

Smart Cities Mission launches “SAAR” program

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Smart Cities Mission has launched “Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)” program.

It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Institute of Urban Affairs and leading Indian academic institutions of the country.

Key Highlights

- Under the program, 15 premier architecture & planning institutes of the country will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by the Smart Cities Mission. The documents will capture learnings from best practices.
- It will provide opportunities to students for engagement on urban development projects and enable real-time information flow between urban practitioners and academia.
- The first activity envisaged under SAAR is to prepare a compendium of 75 landmark urban projects in India under the Smart Cities Mission.
- These 75 urban projects are innovative, multi-sectoral, and have been implemented

across geographies.

- The program marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence. The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has said that the compendium of 75 urban projects would be launched by June this year.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*