



SMART CITIES MISSION EXTENDED TILL 2025: SCHEMES

News: The Union government has extended the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) till March 31, 2025.

Smart Cities Mission (SCM) - Key Points

Overview:

- ❖ Initiative by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, launched in 2015.
- ❖ Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- ❖ Extended till March 31, 2025.

Objective:

- Promote core infrastructure, clean environment, and a decent quality of life through smart solutions.
- 100 cities selected for development via a two-stage competition over five years.



Fundamental Principles:

- Area-based development (redevelopment, retrofitting, greenfield projects).
- Pan-city solutions using ICT.
- E-governance, waste management, water management, energy management, urban mobility, skill development.
- Four Pillars: Social, Physical, Institutional, Economic Infrastructure.
- Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) for real-time monitoring.
- Digital infrastructure enhancements like ATCS, RLVD, ANPR, smart education, and health systems.

Status:

- 7,188 projects (90% of total) completed.
- ₹48,000 crore allocated; 97% released.

Challenges:

1. Diverse urban realities affecting competitive city selection.



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2. Financial constraints and sustainability issues for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
3. Significant capital expenditure needed for livable cities by 2030.
4. Displacement of poorer populations and disruption of urban commons.
5. Basic infrastructure deficiencies in many cities.
6. Need for significant upgrades to implement smart solutions.

Source: The Hindu



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