

# Mukaab – a cube-shaped super-city

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**In news**– Recently, Saudi Arabia has unveiled its latest grand plan to transform its capital city.

## About the new city project-

- The new project coming up in Riyadh is called the Mukaab – “cube” in Arabic.
- **It will stand 400 metres high, wide and long, big enough to hold 20 Empire State Buildings.**
- **The Mukaab will be at the heart of the New Murabba Project**, a plan to create “the world’s largest and modern downtown” in Riyadh.
- **Set to be completed by 2030**, it will be helmed by Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman.
- This is the latest among a string of ambitious architectural projects planned and undertaken by Saudi Arabia as a part of its Vision 2030, aimed at revolutionising the country’s economy and lifestyle.
- Recently, the **NEOM project (or The Line)** has dominated headlines for its futuristic design and **ambitious zero-carbon goals**.

## What is the Mukaab?

- To be constructed in central Riyadh, the Mukaab **“will house over 100,000 residential units**, 9,000 hotel rooms and 1.4 million square metres of office space, as well as dozens of entertainment and culture venues.” There will also be 1.8 million sq. metres of space dedicated to community facilities, the press release by the Saudi government said.
- Spread over 19 sq. km, the new Murabba project will be

built around the concept of sustainability and will add SAR 180 billion (roughly \$ 47 billion) to Saudi Arabia's non-oil GDP, the press release claimed. The Mukaab will be the highlight of this project.

- It is currently unclear how much this project will cost or how the PIF will fund it.
- **The cubic shape of the Mukaab will “ensure the ultimate utilisation of space.**
- **It will be built using the modern Najdi architectural style** – a twist on the traditional Najdi architectural style from the Najd region in the centre of the Arabian peninsula.
- This architectural style was perfected over generations to be best suited for the region's desert climate – its design focuses on naturally controlling the climate inside the structure.
- Hence, the cube shape is not just yet another futuristic concept for a city, it will serve a functional purpose by limiting energy requirements inside it.