SAAR is a joint initiative by MoHUA, NIUA and leading Indian academic institutions. It is a platform for collaborative action between academia and flagship urban missions. The key purpose of SAAR is to maximize learning for students, institutions, and cities.
The New Urban Transformation Agenda

India’s new urban transformation agenda addresses three core issues: Liveability, Economic ability and Sustainability. India’s cities hold the key to its becoming a 10 trillion USD economy by 2030.

FLAGSHIP URBAN MISSIONS

Flagship Urban Missions like PMAY-U, AMRUT 2.0 and SBM(U) 2.0, DAY-NULM, Smart Cities Mission (SCM) strive to promote economic growth and improve quality of life of people in a sustainable manner.

Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)

As more and more projects get completed under the Smart Cities Mission, immense learnings have emerged. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), with leading academic institutions of the country have come together for SAAR to document these learnings, provide opportunities for engagement on urban development projects to students, and enable real-time information flow between urban practice and academia.

Cycle 1: A compendium of 75 urban projects under the Smart Cities Mission

- The compendium will contain case studies of 75 urban Smart City projects.
- This will provide students, scholars and researchers a platform to learn, build connections, acquire skills and gain recognition while working on actual projects on ground.
- These case studies will provide a multi-dimensional picture of project executions.
- They will have recommendations on how benefit from such projects can be maximised.
Why Should Students Participate?

The first edition of SAAR is a one of a kind opportunity for students to contribute to the creation of a compendium containing case studies of 75 projects under the Smart Cities Mission.

Students will have the opportunity to:

1. Co-author a case-study for the compendium
2. Participate in a series of national research methodology workshops
3. Gain in-depth experience of project management with the Smart Cities Mission
4. Interact with notable urban practitioners, researchers, city officials and stakeholders in the field of urban development
5. Be recognised by NIUA and MoHUA for your contribution

The Case Studies

These 75 projects are multi-sectoral, cutting across geographies. The compendium will:

1. Act as the first point of reference for future research in the field.
2. Help disseminate learnings from projects under the Mission.
3. Act as a repository for Urban Projects.

Roles

NIUA is leading think tank on urban planning and development, will act as a conduit between academic and professional fields. NIUA is creating a new niche influencing young students and changing the urban narrative of India.

Partner Institutions have complete autonomy to:

- Select students through appropriate procedure
- Decide on educational attainment levels of students
- Coordinate with cities
- Configure outcomes as per requirements of cities, academic research & learnings of students.
Region-wise distribution of Cities, Projects, and Academic Institutions

**NORTH**
- 13 Cities
  - 19 Projects
  - Cities: Agra, Ajmer, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Dharamshala, Faridabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kanpur, Saharanpur, Shimla, and Srinagar
- Institutions: Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi

**SOUTH**
- 8 Cities
  - 18 Projects
  - Cities: Belagavi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Kakinada, Kochi, Mangaluru, Shivamogga, Thanjavur, Thiruchirapalli, Thrivnanthapuram, and Tumakuru
- Institutions: R V College of Architecture, Bangalore, Anna University, College of Engineering, Trivandrum, Department of Architecture & Planning, Manipal University

**WEST**
- 7 Cities
  - 13 Projects
  - Cities: Ahmedabad, Dahod, Nagpur, Nashik, Pune, Surat, Thane, and Vadodara
- Institutions: Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, Indian Institute of Science and Environment Technology, Shibpur

**EAST**
- 4 Cities
  - 12 Projects
  - Cities: Bhubaneswar, New Town, Kolkata, Ranchi, and Vishakhapatnam
- Institutions: Center for Environment Planning and Technology, Ahmedabad, College of Engineering, Pune, Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture, Mumbai

**CENTRAL**
- 3 Cities
  - 3 Projects
  - Cities: Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Raipur, Sagar, Ujjain, and Jabalpur
- Institutions: School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology

**NORTHEAST**
- 12 Cities
  - 28 Projects
- Institutions: School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology

**Workflow of the Program**
1. Selection of 75 Urban Projects
2. On-boarding of Institutions and students
3. Launch of Programme and outreach
4. Field Investigation, data analysis & documentation
5. Announcement of the National Programme by MoHUA
6. National Research Methodology Workshop for the participating students and mentors
7. Peer review of first draft
8. Final submission by research students to their respective institutions
9. Institutional Submission of Research to NIUA
10. Proposed National Launch of the Compendium
Timeline

2021, 20 NOVEMBER
Shortlisting and harmonization of projects by the institutions

2021, 15 DECEMBER
Introductory meeting of SAAR

2022, FEBRUARY
Data analysis documentation and writing by the students

2022, 31 MARCH
Final draft submission by research students to their respective institutions

2022, 1-10 MARCH
Regional/external peer review of the draft thesis/projects

2022, 15 APRIL
Institutional submission research to NIUA

2022, 25 JUNE
Final launch of the Compendium

2021, 30 NOVEMBER
Final onboarding of institutions and students and launch of programme brochure and flyer for SAAR cycle 1—compendium

2022, JANUARY
National Research Methodology Workshop
Field surveys and investigations
SAAR Working Group

A Working Group has been constituted to finalize the modalities and ensure smooth operation of the program. The members are:

1. Shri Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary and Mission Director-Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)- Chair
2. Shri Hitesh Vaidya, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)- Member
3. Dr. Joy Sen, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IITK)- Member
4. Prof. Saswat Bandyopadhyay, CEPT University: Member
5. Dr. Arindam Biswas, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)- Member
6. Dr. K Pratheep Moses, School of Architecture and Planning, Chennai (SAP)- Member
7. Ansley Lewis, Dean, Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies-Member
8. Dr. Natraj Kranthi, Professor and Head of Department, Urban and Regional Planning, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal-Member
9. Shri Vikash Chandra, PPP Expert, Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)-Member Secretary

For more information visit: 
https://niua.in/saar/compendium/