HYDERABAD (INDIA): GIVING THE STREETS BACK TO PEOPLE

This is a bit what it feels like in the streets of Hyderabad, a city in central India, with a population soon to reach the 10 million mark. More and more people, more and more cars and more and more journeys in a finite number of streets. So what’s the answer? It’s time to give the streets back to people!

THE GOAL: TO MAKE THE CITY MORE BREATHABLE

SUEZ Consulting is working with architects Bruno Remoué and the Indian consulting firm UMTC to help make Hyderabad a more breathable city – a city with more attractive, safer and less noisy streets offering more ways to travel... including for people who can’t afford a car or a taxi fare. The aim of the study is to show what can be done as applied to a 15 km pilot stretch of road running from the north to the south of the city: better pavements and pedestrian crossings, shady cycle paths, bus lanes (and maybe even a tramway), public open spaces and greenery.

THE SOLUTION

Plan streets with the focus on people rather than cars! With half of all journeys less than 2 km in length, let’s encourage people to walk or cycle by things like proper pavements, cycle paths, safe pedestrian crossings and fewer traffic lanes. And with underground trains not able to serve all parts of the city, public transport is still the best thing ever to move the greatest number people with the smallest amount of energy and pollution. So let’s change how we share our road space and let’s revolutionize the image of the bus!

So until cars fly...

The flying car isn’t ready for take-off any time soon. Our streets are not yet the apocalyptic visions conjured up in sci-fi movies like Blade Runner, The Fifth Element and Metropolis. Yet in many of the world’s cities, roads and fly overs are becoming a hellish tangle of vehicles all battling it out in a contest of speed and survival in a cacophony of horns and a heavy fog of pollution. A place where people put their life in their hands, not to mention their health, where gridlocked buses are used only by those who have no alternative. Indeed the state of our streets is making cities less and less liveable.

DID YOU KNOW

- Hyderabad is India’s sixth largest city by population.
- The city is known as “Cyberabed” and the next Silicon Valley of India after Bangalore thanks to its biotechnology hub at HITEC City and its information and communication technologies centre.
- A single bus-only lane can carry as many people as three motorway lanes.