

NATIONAL URBAN DIGITAL MISSION (NUDM) & SEVERAL DIGITAL INITIATIVES LAUNCHED FOR TRANSFORMING URBAN GOVERNANCE

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Government policies & interventions for development in various Sectors and issues arising out of their design & implementation incl. Housing

Shri Hardeep S Puri, MoS, I/C, Housing and Urban Affairs has stated that National Urban Digital Mission will create the ideal space to harness immense synergies from the domain of urban and technology towards creating a citizen-centric governance that reflects Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'minimum government and maximum governance'. Speaking at the launch of National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) and other initiatives here today, he said that Ministry has to work with and support all ULBs, from the largest to the smallest, to deliver on the promise of serving all citizens and this is what *sabkasaath - sabkavikas - sabkavishwas* means for urban India today: enhancing the capacity of every city and town to serve citizens, build partnerships, and solve local problems locally.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Electronics and IT, who graced the event with virtual presence, said that the cities will become smarter only if digital technology is properly leveraged. He added that an important message of this launch is that convergence is integral to good governance through a digital mode. He added that this convergence will not be among beneficiaries of the scheme but those departments who are responsible for convergence. He further said that the goal of Digital India can be achieved through technology which is homegrown, developmental, low cost and inclusive.

The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, here today. The event was attended by Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA & Shri A.P.Sawhney, Secretary, MeitY and other officers of the Central and State Governments were also present at the launch. Several other digital initiatives of MoHUA *vis.* India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), SmartCode, Smart Cities 2.0 website, and Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS) were also launched. These initiatives are among the ongoing efforts of both Ministries to realise the Prime Minister's vision of Digital India and AtmaNirbhar Bharat, by making cities more self-reliant and enabled to meet the needs of and provide services to their citizens.

National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM)

The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) will create a shared digital infrastructure for urban India, working across the three pillars of people, process, and platform to provide holistic support to cities and towns. It will institutionalise a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery in 2022 cities by 2022, and across all cities and towns in India by 2024.

India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)

The India Urban Data Exchange has been developed in partnership between the Smart Cities Mission and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. IUDX serves as a seamless

interface for data providers and data users, including ULBs, to share, request, and access datasets related to cities, urban governance, and urban service delivery. IUDX is an open-source software platform which facilitates the secure, authenticated, and managed exchange of data amongst various data platforms, 3rd party authenticated and authorised applications, and other sources. As the number of cities on IUDX expands, this will scale up to uniform and seamless sharing between data producers and data consumers across urban India. IUDX is designed to address the problem of data silos, both within and across cities. Cities generate large volumes of data, which are recorded by a wide range of entities, both within government and across industry, academia, and civil society. The combination of these datasets can enable rapid innovation, as well as a better understanding of and planning for urban needs and challenges. IUDX creates a secure and reliable channel for data producers or owners to share their data, with complete control over what is shared and with whom, in order to enable sharing while addressing security and privacy protections by design.

SmartCode Platform:

SmartCode is a platform that enables all ecosystem stakeholders to contribute to a repository of open-source code for various solutions and applications for urban governance. It is designed to address the challenges that ULBs face in the development and deployment of digital applications to address urban challenges, by enabling cities to take advantage of existing codes and customising them to suit local needs, rather than having to develop new solutions from scratch. As a repository of open-source software, the source code available on the platform will be free to use without any licensing or subscription fees, thus limiting costs to those involved with customising the code and developing a locally-relevant solution.

New Smart Cities Website ver. 2.0 and GMIS

In order to better connect with people on the Smart Cities Missions efforts and achievements, and to make it easier for ULBs and citizens to access resources related to their work, the Smart Cities Mission website has been redesigned to serve as a single stop for all Smart Cities initiatives. The Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS) is integrated with this website. The website creates a single window hub for Smart Cities Mission. A portal that works as a gateway to all the platforms and initiatives launched under the Mission. The website, through a seamless and a unified interface, aggregates all mission related information/initiatives from the various platforms and show automated mission updates catering to the needs of a public user. The website has been developed to be used as a highly effective communication and outreach tool.

Since its launch in 2015, the Smart Cities Mission has made significant strides in its efforts to ensure that the benefits of technology reach all citizens. Over the last year, the Mission has seen accelerated project implementation with Smart Cities focusing on grounding and completion of projects. Of the total committed investments of 2,05,018 crore as per approved Smart Cities Plans, as on 21.02.2021, Smart Cities under the Mission have tendered 5,445 projects worth 1,72,425 crore (84% of total), issued work orders to 4,687 projects worth 1,38,068 crore (67% of total) and completed 2,255 projects worth 36,652 crore (18% of total).

Further, 50+ smart cities have transformed their ICCCs into COVID-19 war rooms to enable collaboration with various government departments dealing with COVID response. Integrated dashboards were developed in a number of smart cities to enable effective decision-making, monitoring of COVID hotspots and medical infrastructure, tracking movement of goods and services, and managing lockdown.

Other initiatives have reached beyond the 100 Smart Cities. Outcome and performance assessment frameworks to measure quality of life and city performance were rolled out in 114 Cities via the Ease of Living Index and Municipal Performance Index. Over 31 lakh citizens were engaged through the Citizen Perception Survey.

The Urban Learning and Internship Program (TULIP) aims to match opportunities in ULBs with learning needs of fresh graduates. Over 280 ULBs have posted over 14,240 internships; so far, 932 students are undergoing internships, and 195 students have completed their internships.

To further make cities sustainable and resilient, The ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) was rolled out in 100 Smart Cities to help cities look at urban planning and governance from a climate change lens, with a second round of annual assessment currently underway. A Climate Centre for Cities (C3) has been established in NIUA. A number of national challenges like India Cycles4Change Challenge, Streets for People Challenge, Nurturing Neighbourhoods challenge have been implemented as well.

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