

# Smart Cities Mission: Notes for the UPSC Exam

In cities, the pressure of population on land, infrastructure, environment is massive and civic agencies are grappling with problems like clean air, mobility, sanitation, water, public safety etc. Hence there is a need for developing a sustainable solution. For more information on UPSC Exam, check the given link [IAS Exam](#)

## What is a Smart City?

It is a city where there is a significant and extensive improvement in the physical, social and economic infrastructure.

## What is the need for the development of Smart Cities?

1. Smart cities are needed to bring in growth and development in a country.
2. Smart cities are needed for the development of the quality of life of people in the cities.
3. If the quality of life of the people is improved in cities, then naturally the city will attract more people and thereby more investments.

## Smart Cities Mission - Government of India

1. GoI launched 100 smart cities missions in 2015.
2. The objective is to integrate city functions, utilise scarce resources more efficiently and overall improve the quality of life of citizens.
3. To improve safety and security
4. To improve the efficiencies of municipal services.
5. Use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is at the core of enhancing the city's liveability, workability, and sustainability.
6. The Ministry of Urban Development has identified 24 key areas that cities must address in their 'smart cities' plan.
7. Of these 24 key areas, 3 are directly related to water and 7 are indirectly related to water - Smart-metre management, leakage identification, preventive maintenance and water quality modelling.
8. Smart Cities Mission is one of the mechanisms that will help operationalise the nationwide implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) priorities like poverty alleviation, employment and other basic services.

## Smart Cities Mission - Planning

Initially, there was a lack of clarity as there was no universal definition of a smart city. The Government of India did not prescribe any particular model as they realized one size did not fit all, from the experiences of previous Urban Development Missions.

Every city had to formulate its own concept, vision, mission and plan which is appropriate to its local context, resources and level of ambition.

### **Smart Cities Mission - Finance/Funding**

1. Total Mission funds are Rs 2.05 Lakh Crore
2. 45% of the total mission funds come from Central and State Governments.
3. 21% of the funds will come from convergence and PPP (Public-Private Partnership)
4. 5% of the funds from debts and loans.
5. 1% through own funds and 7% from others.

### **Smart Cities Mission - Distribution of Funds**

1. Area Development - Rs 42,000 Crore
2. Urban Mobility - Rs 34,00 Crore
3. Water Supply, Wastewater/Sewerage, Storm Water Drain - Rs 30,000 Crore

### **Smart Cities Mission - Implementation**

Established SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) in each city for

1. Decision making
2. Planning
3. Project designing and
4. Implementation.

### **Smart Cities Mission - Progress/Achievements**

1. Creation of smart command and control centres in 17 cities - this has integrated different service networks and the city administration can centrally monitor and it gives an impetus to decision making.
2. Smart Roads - 60 projects completed in 25 cities.
3. Smart Solar Projects - 27 projects completed in 17 cities
4. Smart Waste Water Projects - 12 projects completed in 10 cities
5. Smart Water Projects - 38 projects completed in 24 cities

### **Notable Progress in Bhopal Smart City Project**

1. Establishment of Integrated Command and Control Centre - to increase the safety and security of its people.
2. Establishment of Cloud-based disaster recovery centre.

### **Smart Cities Mission - Challenges**

1. A lot of progress is desired in creating energy-efficient and green buildings.
2. Making Urban Bodies self-reliant
3. Share of public transport is declining, it needs to be increased to meet the needs of increasing urbanisation.
4. Rising air pollution, increase in road congestion due to increase in urbanisation.