

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2455
TO BE ANSWERED ON MARCH 13, 2025
LAUNCH OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE**

NO. 2455. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:

WILL THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS BE PLEASED TO STATE:

- (a) in light of the four Centres of Excellence (CoE) being launched for the realm of urban planning, the details of the specific areas of expertise that each of them would be designated with;**
- (b) the manner in which these CoE 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) whether the Government has any plan to make their findings accessible and actionable for city planners and policymakers across the country, particularly in smaller towns and cities and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)**

(a) to (d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has designated following institutes as Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Urban Planning and Design and has signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Institutes in September, 2024:

- 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. The CoEs are mandated to provide support to the States by offering capacity building programmes/ certified courses, expert guidance, sharing of best practices, and innovative solutions tailored to local/ regional needs. The CoEs are also tasked to work with the States and partner with cities on real on-ground projects as per the priority of the States.

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

A digital platform has been developed by the Ministry where all the CoEs share training/capacity building program conducted by them and the projects/ research works undertaken by them.
