

Municipal Affairs



Initiatives Of Department Of Municipal Affairs On The Completion Of One Year Of New Government

The newly elected State Government under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister coupled with the direction and regular supervision of Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Municipal Affairs & Urban Development Departments, Department of Municipal Affairs within this limited span of one year has evolved various policy directions in the sphere of municipal management.

Municipal Affairs Departments has necessitated the urban local bodies to speed up the creation of both physical and social infrastructure in the urban areas: from drinking water to drainage, from housing and transportation to the beautification of urban areas and preservation of urban green with an aim of not only to provide a better living environment for the citizens but also to make the urban centres, the focal point of growth and economic development.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE:

Urban Beautification

- Municipal Affairs Department has been identified as a Nodal Department for implementation of Urban Beautification Programme. State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) has been designated as a nodal agency for this purpose and the work for ornamental street lighting is being implemented by Municipal Engineering Directorate in consultation with the Urban Local Bodies.

- In the first phase ornamental street lighting has been taken up in 45 ULBs

Baranagar	Khardah	Haldia	Kamarhati	Barrackpore
Dum Dum	Bankura	Kalyani	Baruipur	Suri
Barasat	Memari	Purulia	Medinipur	Rampurhat
Bolpur	Kalna	Habra	Ranaghat	Nabadwip
Bongaon	Krishnanagar	Tarakeswar	Panihati	Hooghly-Chinsurah
Bansberia	Rajpur-Sonarpur	Jainagar-Mazilpur	Diamond Harbour	Kanchrapara
Uttarpara-Kotrung	Dankuni	Serampore	Uluberia	Asansol MC
Kharagpur	Nalhati	Durgapur MC	Panskura	Tamluk
Konnagar	Chandannagar MC	Sainthia	Bidhannagar	Bishnupur

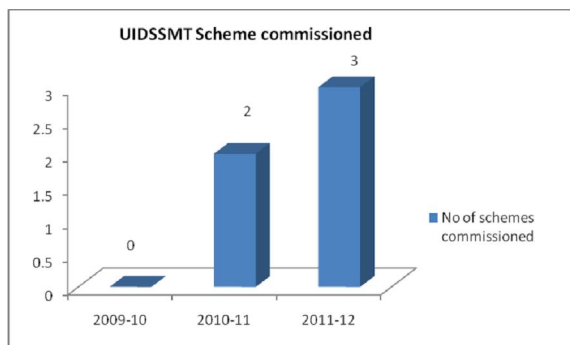
- Similar ornamental street lighting has been taken up for the
 - Stretch of road between Ultadanga and Barasat for length of more than 20 km.
 - Stretch of Jessore road between R.G.Kar Medical College and Gate No.1 of Kolkata Airport for a length of around 8 km.
- Kolkata Municipal Corporation has taken a number of measures to beautify the city of Kolkata which includes riverside beautification, removal of hoarding from the Central Business District of Kolkata, ornamental street lighting and other remedial measures.
- Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority has also taken up the similar works from the stretch of roads from Haldiram Point to Airport Point for a length of 2 km.

Water Supply

The new State Government has taken all out effort to provide potable water supply to all urban areas, particularly to the small and medium towns.

• Urban Infrastructure Development Schemes For Small And Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) -

- As a result of active and repeated interactions by the newly elected State Government with the Union Urban Development Ministry, **water supply schemes of 8 more small and medium towns** could be sanctioned over and above the overall allocation for the State of West Bengal under this sub-mission.
- The towns with project costs are:
 - **Egra** - 14.97 cr
 - **Birnagar** - 9.77 cr
 - **Chandrakona** - 15.57 cr
 - **English Bazar** - 41.40 cr
 - **Ramjibanpore** - 11.01 cr
 - **Sainthia** - 13.00 cr
 - **Balurghat** - 41.60 cr
 - **Cooch Behar** - 36.35 cr
- During the last one year **3 water supply projects** have been commissioned at
 - Krishnagar • Tamluk • Nalhati
- A comparative figure on **commissioning of water supply schemes** is produced below:



• Special Backward Region Grant Fund (Special BRGF Fund) –

- To ensure **water supply** to the urban populace living in arid regions and in the western part of the State, water supply schemes of 5 towns with project cost of Rs.210.87 crores have been made specially sanctioned under “**Special BRGF Fund**”.

○ The towns with project costs for water supply schemes are

- **Purulia** - 56.35 cr
- **Raghunathpur** - 17.44 cr
- **Bishnupur** - 35.84 cr
- **Sonamukhi** - 15.44 cr
- **Kharagpur** - 85.79 cr

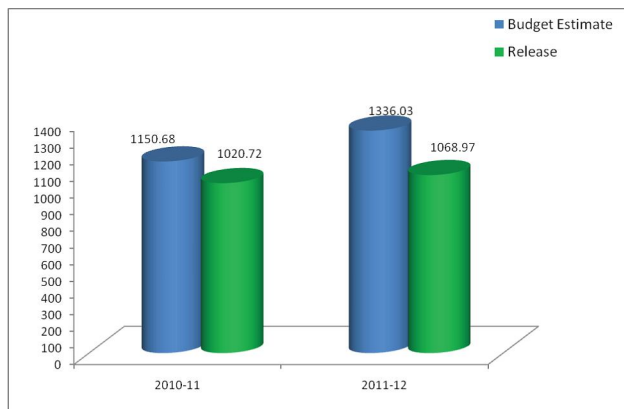
- In order to prepare a **roadmap for providing drinking water** to all the towns of the state, a detailed matrix has been prepared. This will help the state government for prioritization of towns.

Release of Plan Fund

- During the year, an amount of Rs. 1068.97 cr has been released, which is 80% of the revised budget estimate.
- **Release Of Plan Fund To The Urban Local Bodies-**

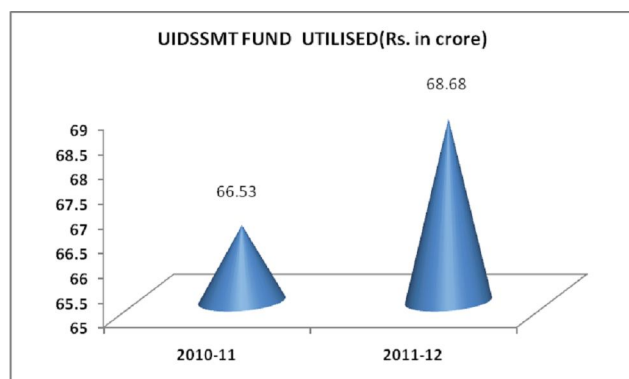
• Development of Municipal Areas (for raods, drains, culvert, e-governace etc)	: 93.79 cr
• Water Supply in Urban Areas (Apart from JnNURM)	: 98.48 cr
• JnNURM (UIDSSMT/IHSDP- for small non-mission towns)	: 270.08 cr
• Basic Minimum Services (Health improvement, slum improvement etc)	: 31.16 cr
• Employment Generation in urban areas	: 39.99 cr
• West Bengal Urban Employment Scheme	: 165.73 cr
• 13th central Finance Commission grant	: 94.18 cr
• 3rd State Finance Commission grant	: 117.34 cr
• Construction of Municipal Buildings	: 5.16 cr
• Others	: 80.11 cr
TOTAL	: 1068.98 cr

- The release of plan fund is the **highest among all the previous years.**
- A comparative chart is furnished below



Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme For Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT)

- This scheme caters to the infrastructure development for Small and Medium Towns.
- As a result of active and repeated interactions by the newly elected State Government with the Union Urban Development Ministry, water supply schemes of 8 more small and medium towns could be sanctioned.
- Till date, **34 projects have been sanctioned** by Government of India at a cost of Rs. 569.32 crore.
- **30 projects relate to drinking water supply** (316.61 cr), while **2 relate to drainage** (49.22 cr) one relates to sewerage (12.51 cr) and another relates to **construction of bye-pass road** (7.30 cr) to improve connectivity.
- During the last three years, 1 project on trans-municipal road and 5 water supply schemes have been commissioned, out of which **3 schemes have been commissioned in last 1 year.**
- **Fund utilized** during the last one year is Rs 68.68 cr which is higher than last year.



- o To meet up the escalated cost, new State Government has released **23 crore** as **Additional State Share** apart

from normal matching State share in order to complete the ongoing projects.

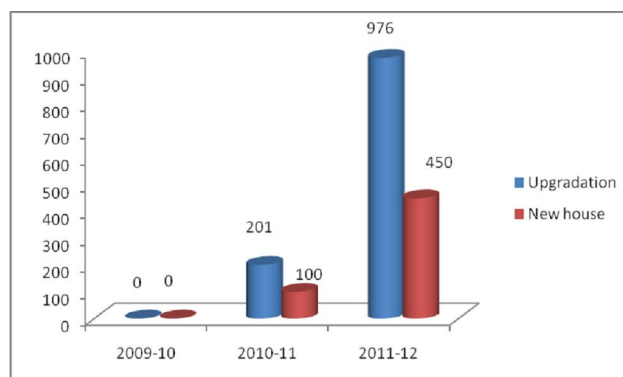
INITIATIVES FOR URBAN POOR

Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)

- This scheme provides for construction of houses for slum dwellers and provisioning of necessary infrastructures in the identified slums to improve the living environment.
- Till date, 94 projects have been sanctioned for all 80 Non- Mission Urban Local Bodies involving Rs. 925.85 crore. This involves construction of 52,591 nos. of houses for urban poor and requisite infrastructure facilities in the slums.
- So far Rs. 615.65 crore has been released to ULBs including State & Central share, out of which Rs. 533.79 crore have been utilized which, is to the tune of 87%.
- So far, out of 52,591, fully completed no. of Dwelling Units is 35,560 and work of 7033 no. of Dwelling Units is in progress.
- Due to enhancement of project cost in regard to escalation of cost of building material, the new State Government has released Rs. 47 crores **Additional State Share** apart from normal matching State share in order to complete the ongoing projects.

State Scheme For Housing For Urban Poor

- In order to provide affordable housing for all urban poor, State Government has taken up the scheme. So far 101 ULBs have submitted proposals to SUDA, which is acting as nodal agency.
- Till date proposals from 99 ULBs have been sanctioned that includes 3861 new construction and 7789 up-gradation.
- During the last year 976 houses have been upgraded and 450 new houses have been constructed which is much higher than the last year performance.
- A comparative chart is produced below.



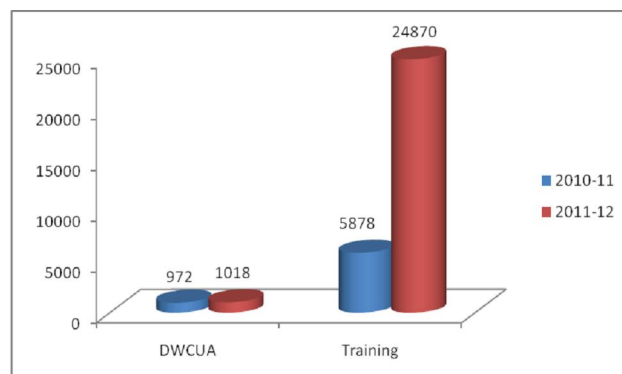
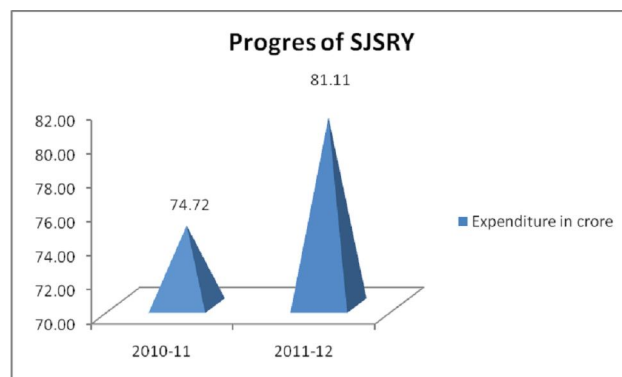
Physical Progress for Housing for Urban Poor Scheme

- **Socio- Economic and Caste Census (SECC)** for identification of BPL populace in urban areas has been taken up. This is the first of its kind in the urban areas of the state, being implemented by the ULBs under supervision of State Urban Development Agency of Municipal Affairs Department.
- Recently, as a result of active and repeated interactions by the newly elected State Government, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has agreed to include all 47 ULBs of Kolkata and Asansol metropolitan cities under **Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY)**.

Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY)

- It seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed / underemployed youth through setting up of self employment ventures or provision of wage employment.
- The highlight of the programme is the empowerment of the women by facilitating them to form Thrift and Credit Groups and also Self-Help groups.
- Till date 39,217 **Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs)**, 3,696 **Neighbourhood Committees (NHCs)** and 306 **Community Development Societies (CDS)** have been formed in different municipal areas of the State.
- **Under Self-employment Programme** 1,07,824 loan applications have so far been sponsored by the ULBs to different banks. 46,607 cases have been sanctioned
- 5,991 Groups comprising of women members of BPL families have been formed for Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas (DWCUA). Out of these groups, 4,554 groups have been credit linked.
- 37,454 Thrift and Credit Groups have been formed and the total no. of BPL families involved with these groups is approximately 5 lakhs.
- So far 99,154 unemployed/ under-employed youths have undergone vocational training.
- To provide market support to the DWCUA and TCG group members fund is being provided to ULBs for construction of Community Seva Kendra. Self-Help Groups from different ULBs have also been participating in different fairs with support from ULBs and State Govt.
- During the last one year, 1891 Thrift and Credit Groups, 24,870 youths have undergone vocational training and 1018 DWCUA groups have been formed and the expenditure incurred is Rs. 81.11 cr.

- A comparative progress of SJSRY is furnished below



Legislation

- The State Government has initiated steps for protection of livelihood of hawkers through legislation by way of framing a **Draft West Bengal Urban Street Vendor Bill** has been prepared by Municipal Affairs Department and is being examined by a High Powered Committee.
- Necessary amendment in the West Bengal Municipal Act has been made in the last assembly session to empower all urban local bodies to create a separate **non- lapsable Basic Service for Urban poor (BSUP) fund** and to earmark and spend at least 25% of their budgetary provisions for the poorer sections of the society.
- Necessary amendment of Schedule I Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act, 1980 has been made to include **Joka-I and Joka-2 G.P.** within Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

OTHER INITIATIVES

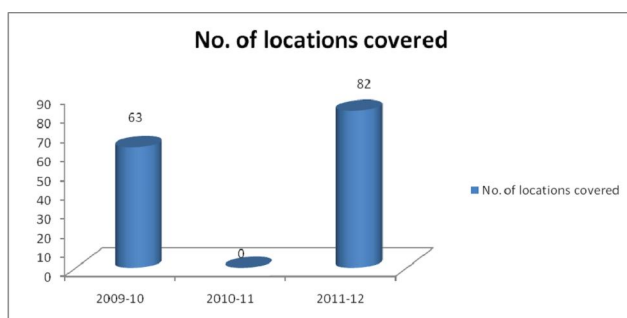
E-Governance

- A comprehensive e-governance module, with integrated financial accounting system has been developed under KUSP for all 40 KMA Urban Local Bodies. I

- It contains 15 Modules like - Infrastructure Management System (IMS), Birth & Death, Payroll, Property Tax, ULB Infrastructure, Trade License, School Information System, Ward Wise Management, Public Grievance and Redressal etc.
- Kolkata Municipal Corporation has developed a very successful citizen centric service using e- governance and has set up a number of e-seva kendras (e-kolkata) in various locations of the city. A number of non KMA ULBS are already providing citizen centric e-governance module on stand-alone basis. Steps have been taken to extend this integrated system to the rest 80 non- KMA urban local bodies also.

Video Conferencing

- Municipal Affairs Department, with cooperation from Information Technology Department has taken up the work of WBSWAN connectivity, along with INVC (software based Video Conference) facility, between all Urban Local Bodies of West Bengal, Development Authorities, District and Sub-Divisional Administration, important State-level offices of both Municipal Affairs Department and Urban Development Department at Kolkata for providing Video Conferencing facility.
- This is in an effort to improve the direct interaction with respective ULBs with the Departmental personnel without having physical movement.
- Presently all the remaining 82 Urban Local Bodies is being covered with the funding from the State Government.



Video Conferencing under e-Governance

- Steps are being taken to make enabling provision in the WB Municipal Act for introduction of Unit Area Method of Valuation of properties. Kolkata Municipal Corporation has published the Draft

Scheme on unit area method of valuation of properties within KMC. This is the first of its kind in the State.

Service Level Benchmarking

- To ensure civic services to the citizens, Service Level Benchmarking on 4 essential civic services to be provided by all 127 ULBs during 2011-12 has been published in the Kolkata Gazette. Similar notification for 2012-13 is being processed.

Fire Hazard And Mitigation Plan

- In order to prevent fire accidents, Fire hazard and Mitigation Plans for Kolkata and Howrah have been prepared in consultation with corporations and Fire Services Department and has been notified in Kolkata Gazette. A High Power Technical Committee has been constituted to suggest changes in the Municipal Building Rules and KMC Building Rules to ensure fire safety.

Inventory On The Lands

- A detailed inventory on the lands under the ownership of all the 127 ULB areas has been prepared.

Department For International Development (DFID)

- UK has agreed to initiate some consultancy studies in urban West Bengal using Change management Unit of KUSP and likely to continue its association upto 2015.

Municipal Election

- to Raigunj, Pujali municipalities held and recently, with active intervention from State Government, election to 4 hill municipalities could be held after a stalemate of 2¹/₂ years.
- Election to the 6 municipalities will be held in June, 2012.

Payment Of Salary Through ECS

- To cope up with the instruction of the State Government, the monthly salary of all the employees under this department and of all the urban local bodies through **banking system by way of ECS** has already been made effective from October, 2011. This facility is also being extended to thousands of beneficiaries under various social pension schemes under National Social Assistance Programme so that they do not have to wait long for receiving their pensions from the ULBs.