

THE FIRST 20 SMART CITIES TO BE FUNDED IN FISCAL YEAR 2016

February 04, 2016 : The Indian government announced the list of first 20 smart cities on 22th January 2016. These are the 20 cities named in the first list :

Bhubaneswar	Pune	Jaipur	Surat	Kochi
Ahmedabad	Jabalpur	Visakhapatnam	Solapur	Davanagere
Indore	New Delhi	Coimbatore	Kakinada	Belgaum
Udaipur	Guwahati	Chennai	Ludhiana	Bhopal

The selection of the first twenty smart cities above came through a rigorous process of evaluation of panel of experts , including World Bank,London school of economics and National Institute of Urban affairs. The selection was made on 2 stages and based on,

- 1) Existing public service levels serving the population of the city.
- 2) Institutional system and capabilities.
- 3) Self sustenance and
- 4) Past track record – execution of funds in previous government projects for urban development.

In the first year i.e 2016 , Government confirms to give Rs.200 crore to each selected smart city to create a higher initial corpus. After deducting the Rs. Two crore advance and A&OE share of the MoUD, each selected Smart City will be given Rs. 194 crore out of Rs. 200 crore in the first year followed by Rs. 98 crore out of Rs. 100 crore every year for the next three years. The most thought of plan in executing the idea of smart city planning is including private enterprises into PPP and allowing them to set up the necessary infrastructure for the smart city development and collecting their revenues from the public for the services .

Smart cities are projected to be equipped with basic infrastructure and will offer a good quality of life through smart solutions. Assured water and power supply, sanitation and solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transport, robust IT connectivity, e-governance and citizen participation along with safety of its citizens are some of the likely attributes of these smart cities. The top 20 cities have proposed to “redevelop” and “retrofit” certain specific areas to be smart.

Bhuwaneshwar, for instance, will retrofit and redevelop 985 acres around its main railway station in the heart of the city. Jaipur, on the other hand, has proposed to improve the visual appeal and tourism experience of its walled city area of 600 acres. Retrofitting means the city authorities will holistically address infrastructure and other deficiencies in identified areas. Redevelopment means the authorities will demolish built up areas which are “not amenable for any intervention” .

Some of the features of smart cities according to the government is present in their website <http://smartcities.gov.in/>. Though different cities have different plans to become smart the general idea as in case of Bhopal is to redevelop an IT hub within the heart of the city with smart solutions comprising smart parking and much more.