

Examine the challenges and opportunities of Smart city mission in India.

The smart cities mission was launched in 2015, to meet the increasing population needs in the city. The scheme aims to address the development of city in a holistic manner.

The mission so far with 100 cities to be developed 83% of projects have been completed. Cumulatively ₹ 86,000 crore has been allocated and ₹ 72,000 crore has been used by participating cities.

Yet, there are areas of improvement

Challenges 1. Funding - Pooling of funds remains a main challenge, as states and cities are devoid of funds. Cities look upto the states for development and from Finance Commission under Article 275

2. Infrastructure : Lack of quality infrastructure has resulted in hampered development.

Bangalore on an average loses ₹ 20,000 crore due to traffic congestions. The air quality of most of urban cities are in the poor category as per World Air Quality Index.

Opportunities 1. Convergence - The smart city mission is convergence with Swachh Bharat and Amarat scheme can make funding streamlined and linear.

2. International support Italy had planned to invest \$ 1.2 trillion in next 20 years in the mission that would help to scale up infrastructure.

Future Equal participation from all stakeholders and making the Central Council for local government can add accountability to the mission and help achieve SDG-11 - Sustainable cities and communities.