

Smart Cities Mission

Smart Cities Mission, sometimes referred to as Smart City Mission, is an urban renewal and retrofitting program by the Government of India with the mission to develop 100 smart cities across the country making them citizen friendly and sustainable.[1] The Union Ministry of Urban Development is responsible for implementing the mission in collaboration with the state governments of the respective cities.

On 7 September 2019, the 10,000-acre Aurangabad Industrial City (AURIC) in Aurangabad, Maharashtra was inaugurated as the first greenfield industrial smart city of India.[2][3]

Description

Smart Cities Mission envisions developing an area within 100 cities in the country as model areas based on an area development plan, which is expected to have a rub-off effect on other parts of the city,[4] and nearby cities and towns.[5] Cities will be selected based on the Smart Cities challenge, where cities will compete in a countrywide competition to obtain the benefits from this mission. As of January 2018, 99 cities have been selected to be upgraded as part of the Smart Cities Mission after they defeated other cities in the challenge.[6]

It is a five-year program in which, except for West Bengal[7], all of the Indian states and Union territories are participating by nominating at least one city for the Smart Cities challenge. Financial aid will be given by the central and state governments between 2017-2022 to the cities, and the mission will start showing results from 2022 onwards.

Each city will create a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), headed by a full-time CEO, to implement the Smart Cities Mission.[8] Centre and state government will provide ₹1,000 crore (US\$140 million) funding to the company, as equal contribution of

₹500 crore (US\$72 million) each. The company has to raise additional funds from the financial market as a debt or equity.

History

"100 Smart Cities Mission" was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 June 2015.[9] A total of ₹98,000 crore (US\$14 billion) has been approved by the Indian Cabinet for the development of 100 smart cities and the rejuvenation of 500 others. ₹48,000 crore (US\$6.9 billion) for the Smart Cities mission and a total funding of ₹50,000 crore (US\$7.2 billion) for the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) have been approved by the Cabinet.[10][11]

In the 2014 Union budget of India, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley allocated ₹7,016 crore (US\$1.0 billion) for the 150 smart cities. However, only ₹924 crore (US\$130 million) of the allocated amount could be spent until February 2015. Hence, the 2015 Union budget of India allocated only ₹143 crore (US\$21 million) for the project.[11]

The first batch of 20 cities was selected. Known as 20 Lighthouse Cities in the first round of the All India City Challenge competition, they will be provided with central assistance of ₹200 crore (US\$29 million) each during this financial year followed by ₹100 crore (US\$14 million) per year during the next three years.[12] The Urban Development Ministry had earlier released ₹2 crore (US\$290,000) each to mission cities for preparation of

Smart City Challenge

The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) program used a competition-based method as a means for selecting cities for funding, based on an area-based development strategy.[13] Cities competed at the state level with other cities within the state. Then the state-level winner competed at the national level Smart City Challenge. Cities obtaining the highest marks in a particular round were chosen to be

part of the mission.[citation needed]

The state governments were asked to nominate potential cities based on state-level competition, with overall cities across India limited to 100.[14] In August 2015 the Ministry of Urban Development released the list of 98 nominees sent in by state governments.

All the participating cities from West Bengal (New Town, Kolkata, Bidhannagar, Durgapur, Haldia) have withdrawn from the Smart Cities Mission.[7] Mumbai and Navi Mumbai from Maharashtra have also been withdrawn from the Smart Cities Mission.[17]

Website - <http://smartcities.gov.in>