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News: Indore best city, M.P. top State in Smart Cities contest

➤ Indore has been adjudged the best Smart City while Madhya Pradesh has been chosen as the top state for exemplary performance in the Smart Cities Mission.

➤ Surat and Agra are the second and third place winners among cities, while Tamil Nadu is the second in State category followed by Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in the India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC), 2022.

➤ The award for the best Union Territory has gone to Chandigarh.

National Smart Cities Mission

➤ National Smart Cities Mission is an urban renewal and retrofitting program by the Government of India with the mission to develop smart cities across the country, making them citizen friendly and sustainable.

➤ It was launched in 2015.

➤ The Union Ministry of Urban Development is responsible for implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in collaboration with the state governments of the respective cities. The mission initially included 100 cities, with the deadline for completion of the projects set between 2019 and 2023.

➢ Key focus areas of the scheme include construction of walkways, pedestrian crossings, cycling tracks, efficient waste-management systems, integrated traffic management and assessment.

➢ The scheme also assesses various indices to track urban development such as the Ease of Living Index, Municipal Performance Index, City GDP framework, Climate Smart Cities assessment framework, etc.

Smart City

➢ There is no standard definition or template of a smart city. In the context of our country, the six fundamental principles on which the concept of Smart Cities is based are: Community at the Core (Considering communities at every level of planning and implementation), More from Less (Effective utilization of limited resources), Corporative and Competitive Federalism (Cities selected through healthy competition competing with each other along with supporting each other), Integration, Innovation and Sustainability (Innovative methods used), Technology as means, not the goal (careful selection of apt technology) and Convergence (Sectorial and Financial Convergence).

➢ Recently, the 10,000 acre Aurangabad Industrial City in Aurangabad, Maharashtra was inaugurated as the first Greenfield industrial smart city of India.

➢ The Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) set up under the Mission are meant to coordinate traffic management, surveillance, utilities and grievance redressal.

➢ As on date, 69 smart cities have developed and operationalised their Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) in the country.

➢ Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has decided that the rest 31 cities will also have the Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC).

Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs)

➢ Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) act as the "nerve center" for operations management in the city with day-to-day exception handling and disaster management.

➢ ICCCs provide smart solutions to the city's municipal corporation and help manage safety and surveillance of the city.

➢ The centres comprise video walls for real-time monitoring, emergency response system, operations planning to include critical ones and 24x7manual maintenance.

➢ The centres are being established to enable smart living, smart environment, smart economy, smart governance, smart population and smart mobility.

- The centre will also provide valuable insights by processing complex data sets at an aggregated level to derive intelligence for improved planning and policymaking.

- The ICCCs are now also linked to the CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems) network under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Aim of the ICCC is to aggregate information across multiple applications and sensors deployed across the city and provide actionable information with appropriate visualization for decision-makers.

- These operational ICCCs functioned as war-rooms for COVID management, and along with other smart infrastructure developed under the mission, helped cities in fighting the pandemic through information dissemination, improving communication, predictive analysis and supporting effective management.