

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 219
TO BE ANSWERED ON FEBRUARY 05, 2024
CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

NO.219. SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN:

Will the minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) in light of the four Centres of Excellence (CoEs) being launched for the realm of urban planning, detail of the specific areas of expertise that each of them will be designated with;
- (b) the manner in which these CoEs effectively integrate ancient Indian knowledge of urban planning with modern AI-based solutions;
- (c) the manner in which this might be applied to address contemporary urban challenges like sustainability, resilience, and social equity; and
- (d) plan of Government that their findings be made accessible and actionable for city planners and policymakers across the country, particularly in smaller towns and cities?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE)

(a) to (d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has designated following institutes as Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Urban Planning and Design in December, 2023:

- i) School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi
- ii) Indian institute of Technology, Kharagpur
- iii) CEPT, Ahmedabad and
- iv) NIT Calicut

The objective is to develop these Centres of Excellence as 'Institute of International Repute' in urban planning and design and to maintain the highest standards of leadership in urban planning and design in the country by becoming a catalyst for innovation, knowledge creation, dissemination of best practices, training, capacity building and creating platforms for sustained engagement of academia– industry– government and civil society.

All the modern technological tools are expected to be used by the CoEs as integral part of research, urban planning and design.

The functions envisaged for CoEs are stated below:

- (i) To serve as an interdisciplinary platform in the field of urban planning, urban design, and allied fields and foster partnerships with Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Urban Development Authorities (UDAs), State Town and Country Planning Organizations, Central Government Organisations and other relevant agencies.

- (ii) To work with the States /country as a whole with emphasis on the States in their region and partner with Cities on real on-ground projects and on initiatives under urban planning reforms.
- (iii) To act as the training centre for all State Town Planner and impart subject specific trainings to Municipal officials/ Town and Country Planning officials.
- (iv) To identify challenges, undertake research and provide solutions to address contemporary urban challenges such as urban flooding, haphazard developments, storm water drainage, sewerage, unsafe streets, parking, retrofitting of marketplaces, etc.
- (v) To provide research opportunities for various government, non-government and private organisations to create an eco-system of well-informed city decision makers and to improve the documentation of Indian traditional systems of planning and sustainable practices while contextualising international best practices and research to the local context.
- (vi) To work under Hub and Spoke model for sharing knowledge with other planning institutions.
- (vii) To share and document information about best practices undertaken in States with the stakeholders.
