

# State plans to remodel 16 towns

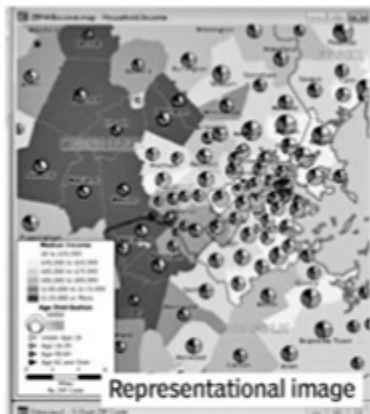
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 11:** To meet the needs of the expected population in 2040, the state government has decided to prepare master plans for 16 towns of the state using Geo Informatics System (GIS).

The selected towns are Bargarh, Rayagada, Koraput, Paralakhemundi, Deogarh, Anandpur, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Pattamundai, Jajpur town, Nabarangpur, Phulbani, Malkangiri, Joda, Basudevpur and the port town of Dhamra. The state government would very soon engage an IT agency to do the job, sources said Sunday.

Road infrastructure and drainage will be the top priority while preparing the master plan; the sources said adding each town will have a specific area of development. The authorities will map about 900 square kilometer of land for the initiative.

The Housing and Urban Development department has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting expert agencies to take part in the project. The planning authorities of the concern Urban Local Body (ULB) would provide the



manual data on infrastructure and availability of land which will be integrated while preparing the GIS map, they said.

The preparation of the master plan will start with the study of the existing conditions and assessment of the future needs and quantifying the deficiency and accounting for the potential resources and constraints. Based on the above studies development priorities will be set for the particular urban area taking into consideration the physical as well as socio-economic needs.

The sources also stated that with the implementation of the master plan, the selected towns will see

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proper land use, improved traffic and transportation, housing and slum improvement, public utilities, environmental improvement, research and other community facilities, plantation, heritage and tourism, management of the natural water bodies and more.

Housing and urban development sources said that besides having a specific development model for the towns, the GIS mapping will also help to track the vacant government land and generate revenue from properties in form of holding tax. The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) is already using the technology in the state capital to map the properties ensuring proper collection of holding tax.