



# Smart Solutions Challenge and Inclusive Cities Awards 2022

## Why in News?

Recently, **Smart Solutions Challenge and Inclusive Cities Awards 2022** were awarded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

## Why were the Key Highlights of the Event?

- In the category of early-stage innovations, the winner was a **wearable technology product, Fifth Sense by Glovatrix Pvt. Ltd.**
  - This product **translates sign language gestures to speech and text using sensors and [Artificial Intelligence](#).**
- In the second category of market-ready solutions, **Mouseware by Dextroware Devices Pvt. Ltd.** was the winner.
  - Mouseware is a **head-wearable device that enables hands-free control of computers and smart gadgets.**
- **Belagavi Smart City's** system for those with disabilities to access education and healthcare was awarded the **top prize in the category of implemented solutions.**

## What should we Know about the Awards?

- **About:**
  - The Smart Solutions Challenge is an **initiative of the [National Institute of Urban Affairs \(NIUA\)](#) and the United Nations (UN)) in India.**
  - NIUA and UN in India are looking for **innovative ideas, solutions, technologies, products, and business solutions** that can help break-down and resolve complex city-level inclusion and accessibility challenges **faced by persons with disabilities, women and girls, and the elderly.**
- **Significance:**
  - These solutions will be instrumental in integrating universal design, which will help **achieve [Sustainable Development Goals](#)' target 11.7- to provide safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces for all vulnerable communities.**

## What is 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, 1860.**
- 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.

## What are Other 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.](#)

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question

**Q. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Smart India Hackathon 2017? (2017)**

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme for developing every city of our country into Smart Cities in a decade.
2. It is an initiative to identify new digital technology innovations for solving the many problems faced by our country.
3. It is a programme aimed at making all the financial transactions in our country completely digital in a decade.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

**Ans: B**

**Exp:**

- Smart India Hackathon, 2017 was a 36 hour non-stop digital product development competition during which teams of thousands of technology students tried to build innovative digital solutions for the problems identified by 29 different Ministries/Departments of Gol. **Hence, statement 2 is correct and 1, 3 are not correct.**
- For the first time, government departments directly engaged with students, challenging them to build digital solutions to improve their efficiency, plug revenue leakages and corruption.
- The 'Grand Finale' of Smart India Hackathon, 2017 was organized, simultaneously across 26 different cities and the winners got support for converting their ideas into startups apart from cash prizes.

**Source: TH**