



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

Participating Institutions:

- CEPT UNIVERSITY, Center for Environmental Planning & Technology, Ahmedabad
- 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](#)