## PRESS RELEASE

## 14 Cities Of Kerala Was Felicitated By Suchitwa Mission And German Technical Cooperation For Their Efforts In Planning For A Better Sanitation City

## A Step Toward Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

Trivandrum, Kerala 17 January 2017

**Report:** In an event organised by Suchitwa Mission, Govt. of Kerala and GIZ of German Technical Cooperation, titled 'Better Sanitation Planning for Urban Local Bodies in Kerala''; 14 cities of the state were felicitated. They were felicitated in the presence of 27 participating cities of the state. Municipal Chairman/Chairpersons, secretaries and officials of 27 ULBs were present in the event. The honor was given to them as an 'Appreciation for their efforts in Preparing City Sanitation Plans (CSP)'. The event was organised in Trivandrum, Kerala on January 17, 2017.

The event was graced by Dr. K.Vasuki, Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission, Ms. Margit Hellwig Boette, Consulate General, Federal Republic of Germany, Mr.Syed Ibrahim, Honorary Counsul, Federal Republic of Germany, Kerala; Mr. Dirk Walther, Project Director, GIZ. In her keynote address Dr. Vasuki said planning for a better sanitation is a key for citywide development and this training has been envisaged to help cities understand the importance of planning and work towards implementing sustainable sanitation management systems and infrastructure. While praising the state of Kerala in her inaugural address Mrs. Boette announced that Kochi has been chosen by Federal Republic of Germany, in making it a smart city. German cooperation in India is supporting 3 cities in becoming smart city, Kochi is one among them. And in achieving that better sanitation plays a key role.

Cities beyond the 14 selected cities were also invited in the event for cross learning and knowledge exchange which will help them to develop plans for better sanitation in their cities.

Suchitwa Mission and GIZ in partnership with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has trained and handhold 14 selected cities in planning and preparing CSP for their cities since last one and half year. CSP is a planning tool and vision document for citywide sanitation improvement. City Sanitation Plan (CSP) was introduced as planning tool and vision document for city-wide sanitation by the National Urban Sanitation Policy in 2008. The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and the AMRUT Mission have recognised the CSP as important planning tool to achieve improvement in service levels and selection of suitable projects.

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