



## Building Sustainable and Smart Cities of the Future



Country: India

Committee: UN Habitat

India, is one of the world's most populous countries, home to diverse ethnic groups. Home to this large population and diverse faiths, the country is also culturally diverse. It has a large educational base and a high level of higher education. India's economy is a rapidly growing mixed economy. <sup>1</sup>

Urbanization is a phenomenon that progresses alongside human development. With ever-evolving technology, cities have become increasingly advantageous in many ways, leading to a migration to cities. This process is accelerating rapidly every year. This progress, in turn, has certain consequences. Human fossil fuel use, climate change, and poor urban planning negatively impact clean water resources. The severe air pollution levels in Delhi are a prime example. India, due to its population density, rapid urbanization, and the risks of environmental crises, is a crucial country for every step taken toward sustainable smart cities. Global meetings on sustainable cities have been held in various cities. The United Nations established a global partnership with United for Smart Sustainable Cities in 2016. UN-Habitat, under its leadership, continued its work with People-Centered Smart Cities in 2020. <sup>2</sup>

India's first initiative, the Smart Cities Mission, was launched in 2015. 100 cities were selected for the program. Currently, 18 cities have been completed. Comparing India's pre-project status with its current status, the progress is significant. Increasing public participation in the project will both advance the project and fulfill the United Nations' fundamental goal of reaching all humanity. For this, economic support and cooperation are essential, and India is ready to participate.

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<sup>1</sup> Başak Coşkun, "Indian Education System", *Journal of Critical Review of Literature in Educational Sciences*, 2022, 3/1, 85-102.

<sup>2</sup> UN-Habitat, "People Centred Smart Cities", 7 December 2025.