some governmental initiatives like the most popular one which is 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' but none of them ever got successful.

"The day every one of us gets a toilet to use, I shall know that our country has reached the pinnacle of progress," – Jawaharlal Nehru.

During the colonial era also, sanitation was never a priority. Much of India's sanitation problems today can be traced back to the country's colonial past, as the practice of administrative apathy continued for decades, even after independence.

On the other hand, it should also be noted that in the ancient times like during the Indus Valley Civilisation, hygiene was taken into account which can be evident from the technologies found at the historical sites like the remnants properly planned drainage systems, toilets and bathing places. Focus on sanitation and hygiene were defined as important priorities in Vedic scriptures.

But with the onset of colonial rule, sanitation ceased to be a national priority. The gradual increase in rural poverty under colonial rule, rise of urban spaces and population also acted as key factors as to why sanitation lost priority. Even during colonial rule, sanitation was not seen as a priority by the rulers for their subjects. It was only in 1859, when the British Royal Commission reported a high mortality rate of 69 out of 1,000 troops due to diarrhoea, a Commission for Public Health was established in each presidency. In 1865, sanitation police were established under the Military Cantonments Act and for the first time, sanitary boards were created in each province to look after civil sanitation conditions.

Even though the issue of public sanitation affected whole of the population however, as the colonial interest was biased towards only the military and the elite class this concern was also focused upon them. Most municipal reforms were focused on eradication of epidemics and construction of estates, but no programme addressed the sanitation needs of Indians. By 1947, the Indian population which was more than 30 crores, had less than 1% sanitation coverage and this statistic did not improve for a long time.

Post independence, the Five-year plans focused on public health and sanitation, with Union Budgets allocating significant amounts for the same.

"During the colonial rule in India, public health and sanitation were never given

priority. Despite the population being in manageable numbers, rural sanitation, water supply were issues never taken up by the administration. This disinterest in India's sanitation scenario is a reason why improving sanitation conditions today is a Herculean task" – Professor Kumar Jyoti Nath.⁴

2.2. Legal Framework on Civic Behaviour

India implements multiple legislative frameworks that control public conduct regarding maintenance of cleanliness in public spaces and traffic rules and waste disposal together with city development standards. The existence of laws faces difficulties because weak implementation teams up with public indifference which reduces their actual practice. This section provides a summary of Indian legal frameworks intended for civic sense promotion.

2.2.1. Environmental and Public Cleanliness laws

(a) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986⁵

India's legal system for environmental protection along with pollution control measures exists under the provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986. Through the Environment Protection Act of 1986, the central government obtains power to establish environmental standards and govern waste disposal and enforce penalties against polluters. The Act sets regulations against illegal dumping while handling water pollution and hazardous waste violations and applies punishments through ₹1 lakh fines or up to five years of imprisonment. The basic provisions of the Act remain insufficient because bureaucratic weaknesses and public apathy towards environmental protection led to inadequate implementation of pollution control measures.

(b) The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016⁶

Segregating waste correctly at its source into biodegradable, non-biodegradable and hazardous types remains a requirement of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 to enhance waste management effectiveness. The established rules place waste management obligations upon urban local bodies which require them to perform collection procedures and take charges of transportation tasks while

⁴ President, Institution of Public Health Engineers, India

⁵ https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/4316/1/ep_act_1986.pdf

⁶ Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Rules 2

carrying out disposal duties to keep public areas sanitary. The goal of waste management rule enforcement involves utilizing spot fines for litterers and illegal dumpers and waste segregation rule breakers to fight environmental contamination and enhance city residential cleanliness. The successful implementation of waste management rules remains restricted because of insufficient waste processing facilities and insufficient public awareness as well as weak enforcement efforts.

- (c) The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (Amended in 2021 & 2022)⁷

Its function is to control plastic waste creation and disposal as well as recycling in India. Both EPR and proper waste segregation rules came into effect under the 2016 rules requiring brand owners and manufacturers to handle plastic waste as well as establish recycling practices. Single-use plastics became prohibited through the 2021 amendment while the guidelines also increased penalties against violators. Producers together with importers and brand owners now have enhanced EPR duties after the 2022 amendment because they must set mandatory recycling targets and add recycled material to their packaging. The struggle to address plastic waste persists because of insufficient monitoring and insufficient recycling capabilities together with poor public cooperation.

2.2.2. Traffic and Road Safety laws

The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (Amended in 2019)⁸

Under the Indian law this act controls all traffic rules and vehicle registry and driver authorization as well as traffic violation reimbursement systems. The 2019 amendment strengthened both fines and punishments in order to enhance road safety and reduce dangerous driving conduct. Drunk driving carries a minimum fine of ₹10,000 alongside six months in jail while driving without a seatbelt or a helmet incurs a ₹1,000 penalty and rash drivers face ₹5,000 fines and a potential license suspension. The high incidence of jumping signals with reckless driving and pedestrian zone encroachment continues because of ineffective enforcement and governmental corruption

⁷ Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Rules 4

⁸ MV Act English.pdf – morth.nic.in

and insufficient civic discipline.

2.2.3. Public Nuisance and Urban Governance laws

(a) Sections on public nuisance under IPC, 1860

Section 268: A person is guilty of a public nuisance who does any act or is guilty of an illegal omission which causes any common injury, danger or annoyance to the public or to the people in general who dwell or occupy property in the vicinity, or which must necessarily cause injury, obstruction, danger or annoyance to persons who may have occasion to use any public right. A common nuisance is not excused on the ground that it causes some convenience or advantage.⁹

Section 269 & 270: The law imposes penalties for careless conduct that leads to disease spread through acts such as public spitting during pandemic emergencies.

Section 290: The punishment attracted by an act of public nuisance. According to it, any person guilty of committing public nuisance is to be punished with a fine which may extend up to 200 rupees.¹⁰

(b) Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003¹¹

This act exists to control the production and distribution along with the usage of tobacco products in the Indian market. Apart from public smoking bans and tobacco restrictions surrounding schools the law prevents tobacco advertising to limit tobacco consumption. The ₹200 public fine set by the Act has not stopped widespread public smoking because of poor enforcement along with low public understanding of its rules. The ongoing prevalence of public smoking demonstrates how well the law needs stricter enforcement together with tougher penalties and more effective tobacco awareness promotion campaigns to control tobacco use adequately.

(c) The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014¹²

⁹ <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/209076/>

¹⁰ 'Law Relating to Public Nuisance in the Indian Penal Code' by Atishay Agarwal, Published by – Indian Journal of Integrated Research in Law

¹¹ 'Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) implementation in education institutions in India: A cross-sectional study' by Akash Pradhan and others, PMC (US government)

¹² <https://www.indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/2124?locale=en>

This provision in the Indian law balances street vendor rights against urban order requirements through vending activity rules. The Act establishes vending zones for protecting business opportunities of vendors yet prevents footpath blockage and vending zone entry by vendors. Similar zones stop encroachment that causes traffic congestion. The Street Vendors Act faces reduced effectiveness in maintaining urban order because of inadequate enforcement together with improper zoning policies and municipal inefficiencies which cause unregulated street vending and vendor-authority conflicts.

2.2.4. Swachh Bharat Mission and Civic Initiatives

(a) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (2014-Present):

“A clean India would be the best tribute India could pay to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150-birth anniversary in 2019,” said Shri Narendra Modi as he launched the Swachh Bharat Mission at Rajpath in New Delhi. On 2nd October 2014, Swachh Bharat Mission was launched throughout length and breadth of the country as a national movement. The campaign aimed to achieve the vision of a ‘Clean India’ by 2nd October 2019. But as we all know that it was never achieved.¹³

However, it should also be noted that this campaign is still the most popular one and as of 2025, the mission continues to focus on sanitation and clean drinking water throughout the country. The mission consists of building toilets together with efforts to rank cities for cleanliness and projects designed to transform public behaviour toward proper civic conduct. This initiative has achieved better urban sanitation and waste management in various cities yet faces ongoing challenges because citizens participate inconsistently and citizens need continuous awareness and the laws for cleanliness have uneven enforcement. Long-term success demands both enhanced community dedication and more stringent enforcement practices.

(b) The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

An Act to provide for the establishment of a NGT for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and

¹³ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Prime Minister of India – pmindia.gov.in

conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.¹⁴

Some landmark judgments given by the NGT include (i) Samir Mehta vs. Union of India¹⁵ (ii) Save Mon Region Federation & Anr vs Union of India & Ors¹⁶ (iii) Almitra H. Patel and Anr. vs Union Of India (Uoi) And Ors.¹⁷

2.3. Social Attitudes and Public Compliance

2.3.1. Role of Education

Several Indian schools lack structured civic education in their curriculum and as a result most students lack essential understanding about civic responsibilities. All children should learn about public responsibility alongside their legal obligations and social discipline in early education to develop better civic sense.

Countries such as Japan along with Singapore demonstrate excellent civic education programs because their school systems produce students who follow laws well and actively participate in their communities and honour civic guidelines. Civic responsibility combined with environmental awareness and ethical governance education in schools will produce a socially responsible citizens that addresses civic apathy in India.

2.3.2. Public Perception on Government Accountability and Personal Responsibility

Many citizens believe that civic maintenance is solely the duty of government and not at all theirs. People often tend to forget that the constitution of India which protects their fundamental rights enshrined in Part III (Article 12-35) also gives some fundamental duties written in Part IV-A (Article 51-A) that should also be followed by those very citizens who will do anything to fight for their rights if hindered.

Many of the duties mentioned are basic guidelines to uphold and value a set of principles in order to ensure proper conduct of the society in keeping with

¹⁴ greentribunal.gov.in

¹⁵ MANU/GT/0104/2016

¹⁶ M.A. NO. 104 OF 2012

¹⁷ (2000) 1 SCALE 568

the nation's goals and ideals. These points were deliberated and well thought out by the makers of our constitution and were included in the country's fundamental governing document. Merely measuring ourselves on each of the points of article 51 (a) will reveal the state of "civic sense" in the country.¹⁸

2.3.3. Comparison with Global Standards

A comparison of global standards in civic discipline highlights the effectiveness of both legal enforcement and social conditioning. In Singapore, strict laws on littering and public hygiene are reinforced by heavy fines and community service, ensuring compliance. In contrast, Japan relies on a strong cultural emphasis on collective responsibility, resulting in cleaner public spaces with minimal legal enforcement. Meanwhile, Germany benefits from well-developed municipal planning and citizen-led civic initiatives that promote high levels of civic discipline. These cases illustrate that a combination of stringent regulations and ingrained social norms plays a crucial role in fostering civic sense.

3. The Role of State: Failure or Inefficiency?

3.1. Weak Legal Enforcement

Every society requires laws for governance purposes yet adequate law enforcement ensures their satisfactory execution. Weak implementation occurs because of limited resources together with political pressure combined with bureaucratic delays. The shortage of public safety personnel along with inadequate financial resources hinders law enforcement agencies from adequately controlling activities. Through their political positions of power select some individuals for leniency in law enforcement while holding other general citizens responsible for the same infractions. The slow pace of judiciary diminishes public trust which results in extensive non-cooperation and a breakdown of rule-following law and order systems. Rule-breaking becomes more common because people observe inconsistent enforcement of rules that sometimes allows extraordinary cases to bypass sanctions and standards.

The practice of civic administration corruption and bribery creates a path for

¹⁸ 'Civic Sense in India' by Sujata, Indian Youth

unethical business activities to continue unrestricted. Those who provide bribes to public officials receive special privileges through rule-breakings that block regular citizens from using public services. Mysterious procedures handled by government departments generate corruption when officials distribute permits and contracts based on improper criteria. The lack of strong oversight enables corruption to continue because it damages public confidence while creating more social differences. The obligation for citizens to pay bribes for essential services causes both enhance economic inequality and diminish their trust in state institutions.

The practice of corruption in India has become an essential need in present scenario for the common citizens to get their job done fast or to simply get it done.

Globally, in the year 2018 the international corruption watchdog released its CPI index and awarded India a score of 40, rendering it the 81st most corrupt country in the world out of 180 countries.¹⁹ This shows the deteriorating condition of our nation.

3.2. Judicial and Legislative gaps

Civic governance receives primary support from judiciary and legislative institutions for its formation and execution. The judicial system and legislative bodies have limited effectiveness because of performance weaknesses in both areas. The main problem within the system consists of a lengthy bureaucratic judicial process which does not function efficiently. The high number of cases facing courts causes extended delays to solve civic problems. The long response time of the legal system diminishes the immediate effectiveness of essential court decisions and PILs in facing social and environmental issues. Many civil violations including illegal building projects and environmental damage and public health violations persist for multiple years because of complicated court procedures and legal slow-downs. The continued existence of legal loopholes in outdated laws provides criminals with ways to use technicalities for evading responsibility.

The framework lacks sufficient enforcement power because civic governing organizations receive limited judicial support. The current laws for urban planning and waste management as well as environmental protection provide insufficient tools for enforcement which results in multiple violations with minimum consequences. Some fines and penalties are too few and weak to stop criminals from

¹⁹ 'India Continues to Rank Amongst Most Corrupt Countries in the World' by Ronak D. Desai, Forbes

repeating their crimes. The judiciary hampers governance reform because it avoids issuing strong municipal directives and fails to pin public officials for their actions. Although judicial activism accomplished beneficial outcomes in various cases its unstable interventions introduce instability in policy enforcement practices. The legislative branch encounters delays in implementing timely reforms because of both bureaucratic inefficiency as well as political lethargy. Citizens remain exposed to civic challenges because the state's legal protection is weak which diminishes public trust in the ability of both justice and good governance to fulfil their roles.

3.3. Public Infrastructure and Governance Deficiencies

Fast-paced urban growth along with inadequate planning and weak governance institutions combine to create widespread deficiencies within public infrastructure systems. The combination of overpopulation with insufficient zoning control and heavy traffic along with uncontrolled building allows cities to develop poor urban areas and poorly organized spaces. Integral public service systems such as water supply and sanitation and waste management together with public transport operate at low efficiency which causes multiple health risks and environmental problems. Traumatic road conditions and the absence of pedestrian-friendly elements and ineffective traffic regulation lead to hazardous environmental conditions and intensifying traffic jams. Bureaucratic inefficiency together with corruption slows down infrastructure work and distributes public finances badly while diminishing service standards which leads citizens to lose faith in their government.

Almost all cities need smart and sustainable infrastructure as a priority yet they have not established modern solutions including smart traffic management and climate adaptation and renewable energy systems. The difficulty of monitoring government organizations remains high because public areas receive inadequate maintenance and residents lack meaningful involvement along with weak transparency from officials. The failure to combine proactive governance with efficient resource management will allow civic issues to worsen and degrade the general standard of living.

4. Socio-legal Solutions to the Civic Crisis

4.1. Strengthening Legal Enforcements and Penalties

To effectively deter such offenses authorities should increase penalties for both littering violations and traffic rules as well as illegal dumping behaviour. This enforcement program benefits from additional strict monitoring tools that consist of

CCTV cameras and AI-driven surveillance platforms and digital fines to enhance tracking and violation enforcement. A specialized court system for handling civic offenses should be established to link rapid case checks with prompt enforcement of penalties which will strengthen overall system performance. These three essential components operating together establish a comprehensive system which confronts wrongdoers while serving as deterrence by proving civic violations get discovered instantly and processed quickly in order to establish better civic accountability.

4.2. Policy Reforms and Institutional Strengthening

The effective management of cities requires decentralization which gives direct power to municipal bodies alongside resident welfare associations for better civic law enforcement at the local level. Establishing improved organizational divisions between municipal corporations and pollution control boards and traffic authorities should be implemented to avoid jurisdictional conflicts which consistently hinder efficient action. A new civic responsibility system which requires offenders to do public service would bring restorative elements into punishment and teach citizens better civic responsibilities. A structural reform of governance systems seeks to solve basic administrative problems which prevent efficient civic regulation enforcement and create more community-based space maintenance.

4.3. Comparative Case Studies

Indian public authorities should study the civic responsibility enforcement strategies of Singapore along with Japan and Germany to develop improved methods. Singapore uses severe penalties but also runs educational programs together with visible remedial efforts that include the "Corrective Work Order" system which impacts both disciplinary outcomes and public transparency. The Japanese model derives from social values which stress nationwide accountability by teaching children communal responsibility since their first days of school through tasks like schoolroom cleaning. Germany protects its environmental rules through precise regulations along with automated recycling systems backed by money deposits that encourage waste recycling. India could benefit from these examples by developing consistent enforcement mechanisms, integrating civic education into school curricula, creating clearer accountability systems with reduced jurisdictional overlap, building better waste management infrastructure, fostering community involvement, and launching public education campaigns that connect civic behaviour to shared cultural values—all while adapting these

approaches to India's unique social and administrative context rather than attempting direct transplantation.

Some examples for comparison can be from within India that is cities like Indore and Surat which are famously known as the cleanest cities of India with Indore holding the title for about 7 consecutive years until the year 2023 when Surat got the top position in 'Swacch Survekshan Awards, 2023'.²⁰

4.4. Civic Education and Public Awareness Campaigns

A society that follows laws depends heavily on public awareness educational programs and specific public outreach activities that teach civic duties. School curriculum integration of civic education will help students develop early understanding about social discipline and civic responsibility while learning the importance of public order and environmental responsibility and law adherence. Large-scale awareness campaigns deployed through social media networks and TV channels alongside community outreach activities will successfully get citizens to change their behaviour. The implementation of reward systems that give incentives for correct waste sorting and traffic compliance will encourage people to develop better civic behaviours. Societies that merge educational efforts with awareness programs will develop an atmosphere that respects both civic rules and legal requirements.

4.5. Community Engagement and Participatory Governance

The collective participation between citizens and government through governance practices strengthens citizen responsibility while improving law compliance. The development of citizen-initiated programs including cleanliness initiatives and traffic awareness campaigns and environmental conservation activities creates public awareness of shared duties. Mobile applications and helpline systems that let citizens file civic violation complaints help increase government responsibility and enhance official responsiveness. Decision-making processes which engage RWAs and local community leaders together with NGOs will create alignment between authorities and citizens so authorities can execute their policies better. People become more disciplined and law-abiding when their communities receive authority in governance and work together with officials to achieve civic goals.

4.6. Sustainable Urban Planning and Smart City Initiatives

²⁰ Indore and Surat named cleanest cities in India for 2023, India Today

The implementation of efficient urban planning along with smart city initiatives produces essential outcomes for civic order and sustainability. Modern urban layouts together with adequate waste management systems and designated vending areas and pedestrian-friendly areas minimize civic violations within cities. Public compliance together with enhanced law enforcement functions better when technology supports the delivery of automatic traffic monitoring and smart waste collection and artificial intelligence-based urban management systems. The creation of environmental responsibility happens through the promotion of both green spaces and cycling lanes as well as zero-waste zones. The collaboration between sustainable practices and digital governance systems allows cities to become better maintained and friendly toward citizens while solving their urban problems effectively.

5. Conclusion

The severe decline of civic awareness in India stems from multiple causes including inefficient security services and administrative problems and citizens' disengagement and traditional social tendencies. Current laws about waste management and traffic discipline and public behaviour face limits in their effectiveness due to corruption together with insufficient basic infrastructure and lack of public awareness. A multifaceted plan should be developed to address the public order issues through more effective legislation enforcement alongside educational programs and community involvement and smart technology adoption.

To establish a culture of civic responsibility the right strategy should unite both intensified penalties and educational initiatives about behaviour change. Through policy transformations and participative governance systems and sustainable urban planning approaches India can see better compliance with civic laws and enhanced public order conditions. A socially responsible law-abiding society will become a permanent reality in India only through the united work of government entities alongside law enforcement agencies educational institutions and citizens.

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