

Smart city development not elitist- its a trigger for inclusive and comprehensive urban development says Venkaiah Naidu

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New Delhi: Minister of Urban Development Shri M.Venakaiah Naidu has asserted that smart city development is not elitist and on the other hand it has triggered inclusive and comprehensive urban planning and development addressing the inherited deficit in urban governance. Addressing a Business Conclave at Shri Ram College of Commerce here today, the Minister said that Smart City Mission has brought about a paradigm shift by enabling the mission cities approach the challenges differently rather than doing different things.

Shri Venkaiah Naidu explained that the Smart City Mission has been so designed to promote inclusive development benefitting all sections of people besides promoting sustainable urban development practices and actions in the context of urban citizens being starved of breathing and living spaces. He said that this mission is a 'behavioral change' initiative requiring all stakeholders including elected and executive leadership and citizens to change their attitudes and approaches towards urban planning and execution. Smart leaders and smart citizens are crucial for the success of the mission, he said.

Asserting that the mission is progressing well, Shri Naidu said that since the announcement of first batch of 20 cities for smart city development on January 28, 2015, these mission cities have moved quickly towards appointing Project Management Consultants, Special Purpose Vehicles and converting city-wise smart city plans for awarding project works for implementation. He informed that 114 projects worth Rs.1,582 cr would be completed by June this year and another 186 projects costing Rs.11,749 cr have been awarded for execution and another 210 projects worth Rs.7,336 cr would be awarded soon. By June this year i.e with in two years of the launch of the mission, a total of 510 projects with a total investment of Rs.20,669 cr would take off the ground amounting to about 50% of the total investment proposed, he explained. Stating that awarding and execution of remaining projects would pick up further momentum from now on, Shri Naidu said that the mission is on course and visible impact will be felt soon.

Referring to the growing spirit of competition among cities and towns to do better than others, Shri Naidu said that moving away from archaic ways of urban governance, cities are now vying for credit ratings for mobilization of resources through municipal bonds, reflecting on their keenness to think and act differently. He informed that of the 97 smart cities, 89 have initiated this process of which 70 have completed it and 26 of them have already been given credit rating. Eight cities viz., Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Indore, Jaipur, Kakinada, Pune, Rajkot and Visakhapatnam have already appointed Transactional Advisors

for issuing municipal bonds. Total of 44 cities including 25 AMRUT cities have so far got credit ratings, Shri Naidu informed.
 Details of cities and credit ratings:

Smart cities	Credit rating	Amrut cities	Credit rating
Ahmedabad	AA minus	Bharatpur	BBB minus
Bhopal	A minus	Biakner	BBB minus
Bhubaneswar	BBB	Sriganganagar	BBB minus
Indore	A Plus	Hanumangarh (Raj)	BBB minus
Jaipur	A minus	Dholpur	BB plus
Kakinada	BBB	Gangapur city	BB plus
New Delhi Municipal Council	AA minus	Swai Madhopur	BB plus
Pune	AA plus	Churu	BB
Udaipur	BBB plus	Sujangarh	BB
Visakhapatnam	A	Hindan	BB
Ajmer	BBB plus	Kishangarh	A plus
Kota	BBB plus	Jhunjhunu	A
Nagpur	AB plus	Bhiwadi	A minus
Nashik	AA minus	Alwar	BBB plus
Navi Mumbai	AA plus	Tonk	BBB
Rourkela	BB plus	Pali	BB plus
Thane	AA minus	Jodhpur	BB
		Bhilwara	BBB plus
		Bundi	BB
		Chittorgarh	BB
		Jhalawar	BB minus
		Baran	BB minus
		Sikar	BB plus