

## Overview of MUKTA

While India witnessed several migrant labourers returning home at the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Odisha Government swiftly took measures to protect the vulnerable workforce. The government implemented the Mukhya Mantri Karma Tatpar Abhiyan (MUKTA) with the aim of strengthening migrant labourers and the urban workforce against Economic vulnerabilities. What makes the programme stand out is its community-driven, participatory and bottom-up approach. The Urban Workforce across 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are now ready to battle the odds with the solid backing of the state. It is noteworthy that of all states in India, Odisha took the lead to run an initiative that promised waged employment to the urban workforce.

## Scope

The Odisha Government has consistently emphasised the need to decentralise administration and grant powers to the community. MUKTA is driven by the keen interest of Community-Based Organisations (CBO) such as the Women Self Help Groups (SHG) and Slum Development Associations (SDA). Currently, 2034 wards in Odisha reap the benefits of cost-effective, sustainable and replicable community-based projects. Under MUKTA, the 114 ULBs have received funding of 416 crores in total, empowering them all to execute the planned projects. In addition to this, a total of 25,000 Rainwater Harvesting Structures have been sanctioned with an investment of 100 crores.





## Key features of the mission

- The government realises that success rates are higher when a community is handhel to initiate projects in their own interest. Therefore, MUKTA has adopted a bottom-up approach where the needs of each area are analysed and development projects are undertaken accordingly.
- Inclusion is the centre of MUKTA's implementation wherein labourers are mobilised by the community and they also gain certain perks for their participation. A total of 7.5% of the project cost is utilised as a supervision charge. At the same time, the implementation partners are not picked merely by tenders but through evaluation.
- Accessibility to funds is one of the leading factors for the scheme's success as it enables Mission Steering Groups and State Designated agencies to receive work orders up to 10 lakhs directly.
- Payments do not veer off track and reach the stakeholders instantly through the Direct Benefit Transfer(DBT) payment systems.
- Revamping infrastructure and city beautification are some of the key tasks undertaken by the workforce. Mini Parks, Open Air Gym, Child Play Stations, Playgrounds, Loo & Vending Zone, Open Space Develop- ment, Rainwater Harvesting Structures, Water Body Development, and the Construction of a Multi-purpose Community Center are some of the many labour-centric works done under the MUKTA scheme.