

## **53 AMRUT projects worth Rs 538 crore gets Odisha govt nod**

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**BHUBANESWAR:** The State level high powered steering committee (SLHPSC) on Thursday approved detailed project reports (DPRs) of 53 projects including 19 for the current financial year worth around Rs 538 crore.

The infrastructure projects will be implemented in nine Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) towns of the State. With the approval of these new plans, the total number of projects for AMRUT towns reached 148 with total estimated cost of around Rs 1,100 crore.

Around 97.5 per cent of this sanctioned value has been devoted towards improvement of water supply and sewerage infrastructure while 2.5 per cent will be utilised for development of parks and other civic amenities.

Chairing the SLHPSC meeting at the Secretariat, Chief Secretary AP Padhi directed the Housing and Urban Development Department to drop the non-starter projects approved earlier and substitute them with new ones. The department was asked to focus on water supply and sewerage projects and complete these in time.

Padhi emphasised that no area of the AMRUT towns should be left uncovered with water supply by end of the project period. The scheme launched in 2015-16 has targeted to complete all the sanctioned projects by 2019-20.

Meanwhile, the State's performance in implementation of service delivery and reforms at ULB level has been recognised at national level. During 2016-17, the State has implemented around 12 major reforms including adoption of energy efficiency mechanism, waste water recycling and faecal sludge management and development of children's park.

Internal assessment of the progress in reform implementation including e-governance, adoption of model building by-laws, implementation of recommendations of State Finance Commission and credit rating of ULBs shows that the State has already achieved around 98 per cent.

Odisha ranked third at the national level in reform implementation and was awarded with Rs 10.52 crore as incentive grant last year, Housing and Urban Development Secretary G Mathivathanan said.

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