Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announces 'Open Data Week'

written by iasexam.com | 18/01/2022

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on Monday announced the initiation of the Open Data Week to encourage the adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem.

According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, leading up to the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav – Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization' conference scheduled to be held in Surat, during February 2022, the Open Data Week is part of a series of pre-event initiatives being undertaken by MoHUA to promote awareness and use of open data.

Key Highlights

- It will be conducted during the third week of January, i.e., from 17th January 2022 to 21st January 2022, said the ministry.

- As per the ministry, the event will see participation from all 100 Smart Cities that will be publishing high-quality datasets and data blogs on the Smart Cities Open Data Portal. Presently, more than 3,800 datasets and more than 60 data stories are already available on the Portal to various stakeholders to analyse this data and uncover actionable insights.

- The event aims to show the benefits of open data such as increased efficiency, transparency, a spur in innovation, and economic growth. It is divided into two segments – first, uploading of datasets, visualizations, APIs and data blogs on the Smart Cities Open Data Portal from 17th January 2022 to 20th January 2022 and second, the celebration of a Data Day by all smart cities on 21st January 2022, stated the ministry.

- The idea is to provide a platform that offers ample opportunities on how to continue creating and promoting the use of data that addresses complex urban issues, such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, said the ministry.

SOURCE: *The Hindu, Hindustan Times*