

# Odisha bags AMRUT award

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 24: Odisha, along with Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, were adjudged the best performing states under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and awarded at the National Dissemination Workshop on Ease of Living Index, 2018, here Monday

Odisha has secured the second position in 'Ease of Living Index' rankings launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). While Andhra Pradesh topped the chart, Madhya Pradesh secured the third position.

While presenting the award to Odisha, the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, said, "The Ease of Living Index is a transformative initiative of the ministry to help the cities assess their liveability vis-à-vis national and global benchmarks. The Ease of Living Index will encourage all cities to move towards an 'outcome-based' approach to urban planning and management and promote healthy competition among cities."

"The Ease of Living Index seeks to assist cities in undertaking a 360-degree assessment of their strengths, weaknesses, opportu-



Odisha H&UD secretary G Mathi Vathanan (R) receiving the award

nities, and threats", he added.

Odisha Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department secretary G Mathi Vathanan received the award from Puri.

During 2017-18, Odisha accomplished 10 reforms milestones pertaining to core urban governance reform areas including governance, municipal cadre, double entry accounting, urban planning and Swachh Bharat Mission, Vathanan said adding that the state has bagged the award for three years consecutively.

According to the ministry, it was decided in June 2017 to rank 116 cities (all smart cities and a million plus cities) based on the live-

ability parameters. The implementation of the assessment commenced formally on January 19. The MoHUA released the first ever Ease of Living Index covering 111 Indian cities on August 13 which serves as a litmus test to help assess the progress made in cities through various initiatives. Bhubaneswar had secured 18th rank in the assessment while Rourkela 87th position.

All cities were evaluated out of 100. The 'physical' pillar (infrastructure) was given the highest weightage of 45, while institutional (governance) and social were weighted 25 each. Economy was weighted 5.