

■ Smart Solutions Challenge & Inclusive Cities Awards 2022

Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri presented Smart Solutions Challenge & Inclusive Cities Awards 2022, in New Delhi on 1st September 2022. These awards are an initiative of the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and the United Nations (UN) in India to address city-level accessibility and inclusion challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PwD), women and girls, and the elderly. Over 100 entries were received through an open call for applications, out of which the top 10 technology-based innovations were identified as winning solutions after an intensive round of screenings and shortlisting by an eminent 7-member jury panel. These solutions will be instrumental in integrating universal design, which will help achieve SDG target 11.7- to provide safe, inclusive & accessible, green & public spaces for all vulnerable communities. Giving away the awards, Shri Puri observed that assistive technology already has market viability in India and we must capitalise on these trends to build accessible and inclusive urban spaces.