



Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research

Why in News

Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched “**Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)**” program.

- It is a joint initiative of MoHUA, [National Institute of Urban Affairs \(NIUA\)](#) and leading Indian academic institutions of the country.

15 Premier planning Institutes
47 Smart Cities
75 Case Studies

SAAR
SMART CITIES AND ACADEMIA
TOWARDS ACTION AND RESEARCH

Logos of participating institutions: CEPT UNIVERSITY, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, College of Engineering, Pune, College of Engineering, Trivandrum, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, Jamia Millia Islamia, School of Planning & Architecture, Bhopal, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, Indian Institute of Engineering Science & Technology, Shibpur, Malviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, MANIPAL SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING, RV College of Architecture, Anna University, Chennai, Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute of Architecture, Mumbai.

Key Points

- About:**
 - Under the program, **15 premier architecture & planning institutes of the country will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects** undertaken by the [Smart Cities Mission](#).
 - The **documents will capture the learnings from best practices, provide opportunities for engagement on urban development projects** to students, and enable real-time information flow between urban practitioners and academia.
- MoHUA and NIUA will **facilitate linkages between the Institutions and Smart Cities** for specific landmark projects that are to be documented under the program.

- The first activity envisaged under SAAR is **to prepare a compendium of 75 landmark urban projects** in India under the Smart City Mission.

National Institute of Urban Affairs

- NIUA is **an institute for research, training and information dissemination** in urban development and management. It is **located in New Delhi, India**.
- It was **established in 1976 as an autonomous body under the Societies Registration Act**.
- The Institute is supported by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, Government of India, State Governments, urban and regional development authorities and other agencies concerned with urban issues.

- **Smart City Mission:**
 - **About**
 - It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under MoHUA to drive **economic growth and improve the quality of life** of people by enabling local development and harnessing technology as a means to create smart outcomes for citizens.
 - **Objective:**
 - To promote **cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens**, a clean and sustainable environment and application of Smart Solutions.
 - **Focus:**
 - On **sustainable and inclusive development** and to look at compact areas, create a replicable model which will act like a lighthouse to other aspiring cities.
 - **Strategy:**
 - Pan-city initiative in which at least one Smart Solution is applied city-wide.
 - Develop areas step-by-step with the help of these three models:
 - Retrofitting.
 - Redevelopment.
 - Greenfield.
 - **Performance So Far:**
 - Since the start of the Mission in 2015, the **100 Smart Cities have been developing a total of 5,151 projects** with an investment of Rs. 2,05,018 crore.

Initiatives Related to Urban Development

- **[Atal Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation \(AMRUT\)](#)**.
- **[Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban \(PMAY-U\)](#)**.
- **[Integrated Command and Control Centres \(ICCCs\)](#)**.
- **[Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework 2.0](#)**.
- **India Smart Cities Fellowship Program.**
- **[TULIP-The Urban Learning Internship Program](#)**.

[Source: PIB](#)