



BMC e-Varta

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

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Visually challenged students visit Mukteswar on a special heritage walk

It was a different experience for the visually challenged visitors. They went to the 10th Century Mukteswar Temple on a special heritage walk and could visualise the marvels of Kalingan architectural style and architecture by "touching" the artefacts on the walls of one of the most well-preserved monuments of the Temple City.

The special heritage walk was organised by the Sahapedia for the students with special needs at Mukteswar Temple. Braille books containing tactile images; historical information, temple architecture, was provided among the students



who came from different parts of Odisha to experience Odisha's temple architecture.

India Heritage Walk Festival, a joint collaboration of Sahapedia and YES Arts and Culture has been awarded the prestigious PETA Gold Award 2018 for its major works on digital archives endeavours of making India's heritage more popular and accessible.

In 2019 Sahapedia in collaboration with NMDC is going to conduct over 80 walks in more than 35 different cities across the country as the India Heritage Walk Festival makes us rethink and rediscover the way we interact with and imagine our heritage.

Sareeta Behera (Consultant for Disability with SSEPD-UNICEF, Odisha) appreciated the special heritage walk. Nituranjan Dash (general secretary, Centre for Youth and Social Welfare) emphasised "Touch me once" instead of "Do not touch" tagline which is quietly common in every museum.

BSCL gets Smart Cities Digital Payment Award

Bhubaneswar, February 13: Adding yet another feather to its cap, Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) has won the Best Digital Payment Innovator Award, conceptualised by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). It was declared on February 11, 2019. This was part of the initiative taken up by MoUHA during August last year under Smart Cities Digital Payment Awards (SCDPA) 2018. There were three categories under SCDPA-2018.



As a part of its Smart City Proposal, BSCL has started implementing Common Payment Card System (CPCS) under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode through ICICI Bank. The proposed system focuses on facilitating payment transactions for citizen services across the city through OdysseyCard. These services primarily include payments pertaining to buses and other transit modes, parking, municipal services (property taxes, trade license fee and other charges), utilities (electricity, water, etc.) and also includes recreational and retail payments. The project envisages operationalisation of digital payment eco-system in the city for accepting different payments being accepted by the Government.

Bhubaneswar Smart City was shortlisted for presentation under two categories i.e. "Best Digital Payment Innovator" and "Fastest growing Smart City Focusing on Digital Payments". However, based on the presentations evaluated by the Evaluation Committee, Bhubaneswar Smart City bagged the winning award under the category of "Best Digital Payment Innovator".

This achievement would help Bhubaneswar to further enhance and bring the digital payment systems in all areas of the services across Bhubaneswar.

EOM



Slum dwellers' relocation starts for NilamadhabAwasYojana

More than 347 families from NilamadhabBasti will be relocated to the Transit House near Kanyashram as part of the preliminary phase relocation of slum dwellers, which started today, to initiate the much-awaited in-situ slum development project in ChandrasekharapurMouza, named NilamadhabAwasYojana.

While signing the allotment letter for their short-term accommodation at the Transit House, the slum dwellers were also given Entitlement Certificates to instil confidence in them that they would get EWS houses at the project site.

The slum development project will accommodate 1,200 families of slum dwellers. While nearly 30 families under the RAY list were relocated today and rest will be done by the end of the current month, other slum dwellers of NilamadhabBasti will be relocated in future in a phase-wise manner.



BMC bags two Skoch Awards

The popular tagline "Clean and Green Bhubaneswar" has once again proven its mettle as Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has got one Silver and one Bronze Award at the prestigious Skoch Award at New Delhi.

While the largest civic body of the State received Silver citation for "Improved Collection and Transportation of Solid Waste," it received Bronze citation for "Community Toilets Construction and Maintenance" across the city for qualifying amongst top ranking Swachh Bharat projects in India.

With a burden of 550 metric tonnes per day (MTPD) solid waste being generated in a day currently, the civic administration is under a terrible pressure to manage the waste. However, with efficient planning, door-to-door collection and handling of the waste, tracking of garbage vehicles through Bhubaneswar Operations Centre, redressal of complaints through Social Media tools within 24 hours, Zero Waste Facility during Hockey World Cup, introduction of mechanical sweeping, scientific faecal sludge and septage management and plantation drives the city is proving its capability as one of the cleanest cities in the Eastern Horizon.

Similarly, towards improving community toilets BMC has constructed new 164 community toilets for users with poor sanitation access. The old and existing community toilets with a total number of 676 seats have been repaired and renovated to improve its usability and ensure its availability to users. While all toilets have been marked on Google map for their geographical locations to increase its use, contracts have been signed with ward sanitation committees to sustain their sanitation status and motivate people to use them.

It would be pertinent to mention here that over the years, BMC, the largest Corporation of Odisha has increased expenditures related to sanitation ensuring quality of life for its citizens. It has already notified municipal bylaws for SWM 2016 and user charges to be collected from citizens for recovering expenditures incurred.

Skoch Group is a think tank dealing with socio-economic issues with a focus on inclusive growth since 1997.

