

## What is Smart City

The first question is what is meant by a 'smart city'. The answer is, there is no universally accepted definition of a smart city. It means different things to different people. The conceptualisation of Smart City, therefore, varies from city to city and country to country, depending on the level of development, willingness to change and reform, resources and aspirations of the city residents. A smart city would have a different connotation in India than, say, Europe. Even in India, there is no one way of defining a smart city.

Some definitional boundaries are required to guide cities in the Mission. In the imagination of any city dweller in India, the picture of a smart city contains a wish list of infrastructure and services that describes his or her level of aspiration. To provide for the aspirations and needs of the citizens, urban planners ideally aim at developing the entire urban eco-system, which is represented by the four pillars of comprehensive development-institutional, physical, social and economic infrastructure. This can be a long term goal and cities can work towards developing such comprehensive infrastructure incrementally, adding on layers of 'smartness'.

In the approach of the Smart Cities Mission, the objective is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' Solutions. The focus is on sustainable and inclusive development and the idea is to look at compact areas, create a **replicable model which will act like a light house to other aspiring cities**. The

Smart Cities Mission of the Government is a bold, new initiative. It is meant to set examples that can be replicated both within and outside the Smart City, catalysing the creation of similar Smart Cities in various regions and parts of the country.

The core infrastructure elements in a smart city would include:

- i. adequate water supply,
- ii. assured electricity supply,
- iii. sanitation, including solid waste management,
- iv. efficient urban mobility and public transport,
- v. affordable housing, especially for the poor,
- vi. robust IT connectivity and digitalization,
- vii. good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation,
- viii. sustainable environment,
- ix. safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly,  
and
- x. health and education.

As far as Smart Solutions are concerned, an illustrative list is given below. This is not, however, an exhaustive list, and cities are free to add more applications.

# Smart Solutions

## E-Governance and Citizen Services

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

## Waste Management

- 6 Waste to Energy & fuel
- 7 Waste to Compost
- 8 Waste Water to be Treated
- 9 Recycling and Reduction of C&D Waste

## Water Management

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

## Energy Management

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

## Urban Mobility

- 16 Smart Parking
- 17 Intelligent Traffic Management
- 18 Integrated Multi-Modal Transport

## Others

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

Accordingly, 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. Area-based development will transform existing areas (retrofit and redevelop), including slums, into better planned ones, thereby improving liveability of the whole City. New areas (greenfield) will be developed around cities in order to accommodate the expanding population in urban areas. Application of Smart Solutions will enable cities to use technology, information and data to improve infrastructure and services. Comprehensive development in this way will improve quality of life, create employment and enhance incomes for all, especially the poor and the disadvantaged, leading to inclusive Cities.