



HRIDAY And Smart City Mission Initiatives: A Tale Of Two Historic Indian Pilgrim Cities - Puri And Madurai

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ABSTRACT

The process of development in a historic city majorly superimposed by multiple government schemes has become common in the Indian context in the last decade. Historic cities of India, known for their cultural, religious, architectural, and spiritual values are being converted into social hubs for tourism by replacing their original identity and values. With these rising issues, in 2015 Government of India with the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Urban Development formulated two national schemes interfacing and counter-depending which serve as guidelines for developing the heritage cities. (i) Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) and (ii) Smart City Mission are being implemented in the development of various Indian religious heritage cities. The two missions aim to uplift and promote the historical sites by implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in pilgrimage cities making them more sustainable in coherence with the roots of Indian culture, traditions, and society. This paper will focus on the objectives of HRIDAY and Smart City Mission with documentation of the interventions being done in the heritage pilgrimage sites of Puri (Orissa) and Madurai (Tamil-Nadu), following the analysis of outcomes with relevance to the historic value and identity of the city. Further study is conducted on the achievements of social, economic, environmental, and cultural sustainability based on the results of survey as per the targets and indicators of SDG 11-Sustainable cities and communities.

Keywords: HRIDAY, Smart City Mission, Puri, Madurai, SDGs, inclusive heritage development, pilgrimage redevelopment.

Inclusive Heritage Development in Pilgrimage cities of India

India's cultural heritage and particularly archaeological and built heritage is unparalleled in the world. (NITI Aayog, 2019) As per earlier survey reports, there were more than 400,000 heritage structures across the country including centrally protected, state-protected, under religious trusts, historic cities and archaeological sites. Over the years, urbanization has led to destruction and decay of our Indian heritage sites all over the country in the name of development. With a spike in growth in population and advancement in infrastructures and communication, a country like India with diverse cultures and religions is hosting a progressive number of national and international travellers. In India, majority of pilgrim Cities are directly associated with cultural, religious, physically planned with natural settings. Pilgrimage in the traditional sense is an inner journey manifest in exterior space in which the immanent and the transcendent together form a complex phenomenon (Singh 2023). Pilgrimages to sacred cities like Puri, Varanasi, Madurai, Mathura-Vrindavan, etc. provide travel opportunities and immerse pilgrims in the pure existence of strong historical and cultural heritage. With improvements in transportation, mobility, and economic stability a new age of pilgrimage has started where cities display more of 'tourism-like' characteristics including better facilities, change in the pattern of visits,

and limiting the engagement of tourists with rituals (Chandan & Kumar, 2019). Heritage includes built, natural, and living components together bringing more constraints to create a universal framework for the heritage management system. Heritage is the legacy of physical artefacts, and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present, and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. Heritage can be classified as tangible heritage, intangible heritage, and natural heritage (Rajkot Urban Development Authority, 2012). This also leads to larger intact towards unprotected and unrecognised heritage sites in India (Fig.1). Sustainable tourism is influenced by the dimension of heritage (cultural/natural), including community, basic infrastructure, visitors, administration, and enterprises, and other related issues (Singh, 2024). The interrelation between heritage and tourism is a dynamic and mutually beneficial connection that has significant implications for both cultural preservation and economic development. This relationship is characterized by the impact of heritage on tourism and the role of tourism in the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. Given this, the union government has launched various centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) such as Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), Smart City Mission (SCM), Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD), and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). HRIDAY covers 12 cities including Puri under the scheme and SCM covers 100 cities for smart developmental interventions including Madurai. With the rising issues over heritage mismanagement and organically built growth on the site. The Ministry of Tourism and Culture with Ministry of Urban Development, the Government of India together initiated multiple schemes to uplift and manage heritage sites and buildings since 2014. HRIDAY and Smart City Mission have been implemented in multiple locations across Puri and Madurai along with other cities of the country.

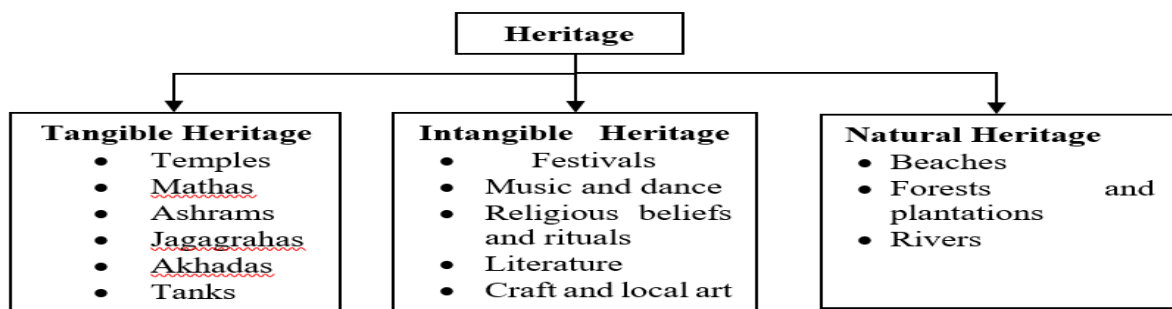


Fig.1. Heritage classification (Rajkot Urban Development Authority, 2012)

Introducing the two heritage-holy cities: Puri and Madurai

It is significant to remember that not only natural features like hills, rivers, caverns, and mountains—are revered as holy. Some unique qualities in addition to the location's strength and sacred spirit are to be considered in a site where people can go to try and communicate with the divine. The connection between sacrality and location heightens a place's sacred power and, thus, inspires awe or veneration for it. In the case of India, the topography of these holy sites had a major role in their original appeal—rather than being solely attributable to a single temple (Kumar et al., 2015).

Puri (latitude 19.8135° N, and longitude 85.8312° E) is located on the east coast of India, between Chilka and Konark in Orissa with a stretch of around 67 km long sandy beach on the Bay of Bengal. Bhubaneswar is the capital city of the state consisting of adequate urban infrastructure, which is also the first dropping point for national and international tourists to Puri. With proximity to the sea line, Puri enjoys cool sea breezes with hot tropical summer and rain. Being a significant cultural center of Orissa and known for its one of four major pilgrims sites (*Char Dham*) in India according to Hindu mythology, contains several important religious as well as tourist destinations within a 40–50 km radius. As per census 2011, the population density of the city is 11,938 people per square kilometer. The city includes a total of 32 wards, with Ward no 31 having the highest population of approximately 12,000 and has experienced 30% growth in the last decade. Puri consists of all tangibles, intangible and natural heritage intrinsically linked to Shree Jagannath Temple (Chandan et al., 2023). The city has outgrown and gone through gradual transformation resulting in expansion from its central core which is the Shree Jagannath Temple. The layout of an old sacred city resembles the shape of a conch with Shree Jagannath temple located at its core and other Shiva and the Shakti temples located on the periphery which is believed to protect its sanctity.

Madurai (latitude 9.9252° N, and longitude 78.1198° E) on the other hand is situated along the banks of the Vaigai River in the southern expanse of Tamil Nadu, is a city that breathes history and exudes cultural richness. Its geographical location, framed by the river's gentle flow, has played a pivotal role in shaping its identity as an ancient hub of civilization. Madurai's strategic location in the heart of Tamil Nadu has made it a cultural

and commercial crossroads for centuries. The Vaigai River, meandering through the city, not only sustains the region agriculturally and puts life to all living entities but also adds a scenic charm to Madurai's landscape. Surrounded by hills and fertile plains, the city enjoys a moderate climate, fostering the growth of lush vegetation and contributing to its overall aesthetic allure. At the heart of Madurai's heritage stands the Meenakshi Amman Temple, a colossal architectural marvel that resonates with the echoes of centuries past. The temple, with its towering gopurams adorned with vibrant sculptures, is a testament to the intricate craftsmanship of ancient Tamil artisans. The complex houses not only the divine deities but also encapsulates the historical legacy of the Pandya dynasty, showcasing the seamless fusion of religion and heritage. In 2010, the municipality boundary of Madurai city was extended to facilitate the population living on the peripheries. The magnum of the floating population, in terms of annual tourist flow and 27.32 % of the people living in informal settlements, had become a strain on the city's infrastructure (Kundu et al., 2019). Madurai is a cultural kaleidoscope, where tradition and modernity coexist harmoniously. The city's bustling streets are a canvas painted with the vibrant hues of traditional silk sarees, reflecting the cultural tapestry woven through generations. The annual Chithirai Thiruvizha, celebrating the celestial wedding of Lord Sundareswarar and Goddess Meenakshi, transforms the city into a cultural extravaganza, with processions, music, and dance reverberating through its ancient streets.

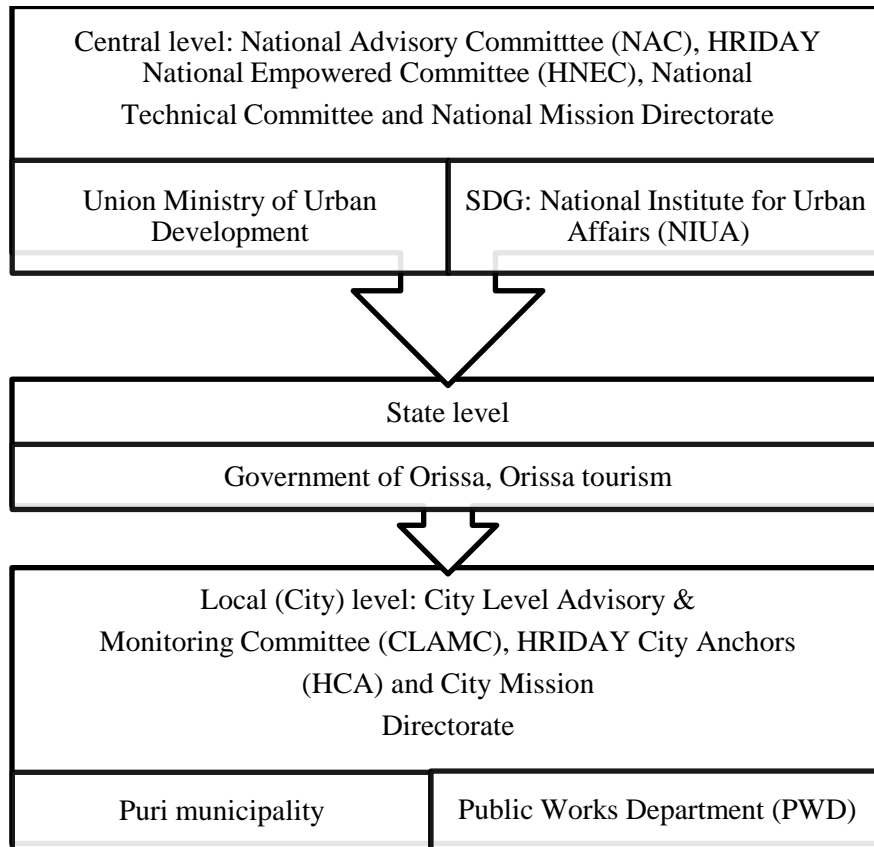
Heritage and Pilgrimage Inclusive Development : Framing HRIDAY and Smart City Mission

Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) : The National mission "Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana" (HRIDAY), initiated by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture and Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, aims to conserve and preserve the distinct and unique characters of the heritage cities, those continued their traditions of heritage (tangible, intangible, transitory and cultural landscapes) (HRIDAY, 2017a). Heritage development of a city involves the creation and preservation of a wide range of areas, including its planning, its fundamental services, the quality of life for its residents, its economy and way of life, cleanliness, security, the revitalization of its soul, and the outward expression of its personality. Under HRIDAY, several works are being conducted in twelve cities including Puri. The scheme is working with Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) for the overall successful implementation in the country (Singh et al., 2021) along with other national and international organisations. **Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA)** : A state government scheme under the tourism department was launched in 2017, to cultivate the city of Puri into a world-famous heritage. It aims to provide better and more affordable facilities for pilgrims and tourists. One of the major projects under the scheme is the Puri Heritage Corridor Project which has different minor projects included too.

Smart City Mission (SCM): The Smart City project aims to leverage technology and the Internet of Things (IoT), to enhance civic services and improve the overall living experience of citizens and tourists. The Integrated Command and Control Centre is going to serve as the eyes and ears of the Administration and thus help in the effective monitoring of service delivery (Madurai City Municipal Corporation, 2018). The scheme works in conveyance with HRIDAY and AMRUT. Objectives of the mission are to provide infrastructural works including water supply, sanitation, waste management, urban mobility, sustainable environment, Robust IT connectivity, and digitalization. Projects under the scheme work on smart mobility such as digital traffic management; the smart people by providing global education, training, and employment in various fields; smart economy; smart environment; smart government, and smart living.

Organization and Funding of HRIDAY and SCM

All the schemes require proper organizational structure, and funding for effective functioning, implementation and execution of the works undertaken. The implementation of the HRIDAY scheme is structured as given below:



Typical HRIDAY organisation structure (HRIDAY, 2017b)

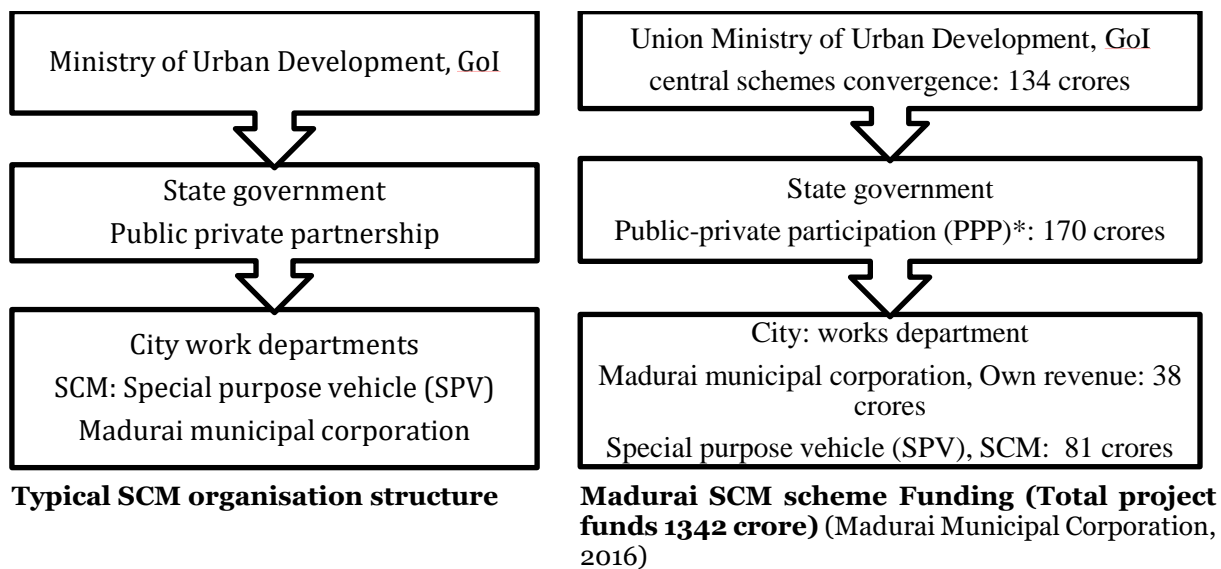


Fig.2. Typical HRIDAY and SCM Organizational and Funding Structure

The funding for the HRIDAY scheme in Puri is collected under three segments that are project-based, combined from either schemes and departments/ministries/organizations contributions made for the scheme. Under the three HRIDAY zones of the city, separate allocations are made based on the requirements and significance. A total of 20 crores is allocated for the projects which is distributed as; 6.3 crore the for zone the Jagannath temple complex, 3.15 crores for the river Musa environmental zone, and 6.16 crores for the Balukhanda recreational zone. Apart from that 56.35 crores are provided from other schemes working for common goals and departments such as city municipality, state government, and public works department (Madurai Municipal Corporation, 2018).

Heritage Zones: Puri and Madurai

Cities have implemented a range of development strategies and initiatives under the national SCM and HRIDAY schemes. In Puri, the whole city is divided into three heritage zones that are i. Shankh Kshetra Heritage zone, which include the Bada Danda streetscape project(visitor amenities, infrastructure development plan for Shree Jagannath Ballabh Garden). A fund of 17 crores is allotted for the revitalization of heritage zones. Other works include the landscape development at Bankimuhan: Environmental up gradation; River Musa Environmental Heritage zone: protection and conservation of river catchment, protection and preservation of the Sweet Water Zone; conservation of heritage buildings including Atharanala, Pathar Pokhri, Conservation and landscape development of sacred water tanks; Balukhanda Recreational Zone: improved visitor amenities and circulation, environmental up-gradation of buffer zone, Bankimuhan (Arquitectura et al., 2015). Under the ABADHA scheme, projects and initiatives such as the Puri Heritage Corridor Project including the Shree Jagannath Heritage Corridor (SJHC), the Puri Lake development project, up-gradation of the Raghunandan library, Matha development initiatives, the Musa River revival Plan, Jagannath Ballad Pilgrim centre, Acharya Harihar square development, Atharnala heritage development, housing projects, Shree setu plans, etc. are taken up.

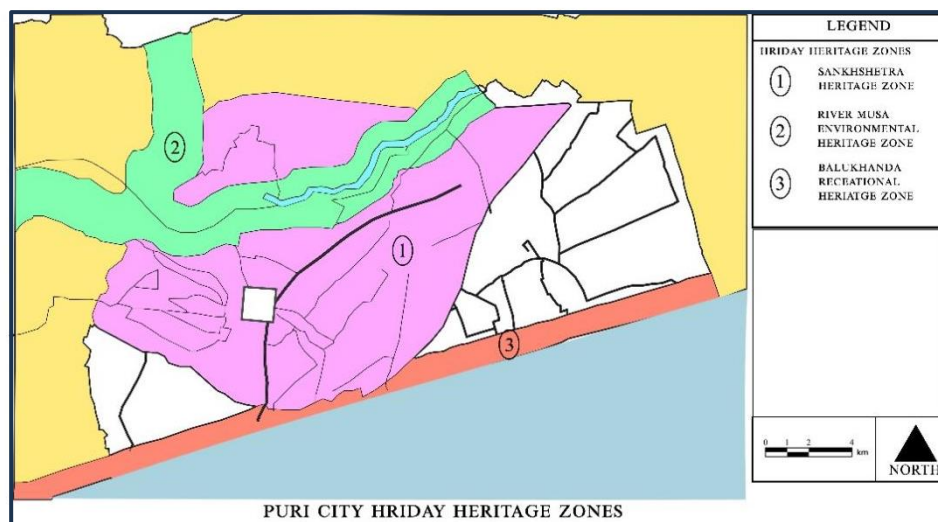


Fig. 3. HRIDAY heritage zones of Puri City (HRIDAY, 2017a)

Madurai city has undergone major development works under SCM, it is not an HRIDAY city. Under SCM, works such as Heritage Area Interventions including heritage Area Improvement, cultural centers (Temple Park, Pudhumandapam), Kunnathur chatram, assured 24X7 electricity supply with significant improvement in sustainability and energy efficiency by implementing LED, solar, and smart grid; tourism-related interventions, installation of surveillance systems, emergency response systems (IT connectivity, PIS info system, web app). Additional works include improved mobility using pedestrian-friendly pathways, the promotion of NMT, non-vehicle streets and zones, built interventions, the redevelopment of the bus terminal with MLCP and passenger/tourist facilities, infrastructure for people with disabilities, upgrades to the core infrastructure such as standard road levels. Also, provision of storm water drains, 24-hour water supply, rainwater harvesting, schools with smart classrooms. Vaigai Riverfront Development with recreational amenities, parks, bike tracks, plazas, and food zones, etc.

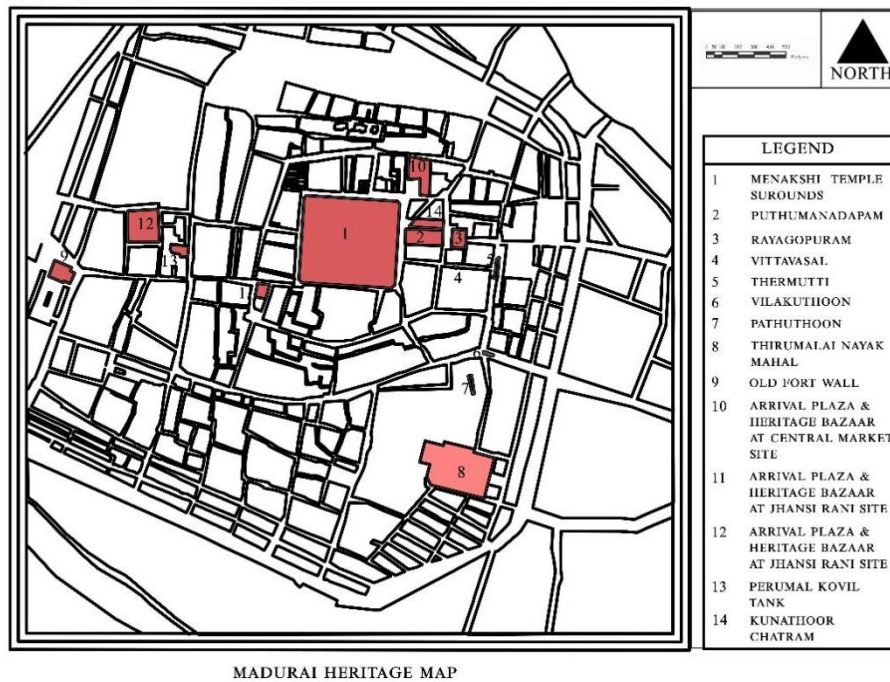


Fig.4. Heritage sites of Madurai City (Source: Madurai Municipal Corporation, 2018)

Puri & Madurai: Intangible Cultural Heritage

The intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) transmitted from generation to generation includes practices, skills, knowledge, artefacts and cultural spaces, community groups etc. The five categories of ICH given by UNESCO include 1) Oral traditions and expressions, 2) Performing arts, 3) Social practices, 4) Practices related to the universe and nature, 5) Traditional craftsmanship (Singh 2015). In the Indian context of the ICH with special mention to the holy heritage cities of Puri and Madurai, various attributes of the ICH can be classified into ten broad categories.

Table 1. Attributes of Intangible Cultural Heritage: Puri and Madurai

S. no.	Cultural Heritage attribute (selective)	Puri (major/ selected ones referred)	Madurai (major/ selected ones referred)
1	Oral Traditions	Gitagovinda (describing relationships between Krishna, Radha, and Gopis), Odissi Prabandha, Chhanda, Champu, Pallabi, Dhudk.	Carnatic music, Pannisal.
2	Performance Arts	Bhajana, Odissi dance, Mahari dance, Gotipua dance, Ghoda nacha, Daskathia Bhalunach, Naga and Medha dance, Navrang, Pala, instrumental and Performances.	Classical dance like Oyilattam, kummi, karagattam (dancing with pots), Kolattam (dance around rangoli), Bommalatam (puppet dance) Folk dance, and singings.
3	Theatre form of the God's story	Sahi Jata (Folk theatre).	Therukoothu (street theatre).
4	Parikrama/ Yatras, Pilgrimages	Snana Yatra, Ratha Yatra or Sri Gundicha Yatra, Utthapan Yatra Dakhinayan Yatra Prarbana Yatra, Dola Yatra, Chandan Yatra, Jhulan yatra, Gosani yatra.	Processions -Ther Thiruvizhah" (chariot festival), and "Theppa Thiruvizhah" (float festival).
5	Rituals and Festivals (selective)	Beach Festivals, Shayani Ekadashi, Parswa Paribartan, Pusyavishek, Uttarayan, Damanak Chaturdasi, Akshaya Tritiya, Heera	Meenakshi Tirukkalyanam, Chittirai Festival, Car Festival, Chittirai festival, Avanimoolam Festival, Thepporchavam Festival or float

		Panchami, Panchaka, Nabakalebara, Anavasara, Niladri Bije, Gupta Gundicha, Pavitrotsava, Damanaka utsava, Pana Sankranti, Chitalagi Amabasya, Deba dipabali.	festival, Jallikattu, Pongal Festival (harvest Festival), bull taming event Santhanakoodu Festival, Pongal.
6	Traditional Art & Craftsmanship	Patthachittra art ((decorating Lord Jagannath and his siblings), Murti casting (sculpturing), Pipli, (Applique work) Mahaprasadam (56 Bhog) - Sankundi, Sukhila.	Sungadi sarees, weaving, spinning, fine gold-bordered veshtis, medium weight cotton sarees with fabric painting, woollen goods, silk cloth, Brass and Bronze pots.
7	Scholastic Traditions and schooling and discourses system	Shree Jagannath Sanskrit University, Puri University, Central Sanskrit University, Institute of Advanced Research.	Madurai Kamraj University. The American College in Madurai, Enga Madurai Cultural centre.
8	Indigenous Knowledge & Healing Tradition	Ayurveda, Yoganand Healing techniques.	Nature therapy, Ayurvedic medicine, and Cancer healing centres.
9	Memorials, icons and Saints' associated sites.	Jatia Baba Samadhi, Haridas Thakur Smadhi, Sarojinidevi memorial Library.	Gandhi memorial museum, Mohzinayaru Devayaneyapavanar memorial hall, Siddhar Jeeva Samadhi, Arulmigu Somappa swamigal Jeeva Samadhi, Sri Sannassi Swamy Jeeva Samadhi.
10	Birthplaces of experts and Literates.	Ashok Das, Baisali Mohanty, Jagannath Prasad Das, Sudarshan Pattnaik, Damodar Hota, Dhaneshwar Swain, Pradeep Maharathy, Prasad Kumar Harichandan, Jagannath Prasad Das, Kelucharan Moha Patra & others.	Karthik Subbaraj, Karthik Subbaraj, Vadivel Balaji, Paravai Muniyamma, Mohan Raja, Ganesan Venkatarama & others.

As discussed above, both Puri and Madurai, are suited as sites of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) and thus their associated attributes need to be taken care in the inclusive heritage development in the policies by GOI.

Challenges

A prominent center of pilgrimage that is simultaneously endowed with the natural blessings of azure seas and lush forests in the vicinity, Puri hosts millions of pilgrims and tourists around the year, with the concentration reaching its peak during the annual Rath Yatra Festival, when millions of devotees throng to Puri from across the world, to pay homage to Lord Jagannath and participate in the pulling of his chariot. Historic cities are complex and dynamic systems and reflect the many processes that drive the physical, social, environmental, and economic transition and they are prime generators of any such changes, which further reciprocate into other changes over time (Singh and Niglio, 2022). Issues like infrastructure services, encroachment, tardy procedures, etc (Arquitectura et al., 2015). The cities are unprepared to host such a huge population and the gradual increase in demand for basic services has led to the rise of issues such as slums near heritage areas creating chaos near Narendra tank in Puri, water contamination of Vaigai river in Madurai, sacred tanks, and Musa River, lack of visitor amenities in heritage areas of both cities, environment degradation of sensitive areas such as rivers, beaches in Puri, unorganized vehicular movement, negligence towards heritage sites/ buildings in Puri and Madurai, misuse of public spaces like informal housing, parking, vendors, etc. Madurai is a historic religious city that witnessed growth organically due to which it suffered various issues because of urbanization and overall development. The following issues are identified as per the survey:

1. Loss of heritage in the temple area, slow progress, and gaps have been identified in the mentioned schemes.
2. Water Pollution of the Vaigai River, no access to the river due to retaining walls, shrink of river width.
3. Poor waste management i.e. collection, segregation, and disposal especially near the Vaigai river.
4. Lack of maintenance of water bodies leading to the growth of weeds.
5. Traffic congestion due to old narrow streets at the city center Madurai.
6. Commercialization leading to the lack of green spaces such as urban parks and gardens.
7. Heritage insensitive of new markets near temple area.
8. Legal framework and management of heritage required at the local level.

Other than that, issues such as degradation of natural resources, lack of awareness, and unethical development activities in heritage sites. Under SCM, funding for every city of the chosen 100 must develop its plans, finance the project, and manage the implementation by itself. So, some cities are doing better than others, and all the challenges may not be true for all participating cities (Moik et al., 2021). Challenges such as reliability of utility services for tourists, resource distribution among visitors and capacity building for 100 cities, cost-effective implementation, project delays, poor transparency of management, coordination between the movement tiers, and self-sustainability of urban local bodies, societal adequacy, and lack of awareness about ICT as smart citizens play an important role in using smart solutions.

Analysis of scheme interventions

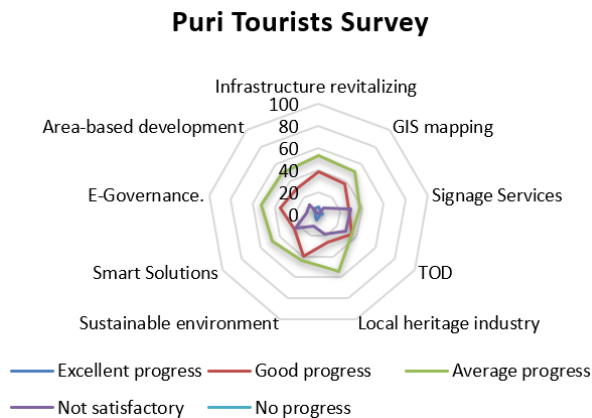


Fig.5. Overall response of Puri city dwellers
(Source: Author)

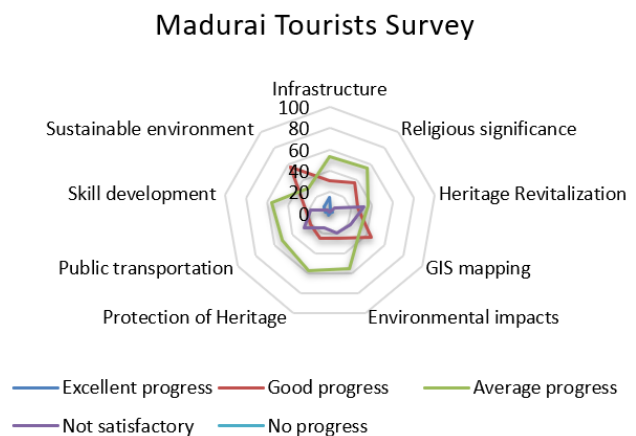


Fig.6. Overall response of Madurai city dwellers
(Source: Author)

As per the survey, Puri city residents strongly agree with the scheme implementation and progress. Slow and gradual progress is seen in most aspects especially in infrastructure and Transit- oriented development (TOD) except GIS mapping in Puri city. Tourists in Puri reveal average progress in most of the parameters. The percentage of people with neutral replies on the impact was greater in Puri than in Madurai. In Puri, schemes regarding smart solutions and impactful schemes were not considered successful among people. Development in improved services and public participation can also be seen in Puri. Most of the works have average progress in both the cities, e-governance is showing good response in Puri while housing and sustainability is improved in Madurai city. There are still huge gaps in attaining sustainable and heritage inclusive development.

Analysis of works under HRIDAY in Puri City:

1. Zoning out heritage areas.
2. Revival of ponds/kunds done under the HRIDAY.
3. Protection and conservation of river water under HRIDAY scheme.
4. Unorganized spaces.
5. Unplanned construction activities.
6. Poor landscape development in Bada Danda Street
7. No heritage plan implemented for future management.
8. Construction materials stored within heritage sites.
9. No up-gradation is seen for pilgrim accommodation near the temple
10. A decline in water quality of River Musa
11. No conservation of heritage buildings and environment.

There is an urgent need to create heritage awareness among people, formation of maintenance committees for water bodies and heritage sites, construction restrictions for floodplains and/or catchment areas, and enforcing tourist movement restrictions over the heritage areas in Madurai city. Madurai shows average progress in most of the developmental aspects. Here, tourist influx, public participation, smart solutions, and public transport are the more successful under the schemes. Public transport and tourist influx have witnessed growth with time in Madurai. Progress is seen under restoration, skill development, and services. Madurai is in the development path. Some of the residents believe in poor performance in implementation and an increase in pollution.

Analysis of works under SCM in Madurai city:

1. Need to create more heritage awareness about the Temple park, Pudhumandapam, Kunnathur chatram
2. Maintenance committees for water bodies and heritage sites are required for their poor conditions as in the Vaigai River front

3. Construction guidelines for floodplains/catchment area.
4. Enforcing tourist movement restrictions over the heritage areas.
5. Highly dense commercial areas

Shaping Sustainable Heritage City System

The structuring, shaping and operating sustainable heritage city (SHC) system shall be arranged in the following 6-tier operation, i.e. 1- Setting the vision for SHC of the venture, 2- Identifying the SDG Goal 11 & Inclusive Heritage Development, IHD, Strategies, 3- Achieving the Political Cohesion, 4- Building the SHC Frame, 5- Measuring the SHC's Potential & the Progress, and 6- Ensure Accountability & Responsibility (see Table 2.). The structural shaping is rationally befitting to Puri and Madurai.

Table 2. Shaping the Cycle of Sustainable Heritage Cities Framework
(Source: Kumar 2018, p. 216, developed in the Indian context taking view of the ITU-TFG-SSC 2015, and Habitat III Quito Report, October 2016).

Attributes of SHC	Resulting Function
1. Setting the vision for SHC of the venture	A heritage city's identity, long-term inclusive heritage development (IHD) plan, pertinent multi-stakeholders and procedures, and the current organizational and governance structures for historic heritage city solutions are all taken into consideration when identifying an inclusive heritage city vision.
2. Identifying the SDG 11 & IHD Strategies	Creating smart and sustainable historic city services in line with SDG 11, which is one of the so-called "Urban Sustainable Development Goals," and building heritage city infrastructure, such as the Internet of Things.
3. Achieving the Political Cohesion	To guarantee that the strategic strategy is followed related to IHD, local governments should secure the required political support. This includes reaching a consensus to adopt the program and its goals.
4. Building the SHC Frame	Ensuring long-term services through proper operation and maintenance of Sustainable Heritage City, SHC; creating an action plan for Public-Private Partnerships programs; and improving existing traditional infrastructure and building new infrastructure are all required under the IHD.
5. Measuring the SHC's Potential & the progress	Encompasses tracking and assessing the potential and the action plan needed to accomplish SDG 11(heritage cities, places, and settlements), which is a collection of sustainable development goals.
6. Ensure Accountability & Responsibility	Involves reporting, assessing, and drawing lessons from the SHC process and associated encounters. The ongoing learning process that arises from the reflective evaluation process will inform and impact the IHD's future vision and strategy for smart and SHC.

In the successful operation of the Sustainable Heritage City System, like other planning models, community participation is the key energy in the functioning and maintenance of the system by making a rational balance among social (religious and cultural heritage), physical (housing and community development), and economic (cultural-heritage tourism) attributes of the heritage-holy city; this can easily be schematic using set and superimposing sets.

Concluding Remarks

A systematic strategy is required to unlock the endless potential inherent in the tourist and heritage sector, releasing the power of skilled craftsmen, and traditional economy, to make these cities dynamic, and competitive, and solve some of the listed difficulties. This will also make it possible to seamlessly integrate the contemporary idea of local economic growth using locally accessible information, resources, and skills. After witnessing the issues and challenges of Puri and Madurai, several ways are there to carve the development i.e. strategizing policies for water conservation, use of proper signage for movement, decentralization of city core activities, public awareness of heritage value and significance. Tools like Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) can be used to evaluate and understand the potential impacts that proposed development projects may have on cultural heritage resources. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and its accompanying procedures are essential for determining significance when coping with the urbanization consequences on heritage assets (Chakraborty & Ji, 2023). Centre for Heritage Conservation (CHC) regularly conducts Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) as third-party evaluators. The Centre has conducted HIA of projects of varying scales, such as small, medium to large scale urban

infrastructure projects, redevelopment projects, as well as singular buildings and constructions proposed in the vicinity of ASI - protected monuments of national importance, heritage-sensitive areas, precincts, and historic cities.

The study of public schemes in cities reveals a multifaceted landscape shaped by initiatives aimed at addressing diverse socio-economic challenges. From infrastructure development to social welfare programs, cities across the country are implementing public schemes such as HRIDAY and SCM to enhance the quality of life for their residents and tourists. These schemes demonstrate a commitment to fostering inclusive growth, improving accessibility, and promoting sustainable urban development. The efficacy of HRIDAY and SCM is contingent upon various factors, including effective governance, community engagement, and adaptability to evolving urban dynamics. As cities continue to grapple with issues such as housing affordability, transportation, and environmental sustainability, the importance of well-designed and efficiently executed schemes becomes increasingly evident.

Furthermore, successful implementations of the schemes are characterized not only by their immediate impact but also by their long-term sustainability and ability to foster resilience in the face of urban challenges. Collaborative efforts involving governments, non-governmental organizations, and the community at large are essential for the successful implementation and continuous improvement of such schemes. As cities evolve, the study of schemes provides valuable insights into the evolving relationship between urban governance and the well-being of inhabitants. The research will support policy-makers to refine their strategies, ensuring that public initiatives remain responsive to the changing needs of urban populations. In this way, the study of public schemes serves as a crucial tool for shaping cities that are not only efficient and sustainable but also equitable and liveable for all.

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