

दुर्गा शंकर मिश्र

सचिव

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Secretary



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Government of India
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011

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Dear Malay,

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is implementing the flagship Smart Cities Mission of the Government of India with the objective of providing a good quality of life to India's urban residents and for propelling economic growth in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

2. While urbanization helps the country prosper, its rapid pace poses a serious challenge for the environment and consequently, on the well-being of citizens. India is the fourth highest emitter of CO₂ in the world, after China, USA and the European Union. With urbanization gathering faster momentum, emissions can only be expected to grow rapidly in the future. Urban areas are responsible for considerable greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which contribute to global warming and thereby to climate change. As per studies, nearly 70% of India's rapidly growing carbon emissions have urban origins, emanating from key sectors like transport, industry, buildings and waste generation. This imposes huge risks towards increased water stress, heat island effect, increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as urban floods. Air quality deterioration is another serious challenge to be managed by city administrators.

3. In order to enable benchmarking of our cities to assess preparedness on climate risk mitigation measures, create strategic plans to tackle the increasing risks of climate change and to bolster the country's efforts towards sustainable urbanization, the Ministry has launched the "**ClimateSMART Cities Assessment Framework**" for the 100 smart cities. This first of its kind national framework is comprehensive and has been created after considerable research from similar work across the world and deliberations amongst all stakeholders including officers of all the 100 smart cities. The framework has 30 diverse indicators across five categories, namely, (i) Energy and Green Buildings, (ii) Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity, (iii) Mobility and Air Quality, (iv) Water Resource Management and (v) Waste Management. The final assessment framework can be accessed on the SmartNet portal (smartnet.niua.org).

4. Considering the importance of a climate-sensitive approach for sustainable urban development, it is planned to conduct city-level assessments on a bi-annual basis, beginning with the first assessment in May 2019. Smart City SPVs set up

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