

# National Urban Events/ Innovations

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This section includes national urban events and innovations as reported by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs through its facebook and twitter account. The period of second quarter of current fiscal year - July to August 2021 - has seen specific focus on Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav-celebrating (75 years of independence from the historic year of 1947), Digital connectivity and mobility in urban Sector in India. Various urban institutions are gearing up in these areas for a sector wise follow up. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is taking actions with its institutions and also engaging states and ULBs for further replication. These include:

## **Central Vista: Iconic Structure - A Landmark for Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**

As part of 75 Glorious Years of India's Independence, progress & achievements under #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav, 75 events are planned by Government of India. It began on 12th March 2021 and will continue till 15th August, 2022.

In this regard GoI has planned New India Garden on the axis of Central Vista on the western bank of river Yamuna. From this Structure one may view the whole Central Vista. It will stand out as gift of this time to the future. All Indian/ Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) architects/ planners/ designers/ institutions/ organisations were requested to participate individually or in groups in the Challenge to conceive this new identity of our capital city. It will stand out as a gift of this time to the future (September 2021).

## **Use of Technology**

Use of technology includes a platform on innovation exchange (July 11, 2021), overflowing garbage bins and unmanaged waste picups and seven point actions taken by Central Public works department of MoHUA to adapt and show case innovations for wider dissemination.

1. The CiX (City Innovation Exchange -NIUA) is a unified open innovation platform to accelerate discovery and validation of innovative and technologically advanced solution for Indian Cities.

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2. Five hundred thirty one registered solution providers are helping the 100 Smart Cities with telemedicine, smart mobility, intelligent water and waste management, disaster mitigation, etc. (For more information please visit <https://cityinx.niua.org>).
3. The smart city Bhubaneswar has initiated unified online city portal to resolve nearly one million citizen grievances through a complete automated system with city Wi-Fi, #publictransport, Odyssey Smart Card, city events, #municipal services and more (July 11, 2021).
4. The portal is a one-stop solution for all citizen's needs! Over 300 smart solutions worth Rs. 9,900 crores implemented, cities are able to predict and plan for the future (July 5, 2021).
5. Varanasi Smart city is solving overflowing garbage bins and unmanaged solid waste pickups with #data and #tech. The solution could potentially lower operating costs by 10-15% and improve asset and resource utilization. This will also improve quality of waste pick-up service and citizen satisfaction. The volume of urban waste is projected to rise from the present 62 million tonnes in 2020 to about 150 million tonnes by 2030, and #smart solutions are vital for cost-effective management.(July 11)
6. Unified online city portal <http://Bhubaneswar.ME> has redressed >10 lakh citizen grievances through a complete automated system. It integrates city Wi-Fi, #publictransport, Odyssey Smart Card, city events, #municipal services and more. The portal is a one-stop solution for all citizen's needs! Over 300 #smartsolutions worth Rs. 9900 crores implemented, cities are able to predict and plan for the #future!#smartcitiesmission #buildingcitiesforpeople, <https://youtu.be/oAvvNOh0Ojk>

#### CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (CPWD)

CPWD -GoI has initiated several digital applications which make a remarkable change in management of administration and finances (July 5, 2021):

1. Online Contractors Enlistment management System which was launched for making the complete registration process online for providing better ease of business to the vendors, faster processing in a more transparent manner.
2. Digital reforms in CPWD also include implementation of Electronic Measurement Book (e-MB) and 'Bhavishya', an online Pension Sanction and Payment Tracking System resulting in transparency of actions and accountability and better service availability.

3. Enterprise Resource planning is initiated with a mission to accomplish by March 2022 to radically transform functioning of propelling high growth trajectory by improved transparency, accountability, faster and effective decision-making and improved client interfaces and satisfaction.
4. CPWD accordingly has achieved 100 per cent digitisation of payments facilitating ease of doing businesses.
5. CPWD has started 36 online modules so far to extend E-Sewa all over India to improve efficiency.
6. In order to have continuous collection of all the dues /receipts through digital mode, CPWD has started use of Point of Sales (POS) machines across India in all offices of L&DO, Directorate of Estates, Printing, CPWD etc. under MoHUA in collaboration with accredited banks
7. Further Smart Imprest Cards were also introduced by CPWD in more than 1200 establishments in partnership with accredited banks for digitisation of all contingency payments.

#### **Climate Smart Delivery of Services**

Odisha as part of activities under AMRUT (Atal Mission for urban Rejuvenation and Transformation) and Delhi Metro rail Transport has shown way for more attention of climate smart delivery of municipal services. These steps include India's first case of 24x7 delivery of water and full connectivity to tap water whereas DMRC is extending network to reduce carbon emission:

1. Odisha declared the ancient holy city of Puri as India's first city to have the distinct honour of 100 per cent tap connections with 24x7 water supply in every household and facility to DRINK FROM TAP (July 26,2021). It will pave way for larger replication and save water and use of plastic (400 tons plastic in Puri alone).
2. Sixteen cities of Odisha, including capital Bhubaneswar, have achieved 100% water tap connections. Remaining 98 cities are planned to get this by December, 2022. State has leveraged Rs. 1,394 crore allocation for water supply under AMRUT for this purpose.( July 26, 2021)
3. With opening of 1.5 km link, DMRC has over 350 kms of own and 392 kms overall operational network (includes Noida-Greater Noida and Gurugram) in Delhi and NCR (national Capital Region). With 66 km ongoing and over 42 km under plans, it is poised to cross 500 km mark.

4. Hon'ble PM launched driverless operations of Metro on Line-8 few months back. Pink line with 58.4 km is likely to become driverless by September end. With that DMRC will have 96 km of network driverless, which is largest anywhere in the world.
5. Sixty five ponds and lakes to be rejuvenated in #Chennai #SmartCity through multiple water bodies restoration works. This will provide water recharge of nearly 943 crore litres of water. #smartcitiesmission #predictivemodelling .This quantity amounts 1/3rd of Chennai's overall water security requirement. With 15 such water body restoration projects completed and 23 more ongoing, Smart Cities are addressing water scarcity and ground water recharge in Urban Areas.

#easeofliving #buildingcitiesforpeople <https://youtu.be/BZXerGx7A30>

# Human Resource for Planned Urbanisation

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Development is inextricably linked to urbanisation, which is a significant driver of economic growth. As India approaches the tipping point of shifting from a predominantly rural to an urban culture, the focus must be on securing the best economic growth possibilities for all sections of the population. The change is most likely to result in uncontrolled crisis and to avoid such situations; we must promptly and considerably increase the country's current cumulative capacity of urban planning and development.

Capacity building in the domain of urban planning is a rigorous but critical task which every concerned organizations must undergo. The NITI Aayog's report on "Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India" September 2021 effectively highlights the concerns of the Urban Planning. It enlisted few challenges as: rapid urbanization; governance of towns, cities, urban agglomerations; lack of multidisciplinary teams and human resources in Urban Planning; and an insufficient number of urban planners in state planning mechanisms. According to UN-Habitat's 'World Cities Report,' India has a dismal ratio of 0.23 accredited planners per 1 lakh inhabitants, compared to the United Kingdom, where the proportion is as high as 38. NITI Aayog's report highlighted the Town and Country Planning Organisation's estimate of 12,000 posts of town planners, required in the State Town and Country Planning departments. The current scenario shows that only 50% of sanctioned Town Planning posts (which is less than 4000) are occupied. In the country, there are just 7000 certified town and country planners, despite the fact that there are 7935 towns and cities, 640 districts, more than 6 lakh villages. The availability of urban planners, as well as their engagement in urban planning and development, is crucial for planned urbanisation.

The report recommends that qualified planners should be trained to replace vacant entry level positions in town planning. Regarding qualification for entry level Town Planner's post, Niti Aayog recommends either (a) Postgraduate Degree (M.Tech. or M.Plan.) in town/ city/ urban/ housing/ country/rural / infrastructure/ regional/ transport/ environmental planning/ any other specialization approved by AICTE from a recognized Institute/University or (b) Bachelor Degree (B.Tech.

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or B.Plan.) in urban and regional planning from a recognized university or institute with three years' experience in the field of urban planning, housing and real estate, rural planning, regional planning, infrastructure planning, transport planning/ environmental planning with the Central/ State Governments/ UTs, universities/recognized research institutions/ public sector undertakings/ Semi-Government/ statutory/ autonomous organizations/ private sector companies or academic institutions.

Planning as a profession is not widely known, rather it is unknown at the secondary level of school, where a student plans to choose course/stream favorable for his/her future job options. Despite its multidisciplinary nature, Urban Planning is a specific academic discipline and profession, which should widely be promoted. There is a lack of professional awareness about planning as a profession or discipline among the school children at the secondary or senior secondary level. Being a lesser-known field, many high-school students usually lose the opportunity to learn about the discipline and, as a result, they don't consider it as a career option. According to Rodriguez's findings, high-school teachers, career counselors, students, and their parents, and the general public are all unfamiliar with the urban planning profession. (Rodriguez, 2009). Even design-oriented physical planning and policy-oriented socio-economic planning, that result in urban change are hardly acknowledged as products of planning. Danilo Palazzo, Leah Hollstein & Stephen Kofi Diko argue are that University urban planning programs and concerned departments responsible for developing Design and Planning Language Programs (hereafter DPLPs) – as career programs of urban planning – to interact with high-school students, their counselors and teachers, and local design and planning professionals to raise awareness of different career paths related to urban planning (Danilo Palazzo, 2020).

In the decade of entrepreneurship, roles and career advancement necessitate different responsibilities and skillsets. Planners with analytical skillsets work in a wide range of roles and sub-sectors, from policymaking, planning, and management in urban development, to academics and research. Planners can enter in entrepreneurship with the sub-fields like Housing; or into Planning consultancy and Research (Bollens, 2003). Planners will undoubtedly benefit from a variety of entrepreneurial talents, such as networking, negotiating, and managerial ability and contribute to society efficiently.

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# From the States: The Revenue Potential of Carbon Credits for City Agencies

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Trading of carbon credits emerged as an incentive for implementing 'Clean Development Mechanism' (CDM) emphasized under Kyoto Protocol. One carbon credit permits any entity to emit equal to 1 ton of carbon dioxide. So the entity reducing its Green House Gas (GHG) emission earns carbon credits to the extent it is able to reduce its GHG emissions, which it can sell in a carbon market to another entity which is emitting more than the permissible limits.

India's carbon market is one of the fastest growing markets in the world and had already generated approximately 30 million carbon credits by 2020. Bureau of Energy Efficiency notes that "carbon markets have been successful in reducing GHG emissions by setting a limit on emissions and enabling their trading. It puts the estimates for India's gain to '5- 10 billion dollars from carbon trading'.

City level agencies in India have significant achievements to show in this area. Some of which are mentioned below:

## **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)**

DMRC earned a commendable Rs. 19.5 crores from the sale of 3.55 million carbon credits, collected between 2012-18. It had registered itself with the United Nations (UN) under CDM in 2007. The first CDM project of DMRC was based on the regenerative braking technology, which earned it Rs. 9.55 crore. Its second project under CDM was based on the principle of Modal Shift. The essence of this project is that the carbon footprint of people travelling by metro is much less than that of the same journeys performed by other modes of transport.

A Press information Bureau release mentions that DMRC has so far registered four projects with the UN under CDM. The other two projects are Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) Program of Activities which provides an open platform for different agencies engaged in MRT projects and the DMRC Solar Project which is about the initiative of solar PV roof-top installations. DMRC is now providing consultancy

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services as well, since 2015, to other metro systems in India to enable them to earn carbon credits from their projects.

### **Indore Smart City**

The Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up under Smart Cities Mission of the government, Indore Smart City started working on carbon credits in 2017. In the first phase it registered three projects- (a) Wet Waste Management (composting); (b) bio- methanation; and (c) solar energy production. It generated 1.70 lakh carbon credits from these between October 2017 to June 2019, which earned the Municipality Rs. 69 lakh. In the process it claims to have become the first ULB in Asia to tap carbon finance. In the second verification (July 2019 to December 2020) of the same projects it earned Rs. 8.34 crore. Now it has registered new projects under CDM such as sewage treatment plant, new decentralized composting, plastic recycling, led lighting etc.

Like DMRC, the Indore SPV too has chalked out a plan to provide consultancy services to other ULBs, Rural Local Bodies, Smart Cities, industries as well as other government agencies. It has planned to provide consultancy services on revenue sharing basis, where all the expenditures would be incurred by it, which would be subsequently adjusted in the revenue realization from the trading of carbon credits. The agencies availing the consultancy would be responsible for providing data in the appropriate formats, which would be submitted to the verification agencies.

### **Chennai**

In 2021, Chennai Municipal Corporation along with Chennai Smart City too has identified projects which can be registered for earning carbon credits. It had been taking several green initiatives but thought of registering now. One of the initiatives to be registered first is Miyawaki Urban Forest. The Corporation intends to use the earnings from the sale of carbon credits for supporting other city infrastructure projects. The other projects which it is planning to register are bio-methanation plants, tree planting projects, biofertilizer projects, electric vehicles and energy efficient lighting. The Corporation is looking for consultants to set up the carbon credit framework.

### **Mumbai**

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation could have been the first ULB to have earned carbon credits, had its project delivered. The ULB had claimed to have earned Rs. 24.51 crore in September 2009 for the scientific closure of the Gorai garbage dumping ground. By 2015, it

expected to receive Rs. 72 crore from carbon credits. It received Rs. 24.51 crore from Asian Development Bank (ADB), with whom it had signed an Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement in 2008 for the sale of carbon credits generated from the closure of the Gorai dump. However, on verification it was found that the dumping ground could reduce the carbon emission only to the tune of 14,477 Carbon Emission Reductions (CER) against the earlier estimation of 2,74,500 CERs. The ADB then asked the BMC to return the amount, BMC purchased CERs from the open market by spending Rs. 11.23 crore and closed the contract with ADB. In fact, the consultant to the project- Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) had overestimated the GHG reduction overlooking the composition of the waste.

### **Junagadh**

Junagadh Municipal Corporation is expecting to earn carbon credit in 2021-22 from its Municipal Solid Waste Management Project. The bio methanation plant which processes green waste, generates fuel that can be used in vehicles. The plant has the capacity to use 15 ton green waste to generate 500 kg of gas, which can be used as fuel. The corporation is planning to start city bus service which may use gas from this plant for fuel.

### **Approaches**

The awareness about the revenue potential from the sale of carbon credits has long been there in the country. There have been several approaches and more significantly both in the public sector as well as in private sector. While companies like Suzlon Energy and Shree Renuka Sugars registered their projects under CDM from the private sector, DMRC in the public sector took the initiative for the same. Jindal Steel Works had been awarded 5.4 million carbon credits in 2010-11. By June 2011, more than 200 entities had applied for registration for availing carbon credits.

While these were entity led approaches, the Government of Gujarat launched a state led initiative. A new Department of Climate Change was created in 2009 to act as a bridge between the government and the society, as well as within the government. One of the mandates of the Department is 'to promote availing of benefits of CDM by earning CERs through public and private sectors'. Another mandate of the Department is 'to make suggestions and provide guidance on disposal of solid waste, sewerage waste and medical waste in the context of climate change'. Similarly, Gujarat Urban Development Company, a government nodal agency, got 75 of the total 159 ULBs in 2009 to set up compost plants.

## CONCLUSION

Carbon credits could be billion dollars opportunity for the Indian companies/ organizations both in the public sector as well as in the private sector. ULBs too have gains to make as many of their responsibilities like solid waste management, sewerage management, street lighting etc. can earn them millions over the years. However, sincere efforts need to be put into it, otherwise it may backfire like in the case BMC.

As mentioned above, Gujarat had got 75 ULBs in 2009 to set up the compost plants, but it was in 2021 that Junagadh Municipal Corporation could aim at earning those carbon credits. Though starting much later, Indore became the first city government in the country to earn them through their projects. On the other hand, BMC, which had also started its project earlier had to pay back ADB due to over-estimations made by its consultant, IL&FS. Therefore, care needs to be taken to ensure that proper data is collected and information is furnished in appropriate format, once the project has been identified and registered under CDM.

# Government Initiatives to Strengthen the Street Vendors of India

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During the COVID-19 pandemic when lockdowns and restrictions were enforced, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUA) took several initiatives under the National Urban Livelihood Mission to address the livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors by facilitating. These initiatives facilitate access to institutional credit, suitable online market space, social security, etc. Some of the recent initiatives are as follows:

## SVANidhi se Samridhi

- Street vendors (SVs) in India sell various products ranging from ready-to-eat street food, tea, vegetables, fruits, cloth and handloom, beauty and fashion accessories, footwear, artisan products, etc., and also provides various services like barber shops, cobblers, paan shops, laundry services. However, during the Covid-19 induced lockdown vendors had severely affected across India. To help the street vendors and provide them new opportunities to move up the economic ladder, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, GoI has launched the PM SVANidhi scheme in June 2020. Under the scheme government is providing a loan of Rs 10,000 as working capital to street vendors to restart their businesses which have been hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. The scheme plans to extend the microcredit to over 50 lakh street vendors across India, which is the estimated number of the hawkers as per various urban local bodies.
- The Central Government envisages that lenders (including Banks, non-banking finance companies, and microfinance institutions) will mount a larger outreach under the PM SVANidhi scheme. Over the last one year, lenders received a total of 42,27,999 applications under the PM SVANidhi scheme.
- As per the recent data of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the ratio of the number of loans sanctioned and disbursed as a percentage of the total applications was only 58 per cent. The ratio of the number of loans disbursed to loans sanctioned stood at 84.41 per cent. In total, the loans approved and disbursed by banks stood at Rs. 2,457.85 crore and Rs. 2,059.46 crore, respectively.

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- According to data, the average days to sanction a loan to SVs were 20 days. It is important to note that a large number of female street vendors have taken loan under the scheme. About 40 per cent of loan has been disbursed to female Street Vendors.
- It has been found that majority of the street vendors have preferred public sector banks over private financial institutions for PMSVANidhi loan because of their low interest rates and also because they have branches spread out in various parts of the country.

### **Convergence of PM FME (Prime Minister Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises) Scheme with DAY NULM**

- Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) is one of the most important missions of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) which aims to remove poverty and vulnerability in urban areas through creation of community based organisations like SHGs at the city-level. The mission provides financial and handholding support to SHGs and Federations through the Self Employment Programme for setting up of micro-enterprises. As per the MoHUA, at present 5.36 lakh SHGs of micro-enterprises have been formed under DAY NULM.
- Similar to MoHUA, Ministry of Food processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing PM Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme. Main objective of the scheme is to enhance the competitiveness of existing micro-enterprises processing in the unorganized segment of the food industry and support FPOs, SHGs and Producers Cooperatives along with their entire value chain.
- As per the MoHUA, at present 5.36 lakh SHGs of micro-enterprises have been formed under DAY NULM and many of them are involved in food processing sector. Therefore, both Ministries decided to extend the benefit of PM FME scheme to SHGs/ Federations in urban areas leveraging the State Urban Livelihood Missions (SULMs) under DAY-NULM. Out of these, approximately 32,000 SHGs have been identified by States/ UTs to be involved in Food Processing activities.
- Both ministries have agreed to work together to ensure that SHG members are able to avail the benefits of the scheme, especially in the component to support SHGs. The convergence guidelines for implementation of different components under PM Scheme assigned specific roles to the both ministries.

- DAY-NULM through SULMs and SNAs will coordinate to extend support to target beneficiaries. SULMs would provide hand-holding support to identified SHGs/ Federations and their members in preparation of DPRs, getting bank loans, necessary technical training, etc. Purpose is to enable them to access benefits under various provisions of PM FME Scheme including the Capitan investment.
- MoFPI will support MoHUA in carrying out the functions by extending support to submit applications, giving seed money, building the capacity of DAY-NULM Staffs, establishing incubation centres to facilitate common services and other assistance, as per the provisions of the PM FME.
- The State Level Approval Committee set up for monitoring the components of PM FME Scheme will also monitor various components for convergence listed under the guidelines. The Monitoring Committee will also be represented by respective State Mission Director of DAY-NULM.
- The District Level Committee will be headed by District Collector and also include the authorized representative of the concerned Urban Local Body(ULB)
- MoFPI and DAY-NULM will review the status and implemented modalities from time to time. Any revisions of the guidelines may be jointly reviewed and agreed upon. The States/ UTs have to prioritize activities for supporting the SHGs under DAY-NULM as per the guidelines of schemes.

**MoHUPA signed MoU with food aggregator Zomato to provide online market to Street Food Vendors**

- Under the SVANidhi scheme, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has taken an innovative step to upscale the businesses of roadside street food vendors The Ministry has tied up with Indian restaurant aggregator and food delivery start-up Zomato to provide roadside vendors an online market.
- Zomato has over 200,000 restaurants on their platform for food delivery and over 1.5 lakh delivery partners across about 500 cities in India. With this, government hopes that through the Zomato online platform and last-mile delivery services, street vendors would be able to reach a much larger customer base. In the past, the government has also signed a MoU with Swiggy for the PM SVANidhi Scheme now this programme is being implemented in 125 cities of India.

- Till January 2021, SVANidhi scheme had received loan applications from 147,000 street food vendors. From these, in the first phase alone, Swiggy has taken onboard about 36,000 vendors to whom the loan has been disbursed in 125 cities, potentially making this initiative by Swiggy and MoHUA the largest of its kind not just in India, but globally.
- Initially, Zomato will work with 300 street food vendors across six cities- Bhopal, Raipur, Patna, Vadodara, Nagpur, and Ludhiana. Based on the popularity of street food in these cities, Government believes that there is an immense growth potential for these street vendors in the online food delivery sphere.
- The Ministry has also roped in the Gurugram-based firm to train the street vendors in food safety, hygiene, and advanced packaging practices to ensure these vendors are fully equipped to serve through Zomato.

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