

₹3,700cr boost for smart city projects

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Centre will give about Rs 3,700 crore as incentive to states for faster completion of smart city projects in its bid to motivate local governments to expedite works. The states will be chosen through competition.

PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday asked all state chief secretaries to monitor smart city projects for early completion. The Centre has already selected 90 cities under the ambitious smart city scheme and has approved projects worth Rs 1.91 lakh crore.

“The Prime Minister said the cities have been selected, projects are ready and now

the focus should be on completion with global standards as the benchmark. He asked the chief secretaries of states to review progress of projects of each selected city,” an official said.

“He (The PM) appreciated the participation of cities in the challenge route. He said the challenge before everyone is now to ensure implementation and expeditious completion of the work in the 90 identified cities, with high quality,” an official release from PMO said.

Giving details of the projects, urban affairs secretary Durga Shanker Mishra said 261 “impactful” works are being reviewed regularly.