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BMC Starts Survey of Street Vendors

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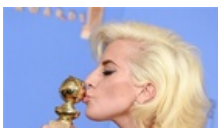
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BHUBANESWAR: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Tuesday started surveying the vending zones and vendors of Town Centre District.

The survey will continue till December 6 and the Corporation aims at covering all areas within the Sishu Bhavan-Vani Vihar Square stretch during the drive. For the purpose, GIS mapping, digitalised photo census and biometric sensors will be used.

While the Intelligent Building Infrastructure (IBI) Group has been hired for mapping the vendors, ward officers, community organisers, National Urban Livelihood Mission staff of BMC will assist the private firm to prepare the database.

It may be noted that the survey work has already been delayed by six months. The proposal to survey, register and record the vendors across the Capital City was moved by the Housing and Urban Development Department in July this year.

The scheme forbids eviction of a vending zone until the Town Vending Committee (TVC) completes the survey and issues Street Vending Certificates (SVCs).

As the work began on Tuesday, the Corporation started with seven out of 67 municipal Wards.

In the first phase, BMC has identified seven municipal Wards in which the survey will be done. These are Wards 30, 29, 34, 35, 40, 41 and 53. The survey will not be confined to vending zone shopkeepers only and will include all street vendors in the Town Centre District.

The initiative is not intended to carry out an eviction drive, rather it aims at identifying genuine and regular vendors. After the survey is completed, Town Vending Committee would chalk out a programme to provide better space and accessibility for registered vendors, a BMC official said.

The effort would provide better livelihood for vendors and also ensure that the vending areas do not affect free movement of pedestrians and sanitation of the locality. The survey database will be a key to the realistic Project Proposal for Smart City, the official added.

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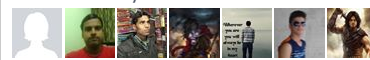
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