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Accessibility workshop begins

Bhubaneswar, April 19: A two-day 'Access for All' workshop for engineers, community organisers and town planners began at SUDA conference hall here Tuesday.

The workshop, being attended by 50 officials of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), Cuttack Municipal Corporation and State Works Department, will discuss preparation of roads and buildings by-laws.

The workshop is being organised by Bhubaneswar Municipal

Corporation in collaboration with NGOs Azina, Bhubaneswar, and Samarthyam, New Delhi.

It is intended to make people aware of universally accessible structures through guidelines, conduct accessibility audit and provide recommendations to concerned building authorities to implement universal design in public buildings.

This is first of its kind meeting to sensitise engineers, architects, town planners and technical persons of different government departments on National Building By-laws standards and universal



design of a public structure. The workshop will train people in auditing the existing public buildings and help them come up with recommendations for making them compliant with PWD Act of 1995.

The objective of the training is to equip participants and technical experts with knowledge and skills on accessible standards and training to strengthen their capacity to identify loopholes in accessibility in a systematic manner.

The workshop is being conducted in pursuance of Supreme Court guidelines and provisions of Persons with Disabilities Act to make roads and buildings accessible to all.

The workshop was inaugurated by BMC Commissioner Vishal K Dev and attended by

BMC nodal officer Dillip Routray, Azina secretary Sneha Mishra and Samarthyam official Anjali Agarwal and D.Chakrabarti among others.

'Access for all' means a considerate, easy and independent usage of all places and areas at public places by everybody including the disabled, pregnant women, children and senior citizens.

'Accessibility' is to create and maintain environments with wider public participation for equitable, dignified and maximum utilisation for conserving energy. PNN

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