



India Smart Cities Award Contest 2022

For Prelims: [India Smart Cities Award Contest 2022](#), [Smart Cities Mission](#), [Integrated Command and Control Centre \(ICCC\)](#), [Centrally Sponsored Scheme](#), **Ease of Living Index**, **Municipal Performance Index**.

For Mains: India Smart Cities Award Contest, Smart Cities Mission.

[Source: HT](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has announced the [India Smart Cities Award Contest \(ISAC\) 2022](#) under the [Smart Cities Mission \(SCM\)](#), that felicitated 66 winners in various categories.

- Indore, Madhya Pradesh, and Chandigarh emerged as **top performers in the ISAC 2022 awards**, securing recognition for their excellence in different areas of urban development.

What are the Key Highlights of ISAC 2022?

- **National Smart City Award:**
 - Indore secured the prestigious national smart city award, reflecting its exceptional progress in urban development strategies, followed by **Surat and Agra**.
 - Indore's commitment to sanitation, water supply, and urban environment earned it recognition as a leader in these vital areas.
- **State Award:**
 - Madhya Pradesh received the **state award for its comprehensive approach** to fostering smart city initiatives within its borders.
 - Madhya Pradesh is followed by **Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan**.
- **Union Territory (UT) Award:**
 - Chandigarh was honored with the UT award, acknowledging its efforts to transform itself into a model smart city.
- **Other Categories:**
 - Coimbatore took the top spot for built environment,
 - Ahmedabad for the culture and [Integrated Command and Control Centre \(ICCC\) category](#),
 - Jabalpur for economy,
 - Chandigarh for governance and mobility,
 - Indore for sanitation, water and urban environment,
 - Vadodara for social aspects,
 - Hubballi Dharwad for the innovative idea category and Surat for Covid innovation category.

What is ISAC?

- The ISAC recognizes and rewards the cities, projects and innovative ideas that are **promoting**

sustainable development across the 100 smart cities, as well as stimulating **inclusive, equitable, safe, healthy and collaborative cities**, thus enhancing quality of life for all.

- The ISAC has witnessed three editions in **2018, 2019 and 2020**.
- The fourth edition of the ISAC was launched in April 2022 during the **'Smart Cities-Smart Urbanization' event in Surat, Gujarat**.
 - The ISAC 2022 award had a **two-stage submission process consisting of 'Qualifying Stage'**, which involved overall assessment of the city's performance, and the 'Proposal Stage' which required the smart cities to submit their nominations for six award categories.
 - **Project Awards:** 10 different themes,
 - **Innovation Awards:** 2 different themes,
 - National/Zonal City Awards,
 - State Awards,
 - UT Award, and
 - Partners Awards, 3 different themes.

What is a Smart Cities Mission?

- **About:**
 - It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, launched in June 2015 to transform 100 cities to provide the necessary **core infrastructure and clean and sustainable environment** to enable a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of "Smart Solutions".
 - The mission aims to meet the aspirations of India's population living in cities through various urban development projects.
- **Features:**
 - Among its strategic **components is 'area-based development'**, which includes city improvement (retrofitting), city renewal (redevelopment) and city extension (greenfield development), plus a pan-city initiative in which 'smart solutions' are applied covering larger parts of the city.
 - **Key focus areas** of the scheme include construction of walkways, pedestrian crossings, cycling tracks, efficient waste-management systems, integrated traffic management and assessment.
 - The scheme also assesses various indices to track urban development such as the **Ease of Living Index, Municipal Performance Index**, City GDP framework, Climate Smart Cities assessment framework, etc.
- **Achievements:**
 - **Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC):** One of the pivotal achievements of the Smart Cities Mission is the establishment of ICCC in all 100 smart cities.
 - These centers serve as the operational hubs for **urban management, utilizing technology** to enhance various aspects of city operations. Notably, ICCCs have contributed to improvements in crime tracking, citizen safety, transport management, waste management, water supply, and disaster preparedness.
 - **Sectoral Progress:** The Smart Cities Mission encompasses a wide array of projects across sectors, including mobility, energy, water, sanitation, public spaces, social infrastructure, and governance.
 - **Smart Mobility:** Completion of 1,174 projects.
 - **Smart Energy:** Successful completion of 573 projects.
 - **Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** Over 1,162 projects completed.
 - **Public Spaces:** Development of more than 1,063 public spaces.

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



Urban Mobility

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



Water Management

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



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**



What is a Smart City?

- There is no standard definition or template of a smart city. In the context of our country, the six fundamental principles on which the concept of Smart Cities is based are:



What are the other Initiatives Related to Urban Development?

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

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

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

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/india-smart-cities-award-contest-2022>

