

Smart Solutions

E- Governance and Citizen Services

- Public Information, Grievance Redressal
- Electronic Service Delivery
- Citizen Engagement
- Citizens - City's Eyes and Ears
- Video Crime Monitoring

Energy Management

- Smart Meters & Management
- Renewable Sources of Energy
- Energy Efficient & Green Buildings

Waste Management

- Waste to Energy & Fuel
- Waste to Compost
- Waste Water to be Treated
- Recycling and Reduction of C&D Waste

Water Management

- Smart Meters & Management
- Leakage Identification, Preventive Maint.
- Water Quality Monitoring

Urban Mobility

- Smart Parking
- Intelligent Traffic Management
- Integrated Multi-Modal Transport

Others

- Tele-Medicine & Tele Education
- Incubation/Trade Facilitation Centers
- Skill Development Centers

Vision of Smart Cities Mission

"The purpose of the Smart Cities Mission is to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local area development and harnessing technology, especially technology that leads to Smart outcomes."^[2]

What is a Smart City?

Even though there is no standard definition for Smart Cities, in this case, it could be defined as:

"The use of Smart Computing technologies to make the critical infrastructure components and services of a city - which include city administration, education, healthcare, public safety, real estate, transportation, and utilities more intelligent, interconnected, and efficient."^[3]

"The concept of Smart City will provide the effectiveness for operational performance, controlling and monitoring of the city which leads to create new economic models, improve the quality of life and finally sustainable development."^[4]

Why a „Challenge“?

To make the selection process as fair as possible, the Indian Government based the funding on the idea of „Competitive and Co-operative Federalism“. The 100 Smart Cities were first distributed on the basis of „equitable criteria“.

„Each state or union territory had to nominate at least one city for the smart city transformation process in Stage 1 of the selection process. The population of these cities must range between 1-4 million and/or cities that are of religious or touristic significance.“^[5]

Stage 1 of the competition: Shortlisting of cities by States
- Intra-State Competition: Each State announced a list of potential smart cities based on a scoring system.

Stage 2 of the competition: The Challenge round for selection
- The potential cities prepared their proposals for the „City Challenge“.
- A committee evaluated the proposals and chose the first 20 Cities.
- The other cities got to improve their proposals to be considered in the following rounds of the Challenge.^[6]

A total of 110 contestants took part over 5 rounds. The government ranked the 100 best Smart Cities according to their proposals. Although uniform funding would be provided to all the cities, the top contenders benefitted from receiving the funding earlier and the additional symbolic prestige which could benefit the cities in the long run.^[7]

Financing 100 Smart Cities

The Indian government will financially support the project, as do the individual States. An equal amount of funding will be distributed to each of the 100 Cities. Per year, a city will receive one billion Indian Rupee from each the government and the State, which equals about 12.3 million US Dollar. In total, the government will therefore invest almost one trillion Rupee (about 12.3 billion US Dollar).^[8]

This will cover almost 70 % of the project cost. In addition, internal and external funding will be required by the Cities. Approximately 25 % will be contributed by the private sector (private public partnerships) and the final 5 % is expected to be covered by loans.^[9]

Indias 100 Smart Cities Challenge

Ongoing

2751 Projects
₹ 88,673 Cr.
≈ 10.9 Billion \$

51 %

49 %

4987 Projects
₹ 92,439 Cr.
≈ 11,3 Billion \$

Completed

Postcolonial links

In the past, power was often exercised through the act of city-building. „Calcutta and Delhi were part of the colonial practices of mapping power and sovereignty over territories and populations.“^[10]

Some see Smart Cities as a continuation of these practices.

„There appears to be broad agreement across the different studies that city-building initiatives, in the form of 'smart cities', reproduce, normalize and entrench power relations.“^[11]

Moser states that even if the reason behind the city project seems to be humanitarian, it is only a facade to cover up the economic interests. Back then colonial masters were responsible, but today it might be the global elite with their western corporations and interests. This aspect is strengthened by the fact that development, in this case, is based on competition, hence the „Challenge“.^[12]

Therefore, the Smart Cities Challenge can be seen as:

„Another effort at reinvention, which once again implies that a 'backwards' and stagnant India requires the guidance of modern and technologically savvy Western-sanctioned global 'experts' who promise that utopian corporate cities will spark economic growth, modernize the locals and lift the rural poor“.^[13] Thus, reproducing colonial era power dynamics and priorities.