



Status of India's Smart Cities Mission

Source: IE

Why in News?

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs's latest data, as of 3rd November 2023, provides insights into the **status of India's Smart Cities Mission**.

- With the mission's deadline approaching in June 2024, the analysis showcases top-performing cities, financial milestones, and regional variations in project completion.

What are the Key Findings Regarding the Status of India's Smart Cities Mission?

- **Leading Cities in Completion of Projects:**
 - **Surat (Gujarat) emerges as the top-performing city**, leading in the completion of projects, fund utilization, and overall criteria.
 - **Agra (Uttar Pradesh(UP)), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Varanasi (UP), and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)** secure positions in the top five cities, showcasing commendable progress.
 - The rest of the top 10 include Tumakuru (Karnataka), Udaipur (Rajasthan), Madurai (Tamil Nadu), Kota (Rajasthan) and Shivamogga (Karnataka).
- **Regional Disparities:**
 - **Union Territories (UTs)** and cities in **Northeastern states** find themselves in the bottom 10.
 - The bottom 10 cities are Kavaratti (Lakshadweep), Puducherry, Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Imphal (Manipur), Shillong (Meghalaya), Diu, Guwahati (Assam), Aizawl (Mizoram), Gangtok (Sikkim) and Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh).
 - Sources attribute the slower progress in smaller **cities to capacity constraints**, emphasizing the need for tailored strategies to address the unique challenges faced by these urban centers.
- **Overall Project Landscape:**
 - About **22% of total projects (1,745 of 7,947)** that account for **33% out of Rs 1.70 lakh crore** of the total cost are still ongoing. The **majority of projects (6,202) have been completed**, emphasizing the scale and financial investment involved.

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SMART CITIES MISSION

About

- **Launched:** 2015
- **Nature:** Centrally Sponsored
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- **Implemented through:** Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) at city level
- **Mission Deadline:** Extended to June 2023
- **Coverage:** Developing 100 selected cities as Smart Cities

Six Fundamental Principles

- Citizen at the core
- More from Less
- Cooperative and competitive federalism
- Integration, innovation & sustainability
- Technology as means, not the goal
- Convergence

SMART SOLUTIONS

E-Governance and Citizen Services

- Public Information, Grievance Redressal
- Electronic Service Delivery
- Citizen Engagement
- Citizens-City's Eyes and Ears
- Video Crime Monitoring



Energy Management

- Smart Meters & Management
- Renewable Sources of Energy
- Energy Efficient & Green Buildings



Waste Management

- Waste to Energy & fuel
- Waste to Compost
- Waste Water Treatment
- Recycling and Reduction of Waste



Water Management

- Smart Meters & Management
- Leakage Identification, Preventive Maintenance
- Water Quality Monitoring



Urban Mobility

- Smart Parking
- Intelligent Traffic Management
- Integrated Multi-Modal Transport



Others

- Tele-Medicine & Tele Education
- Incubation/Trade Facilitation Centers
- Skill Development Centers



▪ 60% projects have been completed so far

Challenges

- **Managing Finance:** Difficulty in mobilising funds, transferring them to SPVs, and using them efficiently
- **Urban Problems:** Like air pollution, road congestion & decline in public transport
- **Policy Issues:** Like hindrances in getting environment clearances
- **Data privacy and security**
- **Lack of Center-State Co-ordination**

Way Ahead

- **Decentralisation:** Planning at Municipal & state level for better implementation
- **Policy Issues:** Like red-tapism, environmental clearances need to be taken care of
- **PPP Model:** For better administrative & technological capabilities
- **Integrated Approach:** For holistic development of transportation, energy, housing
- **Promote Citizen Engagement**



Note: The Government has decided to extend the Smart Cities Mission deadline by one year, from June 2023 to June 2024.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. With a brief background of the quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme.' (2016)