



A GIANT STEP TOWARDS LIVING SMARTLY

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Introduction

NDA government has come up with so various plans in order to enhance the growth of the economy. In this regards one of the plans the Government has announced in the Union budget 2015 is for the creation of 100 new smart cities. The objective behind this is to provide a better quality of urban life which further attracts many people, investments in the cities, growth and development. Nearly 31% of India's current population lives in urban areas and contributes 63% of India's GDP (Census 2011). With increasing urbanization, urban areas are expected to house 40% of India's population and Contribute 75% of India's GDP by 2030. For this it requires physical development, institutional development, social and economic infrastructure development. The present paper throws light on the challenge of urbanization – that is Smart cities.

Smart City and its Features

There is no particular definition which is accepted universally. It means different things to different people. The conceptualization of Smart City, therefore, varies from city to city and country to country, depending on the level of development.

In the approach to the Smart Cities Mission, the objective is 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. The Smart Cities Mission of the Government is a bold, new initiative. It is meant to set examples that can be replicated both within and outside the Smart City, catalyzing the creation of similar Smart Cities in various regions and parts of the country.

The core infrastructure elements in a Smart City would include adequate water supply, assured electricity supply, sanitation, including solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transport, affordable housing, especially for the poor, robust IT connectivity and digitalization, good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation, sustainable environment, safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly, and health and education.

Typical Features of Smart Cities are .

1. The main idea behind the smart cities concept is that land use i.e planning for unplanned areas , in order to make land use more efficient. For this purpose states will adapt to bye-laws to the changing scenario.
2. Housing and inclusiveness is the concept where expand housing opportunities for all.
3. The other idea behind the smart cities is that to reduce congestion, air pollution and resource depletion, boost local economy, promote interactions and ensure security. The road network is created or refurbished not only for vehicles and public transport, but also for pedestrians and cyclists, and necessary administrative services are offered within walking or cycling distance.
4. The other feature of Smart Cities is that to preserve and develop open spaces i.e. parks, playgrounds, and recreational spaces in order to enhance the quality of life of citizens, reduce the urban heat effects in Areas and generally promote eco-balance Balancing the nature is the idea behind this features.
5. Transport is the key for any development and hence promoting a variety of transport options such as Transit Oriented Development (TOD), public transport and last mile Para-transport connectivity;
6. Making governance citizen-friendly and cost effective so that there will be increased rely on online services to bring about accountability and transparency, especially using mobiles to reduce cost of services and providing services without having to go to municipal offices; form e-groups to listen to people and obtain feedback and use online monitoring of programs and activities with the aid of cyber tour of worksites.
7. Establishing an identity to the city, based on its main economic activity, such as local cuisine, health, education, arts and craft, culture, sports goods, furniture, hosiery, textile, dairy, etc. Cities will be identified by the popularity of the product or service it is famous for.



8. Applying Smart Solutions to infrastructure and services in area-based development in order to make them better. Technology is the key for the development of Smart Cities. For instance, making Areas less vulnerable to disasters, using fewer resources, and providing cheaper services. Disaster management will be key part in the development of Smart Cities.

Number of cities allocated to States based on urban population and number of statutory towns for converting to Smart cities.

State/ UT	No. of cities
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
Andhra Pradesh	3
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	1
Bihar	3
Chandigarh	1
Chhattisgarh	2
Daman & Diu	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
Delhi	1
Goa	1
Gujarat	6
Haryana	2
Himachal Pradesh	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Jharkhand	1
Karnataka	6
Kerala	1
Lakshadweep	1
Madhya Pradesh	7
Maharashtra	10
Manipur	1
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	1
Odisha	2
Puducherry	1
Punjab	3
Rajasthan	4
Sikkim	1
Tamil Nadu	12
Telangana	2
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	13
Uttarakhand	1
West Bengal	4
Grand Total	100

Out of the 100 selected cities and statutory towns, 24 are the state capitals. It can be seen from the above table that Uttar Pradesh has bagged maximum number of smart cities at 13 followed with Tamil Nadu 12 cities, Maharashtra 10 cities, Madhya Pradesh with 7 smart cities, Gujarat and Karnataka with 6 each and rest of the states and UTs with less than 5 smart cities.

Financing of Smart Cities

Financial support to this project is given by the central government to the extent of Rs.48000 crores over five years on an average Rs.100 crore per city per year and an equal amount would be contributed by the states / ULBs. For each Smart city



the project cost would differ depending upon the level of ambition and model. It is expected that a number of schemes in the Smart City will be taken up on PPP basis.

Releasing of funds

Each potential Smart City will be given an advance of two crore rupees for preparation of Smart City Planning. In the first year, Government proposes to give Rs.200 crore to each selected Smart City to create a higher initial corpus followed by Rs.100 crore every year for the next three years after deducting the Rs. two crore advance. The yearly instalment of funds will be released after they meet the milestones given in the roadmap contained in Smart City Planning.

Duration of the project

Duration of the project is five years that is from financial year 2015-16 to financial year 2019- 20. The Mission may be continued thereafter in the light of an evaluation to be done by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and incorporating the learning into the Mission.

Conclusions

The landscape of the Indian cities is going to change drastically with the concept of Smart Cities. The land use and management of the same is key in making smart cities. The problems of traffic, transport and access to other cities will be addressed and are top priority in making Smart Cities. Both the Central and State Governments will contribute to the Smart Cities making. Technology is the key in making Smart Cities. Huge funds are allocated for this purpose by the governments. Smart Cities is a step towards making systematic use of the land and managing the same. Lets us contribute towards this noble concept of the building India.

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