

# Urban Sector – National Events

K.K. PANDEY\*

## Urban Development Events at National Level during April – June 2021

*“As India continues to urbanise at an exponential rate, where every two seconds, one of our fellow citizens is moving to a city in search of a better life, ensuring healthy and safe food for everyone in cities is of utmost importance...” – SHRI HS PURI MoS H&UA (April15)*

*“While Covid-19 may have proven to be a hiatus in our efforts of transforming Urban India, it has also provided us an opportunity to concentrate our attention on the need for good health and wellbeing of our cities and citizens.”*

*- MoS H&UA Hardeep Singh Puri April 15*

As the public policy and initiatives are a dynamic process, several new initiatives were added in the urban Agenda of Government of India in the first quarter of 2021-22. These initiatives give due cognizance to urbanisation and its ability to contribute in the inclusive, productive and environment friendly growth along with more effective response to COVID-19. These includes:

### **Environment Friendly, Inclusive and Productive Urban Development**

1. Fifteenth finance commission revised report submitted in the month of November 2020 for the period of 2021-2026 brings out couple of important components to deal with ambient air quality and climate change at municipal level more effectively. The report also takes up urban issues in a regional context and for the first time allocations are made to Urban Agglomerations (UAs). Important allocations are:
  - Allocation of Rs 38 000 crores for 44 urban agglomerations which is done for the first time to see urban development in a regional context. These UAs include 1115 towns and rural areas within UA with focus on ambient air quality

---

<sup>1</sup>Coordinator CUS, IIPA, New Delhi

- Improvement (32% funds) and water and sanitation (68% funds).
- Eighty seven thousand crores for other statutory towns with less than 100000 population (including those covered in city challenge fund with a division of 40 per cent untied grant and 60 per cent devoted to water and sanitation (50% each).
  - Rs 24,000 crores for health and wellness
  - Rs 800 crores for common service centres and
  - Rs 8,000 crores for incubation of eight new towns to be developed through interstate competition to create a demonstration effect.
  - These initiatives will create models and synergy with similar programmes of GoI and States.
2. Beginning of measures announced in the Union budget 2021-22 with a particular reference to Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) 02 and Jal Jeevan Mission –Urban component to be taken up as AMRUT 02. Recently on 1<sup>st</sup> October a sum of Rs 4.3 lakh crores has been allocated to SBM02 and AMRUT02 which is two and half time more than the Phase 1.
  3. These initiatives from NFC and Phase 02 will make a long term effect on pollution, carbon emissions and our efforts on climate change.
  4. Smart City Mission continues with Climate Smart Assessment Framework of green and Blue Infrastructure with 28 Indicators in five main areas namely 28 indicators under five areas: (i) urban planning; (ii) green cover/biodiversity; (iii) energy efficient green buildings; (iv) mobility and air quality; and (v) water and waste management (126 cities were assessed as part of Smart Cities Mission (SCM) under CSCAF out of which Ahmedabad, Pune, Indore, etc. were adjudged top performers).
  5. Water supply and management, energy efficiency and increased green spaces have been a part of the goal in 500 target cities of MoHUA. As of today, 1831 parks over 3700 acres have been developed, 85 lakh street lights have been replaced (11 June – MoHUA).
  6. It is estimated that initiatives under SBM-U can mitigate 17.42 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent of greenhouse gas emissions by 2022 (June 11-MoHUA).

7. The Ministry has announced that there will be a standard uniform worn by all *Safaimitras* across the country. By providing them with uniforms, we will be ensuring the safety and dignity of our *Safaimitras* by allowing them to be recognised as cleanliness warriors (April 29 -MoHUA).
8. Swachh Bharat Urban has empowered *Swachhagrahis* across India. Over 84,000 ragpickers have been integrated into the mainstream and over 5.5 lakh sanitation workers have been linked to various welfare schemes as beneficiaries (June 16-MHUA).

#### **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**

9. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana added Technology sub mission and Rental Housing scheme to improve quality of housing delivery under PMAY.
10. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban, Government of India has focused on new construction technologies that are innovative, environment friendly and disaster-resilient. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Narendra Modi launched six Light House Projects on January 1, 2021 which are already under construction.
11. Fifty four new technologies were also identified under GHTC-India. About 43.3 lakh houses are being constructed where fly ash bricks/blocks and concrete blocks are being used. PMAY Urban has the potential to mitigate around 12 million tonnes CO2 equivalent of GHG emissions by 2022 (June 11-MoHUA).
12. 'Skill, Speed & Scale'! LHPs are model housing projects built with shortlisted alternate innovative construction technologies suitable to geo-climatic conditions. This will demonstrate and deliver ready-to-live houses with speed and better quality of construction.
13. At the 54th CSMC meeting of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban, Government of India, 3.61 lakh new houses have been sanctioned. The Committee also accorded approval for revision of projects comprising 3.75 lakh houses. The total number of houses to be built under #HousingForAll is now 112.4 lakh (June 3 - MoHUA).
14. Cumulative Central Assistance release to beneficiaries has crossed Rs one lakh crore. Against assessed demand of 1.12 crore houses, 1.13 crore have been sanctioned, over 83 lakhs grounded for construction and more than 50 lakhs completed and delivered to happy beneficiaries across the country (June 25-MoHUA).

## Urban Transport

MoS H&UA Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the flyover-cum-roadover bridge of Narela today via video conferencing. The ROB will provide smooth connectivity between Narela and Bawana. The 1680 metres long ROB has been built at a cost of Rs 389 crore. It has two separate carriage ways of 25.5 m each, consisting of three lane carriage way, dedicated bus lane, cycle track, utility corridor and footpath with patterned colour concrete. It has been constructed with RCC piers, pre-stressed girders, RCC slabs in 735 m length and 945 m long RE walls in approaches. Around 200 octagonal poles with energy savings LED lights illuminate the bridge uniformly in night. Indication boards on Overhead Gantries at both the approaches as well as side boards along the bridge have been provided to guide commuters and arrangements have been made for proper drainage and harvesting of Rainwater from the ROB through Rainwater Harvesting Structure (April 6, 2021 MoHUA).

Metro, an energy-efficient mass rapid transit system is operational in 18 cities with over 720 km constructed line. 1,055 km new lines are under construction in 27 cities. It is expected to mitigate around 21.58 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> eq GHG from 2015-2022 (June 11-MOHUA).

India's first-ever driverless train service, the 37km Magenta line of Delhi Metro was flagged off on 28 December 2020. With this, the country entered the exclusive club of seven per cent metro network across the globe having driverless train operation (April 30-MoHUA).

## PM SWANIDHI

#PMSVANidhi completes one year of launch!

The scheme was launched last year to help street vendors who were impacted by #COVID19 pandemic lockdown. Street vendors were given working capital loans to revive their business. The scheme has been a roaring success (June 1 -MoHUA).

So far, 41,90,310 applications have been received from across India. Out of these, 24,21,019 applications have been sanctioned and of these, 20,64,030 loan applications disbursed. April 7

स्वनिधि से समृद्धि!

SVANidhi Se Samridhhi camps are being organised across 125 cities for ensuring linkages of eligible #PMSVANidhi beneficiaries and their families to various Central Government Schemes.

#TransformingLives (June 7-MoHUA)