

URBAN COLLECTIVE ACTION NETWORK



Housing Ministry Extends Smart Cities Mission

03 Jul, 2024

The Union housing and urban affairs Ministry has extended the Smart Cities Mission to March 2025, emphasising the completion of housing-related projects within the initiative. This extension aims to enhance urban living by improving housing infrastructure, ensuring adequate residential facilities, and integrating smart solutions for efficient city management. By focusing on sustainable and inclusive housing development, the mission seeks to elevate the quality of life for residents across 100 designated smart cities.

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Empowering resettled communities through women-led safety audits in Chennai

9 Jul, 2024

Resettlement sites in Chennai face significant housing challenges, as revealed by women-led safety audits conducted by IRCUDC. These audits identified critical issues such as inadequate street lighting, poor infrastructure, and lack of safety measures. The findings have led to tangible improvements, including the installation of streetlights, safety gates, and CCTV, enhancing the overall safety and living conditions for residents. These initiatives emphasize the need for continuous community engagement to address housing and safety concerns effectively.

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Inclusive Cities Barometer: EMEA Report

The Cushman & Wakefield Inclusive Cities Barometer evaluates global cities on their inclusivity, highlighting how they support diverse populations. It examines various factors like social integration, economic participation, and quality of life to provide a comprehensive overview of each city's inclusiveness. The barometer aims to identify areas where cities excel and where they need improvement, promoting best practices and inspiring city planners to create more inclusive urban environments.

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Studies on Children in Cities



Building Better Cities with Young Children and Families **880 Cities, Bernard van Leer Foundation**

The report highlights the underrepresentation of young children, parents, and pregnant women in traditional city planning processes, advocating for more inclusive civic engagement strategies. It also identifies localized, effective engagement methodologies tailored to specific community contexts, aiming to inspire innovative approaches for building more livable and supportive cities for all residents, especially the youngest and most vulnerable.

Cities Alive: Designing for Urban Childhoods **Arup**



"Cities Alive: Designing for urban childhoods presents a forward-thinking approach to urban planning aimed at creating cities that benefit everyone. Emphasizing more than just playgrounds, it advocates a systematic approach to city design that enhances children's development, health, and access to opportunities by integrating these considerations into the built environment.



Compendium of Best Practices of Child Friendly Cities **NIUA**

NIUA has partnered with the Bernard van Leer Foundation to develop a comprehensive program from 2014 to 2017 for building child-friendly smart cities in India. The compendium serves as a vital resource, showcasing innovative practices and approaches at national and city levels globally. Presents insights on how cities globally achieve the goal of creating happier, healthier, and inclusive environments for young children.

Cities for Children: An Overview of Relevant Issues **Cities 4 Children, Global Alliance**



The Global Alliance – Cities 4 Children report emphasizes the crucial role of inclusive engagement with children and their caregivers in shaping urban spaces to promote their health, wellbeing, and overall development. The document advocates for policies that prioritize safe, accessible, and stimulating environments tailored to the specific needs of children, ensuring cities become supportive and nurturing places for their youngest residents.

Sources:

<https://880cities.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/BvLF-8-80-Cities-Report-Final.pdf>

<https://www.arup.com/insights/cities-alive-designing-for-urban-childhoods/#:~:text=This%20report%20proposes%20a%20child,cities%20that%20work%20for%20every one.&text=A%20child%2Dfriendly%20approach%20to%20urban%20planning%20is%20a%20vital,that%20work%20better%20for%20everyone.>

<https://niu.in/intranet/sites/default/files/2877.pdf>

https://cities4children.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/1-C4C-Overview.pdf?utm_source=SCResourceCentre



Featuring: Shelter Associates

Shelter Associates, partnering with Google, is transforming lives by assigning Plus Codes—unique digital addresses based on latitude and longitude—to slum households. This initiative enhances service delivery, including postal and emergency services. Notably, the Ray Nagar Housing Project in Solapur, Maharashtra, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, saw 15,000 houses digitally addressed and navigable on Google Maps, providing significant benefits to urban poor communities.

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U-CAN Member Spotlight: Janaagraha

At the World Bank Land Conference in May 2024 at Washington DC, Namita Aggarwal, Janaagraha presented on "Empowering Indian Cities to Drive Climate Action - Expanding Fiscal Space through Property Taxation Reforms." Her talk underscored the vital role of cities in climate action, the heavy reliance on national and state grants, and the lag in property tax collections compared to OECD countries. Highlighting a 90% increase in property tax collections due to recent reforms, Aggarwal emphasized the need for innovative state-level reforms, transparency through platforms like www.cityfinance.in, and policy-driven approaches to realize fiscal potential.



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U-CAN Announcements

Fellowship

Application start date: 16th July, 2024

Application deadline: 6th August, 2024

Application link: <https://urban.org.in/u-can-fellowship-2024-2025/>

Upcoming U-CAN event

Policy Webinar | 8th August, 2024 | Theme: Systems and Governance
Participating Member Organisations: Janaagraha, Praja

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Prajantra: National Youth Festival 2024
Citizen Participation:

15 Aug
2024

20-22 Aug
2024

Charcha - India's largest collaborative convening

Urban Infra Business Summit 2024

Oct
15-16
2024

31 Oct
2024

National Urban Conclave - NIUA



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Kindly circulate in your networks for wider reach*