Prelim Bits 21-06-2018

Smart Cities

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- The objective is to promote sustainable and inclusive 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.
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- The focus is on **creating a replicable model** which are meant to set examples that can be replicated both within and outside the Smart City.
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- **Core infrastructure elements**
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1. Water Supply
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2. Assured electricity supply
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3. Sanitation, including solid waste management
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4. Efficient urban mobility and public transport
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5. Affordable housing, especially for the poor
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6. Robust IT connectivity and digitalization
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7. Good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation
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8. Sustainable environment
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9. Safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly
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10. Health and education.
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- **Components of Smart Cities Mission** -
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1. City improvement (Retrofitting),
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2. City renewal (Redevelopment),
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3. City extension plus a Pan-city initiative in which Smart Solutions are applied covering larger parts of the city.
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- **Approach -** Area-based development.
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- **Selection Process**–Each state will get at least one smart city.
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- Each aspiring city competes for selection as a smart city in what is called a ‘City Challenge’. There are two stages in the selection process.
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- The State/UT begins with shortlisting the potential smart cities.
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- The first stage of the competition will be intra-state based on the criteria specified and the highest scoring potential smart cities will be recommended to Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs.
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- The 100 such potential smart cities nominated by all the States and UTs will prepare Smart City Plans which will be rigorously evaluated in the Stage-2 of the competition for prioritizing cities for financing.
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- The chosen ones will get Central fund of Rs 500 crore during 5 years.
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- **Implementation -**By Special Purpose Vehicles which will be promoted by the State/UT and the Urban Local Body (ULB) jointly both having 50:50 equity shareholding.
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Smart City Tag

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- The Centre has finally announced Shillong (Meghalaya) as the 100th and the last city under the “Smart City Project”.
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- Every city gets five years to complete its projects and the end date for Shillong is 2023.
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- Each selected city is required to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle which will carry out the mission.
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India Smart Cities Award

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- The “India Smart Cities Award” was constituted last year to give awards in 3 categories with an objective to reward cities, projects and innovative ideas, promoting sustainable development in cities.
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- The categories are “Project Award, Innovative Idea Award and City Award”.
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- Eligible Participants were Smart Cities only, where respective ULBs / Smart City SPVs were to submit proposals.
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- This year, the **city award** is being given to Surat.
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- It is for showing great momentum in implementation of projects especially in the categories of urban environment, transport and mobility and sustainable integrated development.
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- The **Innovative Idea award** is being given to a project/idea particularly remarkable for its innovative, bottom-up and transformative approach.
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- **Bhopal** for their Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) and **Ahmedabad** for Safe and Secure Ahmedabad (SASA) Project were awarded this year.
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- The **Project awards** are being given to most innovative and successful projects in several categories.
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- Some of the categories are Governance, Built Environment, Social Aspects, Culture and Economy, Urban environment, Transport and Mobility, Water and Sanitation.
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Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme

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- Pattiseema lift irrigation project interlinked the Godavari river and the Krishna river in Andhra's West Godavari district.
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- It was designed to lift 120 tmcft (thousand million cubic feet) water from Godavari and release it into the Krishna.
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- It sought to meet the irrigation and drinking water needs of drought-prone Rayalaseema region in the state.
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- It was declared as the first and fastest such irrigation project in the country to be completed on time, without any budget enhancements.
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- It is claimed to be the first-ever river interlinking in south India.
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- **Lift Irrigation project** - Pumps are used to lift the water from canals or rivers at lower level to the area at higher level for irrigation purpose.
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Country in news - Suriname

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- Recently, Indian President visited Suriname. This is the first ever visit of an Indian President to Suriname.
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- Suriname is located on the northern coast of South America.
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- Its capital, Paramaribo located on the Suriname River.
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- It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north, by French Guiana to the east, by Brazil to the south, and by Guyana to the west.
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- The narrow coastal zone consists of sandbanks and mudbanks.
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- It is deposited by the southern equatorial currents from the area surrounding the mouth of the Amazon River (located to the east of Suriname, in Brazil).
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Transfer of Tiger

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- Tigers are being translocated from one state to another for the first time in the country.
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- The process is initiated to transfer from Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh to Satkosia Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha.
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- Wildlife Wing of the State Government will have to work with Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for translocation of the tigers.
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Source: The Hindu, PIB.

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