

दुर्गा शंकर मिश्र

सचिव

Durga Shanker Mishra

Secretary



भारत सरकार
आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली-110011
Government of India
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011

D.O. Letter No. K-15016/32/2019-SC-I
May 03, 2019

Dear Madam,

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is implementing the flagship Smart Cities Mission of the Government of India with the objective of providing a good quality of life to India's urban residents and for propelling economic growth in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

2. While urbanization helps the country prosper, its rapid pace poses a serious challenge for the environment and consequently, on the well-being of citizens. India is the fourth highest emitter of CO₂ in the world, after China, USA and the European Union. With urbanization gathering faster momentum, emissions can only be expected to grow rapidly in the future. Urban areas are responsible for considerable greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which contribute to global warming and thereby to climate change. As per studies, nearly 70% of India's rapidly growing carbon emissions have urban origins, emanating from key sectors like transport, industry, buildings and waste generation. This imposes huge risks towards increased water stress, heat island effect, increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as urban floods. Air quality deterioration is another serious challenge to be managed by city administrators.

3. In order to enable benchmarking of our cities to assess preparedness on climate risk mitigation measures, create strategic plans to tackle the increasing risks of climate change and to bolster the country's efforts towards sustainable urbanization, the Ministry has launched the "**ClimateSMART Cities Assessment Framework**" for the 100 smart cities. This first of its kind national framework is comprehensive and has been created after considerable research from similar work across the world and deliberations amongst all stakeholders including officers of all the 100 smart cities. The framework has 30 diverse indicators across five categories, namely, (i) Energy and Green Buildings, (ii) Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity, (iii) Mobility and Air Quality, (iv) Water Resource Management and (v) Waste Management. The final assessment framework can be accessed on the SmartNet portal (smartnet.niua.org).

4. Considering the importance of a climate-sensitive approach for sustainable urban development, it is planned to conduct city-level assessments on a bi-annual basis, beginning with the first assessment in May 2019. Smart City SPVs set up

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-2-

under the Smart Cities Mission shall take the lead in coordination with various Departments for undertaking the exercise of assessment. The indicators mentioned in the framework are multi-sectoral and pertain to various departments in the State and cities. The responsibilities for progress on most of these indicators lie with these departments. An indicative list of departments/agencies which shall be providing the data under various categories of indicators is attached as Annexure. Needless to say, a strong direction from your office to all such departments will go a long way in ensuring the exercise is taken up in the right earnest.

5. I, therefore, request you to kindly issue directions to the concerned State and city departments/agencies for providing the required data, duly authenticated and as per prescribed timelines, to the Smart City SPVs. However, the effort has to go much beyond mere collection and analysis of data in order. In order to create a long-term impact on reversing climate change risks in cities in your State, it is important to set up appropriate formal mechanisms for coordination, peer-to-peer interaction and capacity-building amongst various departments. **I request you to nominate a senior officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the State Government as the nodal officer for the State and communicate the same to us within a week. The cities should also be directed to appoint a nodal officer to coordinate the exercise.** Formal Joint Working Groups on ClimateSMART cities may be set up at the State and city levels with key stakeholders both from within and outside Government. An SOP for capacity building, peer to peer interaction and coordination may be adopted by them for smooth conduct of their proceedings. The first ranking of cities on the ClimateSMART assessment framework is expected before August this year. I am sure you would want your cities to perform exceedingly well on the same and hence create a benchmark for other cities to follow. I wish all the very best to your State/Cities.

With warm regards,

Yours Sincerely,

(Durga Shanker Mishra)

Encl: As above.

Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan,
Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu
Chennai