

# HAND-HELD DEVICE TO COLLECT HOLDING TAX IN CAPITAL



## BMC Mayor Ananta Narayan Jena inaugurating hand-held device for collection of Holding Tax in Bhubaneswar on Saturday

BHUBANESWAR: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Ananta Narayan Jena on Saturday inaugurated the hand-held devices for collection of Holding Tax in the Capital, on a pilot basis.

The project has been developed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and the automated services will be available through the e-municipality website, a platform managed by the Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Department. The project, implemented in Tax Ward-11 on a pilot basis for two months, will gradually be extended to the remaining 14 tax wards.

The hand-held devices are equipped with GPRS facility and are capable of two-way communication. After the address of a residential holding is fed into the system, it will generate the Holding Tax amount as per the assessment conducted by BMC.

On receipt of the tax, the online database will get updated immediately on H&UD Department's e-municipality website.

Ten Tax Inspectors have started collecting Holding Tax from Saturday. BMC Deputy Secretary Subhranshu Mishra said they have received complaints about error and redundancies in assessment of Holding Tax, but with the computer generated receipt, these inaccuracies will be eliminated. Residents can now get their entire Holding Tax payment history online.

BMC Additional Commissioner D Brundha said officials will examine the execution of the pilot project, look for loopholes and fix them accordingly within the next two months. Tax Ward-11 comprises around 27,000 holdings and includes Jaydev Vihar, IRC Village, Patia, parts of VSS Nagar and areas adjoining Sainik School.

Jena said the proposal was implemented to provide quick service to residents of the Capital. "We are hopeful of conducting new assessments and adding more residential holdings to the ambit of Holding Tax every year," he added.

The use of hand-held devices will be extended to other tax wards in a phased manner and will eventually get integrated with Property Tax collection of BMC.

The Corporation had collected `20.07 crore Holding Tax in 2011-12 financial year.