



Cool initiative in hot summer

Sambalpur Municipal Corporation, SMC opens Jala chhatra in city

SAMBALPUR : May 3rd, 2016. While 100 people have died in Odisha due to heat wave conditions, sun stroke. The temperature touched 47 degrees Celsius. A day after Bhubaneswar broke a 43-year record with mercury reaching approx 48-degree level. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said the temperature could reach an all-time high figure of 45 degrees in April. In Odisha, the coastal districts of Cuttack, Khurda, Balasore and Jagatsinghpur have been hit worst with temperatures hovering around 42 degrees for the last 10 days. Most of the deaths were reported from these areas. Bhubaneswar became the hottest city in India in the month of April since 1952 when it recorded 45.8 degrees on April 11, prompting our honorable chief minister Naveen Patnaik government to close all schools across the state till April 26. On Thursday, the temperature crossed the 45 degree mark at several places in the state. The torrid weather conditions coupled with acute shortage of drinking water and unscheduled power outages are further adding to the woes of the citizens.

The governments in the state have issued heat wave advisories warning people not to venture out between 11 am and 5 pm without taking adequate precautions. All primary health centers have been provided with oral rehydration solutions. Water kiosks have been set up at many places across the states. Water bodies drying up due to a slack monsoon season last year, people in villages are forced to trek long distances to fetch drinking water. The water tankers supplied by civic agencies are proving to be inadequate due to the growing demand. This year the heat wave conditions set in quite early. "High temperatures are normally recorded during the peak summer May. But this time, we are feeling the heat from April itself. The moisture content in the atmosphere has also disappeared due to dry winds and scanty rain fall in the last two monsoons,"

Clean drinking water is not a privilege for many people in India; tap water is exceedingly impure, rivers are getting more polluted on a daily basis and a regular supply of 'safe' water is too expensive for a large section of Indian society. As the heat wave condition and scorching sun have made life difficult, In a bid to bring relief to parched throats for the rising mercury the western Odisha biggest city Sambalpur municipal corporation (SMC) especially in this summer proposed an interesting and unique initiative to calls for the installation of temporary water kiosks which will provide free chilled drinking water at public places. It is time for various organizations to provide relief in hot weather open water kiosks in various parts of the town to quench the thirst of the people moving on the roads. People from various walks of life including children, women, labour community, auto wallahs and all others can avail the service.

Water kiosks, will provide free, clean and cold drinking water. Each unit will consist of water kiosk, glasses to drink water. As per the agreement, the civic body will provide the required equipments including water pot, mug and glasses to each kiosk and around 4 dedicated water tankers of SMC will be engaged in supplying water to the kiosks. The authorities have emphasized on cleaning the water pots on a daily basis and their re-filling at the right time so that public does not face any form of inconvenience.

Sambalpur Municipal Corporation announced its plan to install kiosks this summer to provide free drinking facility at public places. In this harsh summer in Sambalpur Drinking water kiosks or Jala chatras are implemented. The SMC has setting up the kiosks to provide cold, clean and safe drinking water to the local's .To provide drinking water to pedestrians during summers, the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation has already set up nearly 90 water kiosks in various wards this year. Newly 4 no's have implemented by the SMC by May1st. The plan of operating these kiosks from morning to evening in summer. The temporary water kiosks or 'Jalchhatras' will be operational between 8.30 am to till 4 pm. and potable cool water will be distributed by daily wages labour SMC will ensure that the water supply is made at right time .To all the locations in the iosks earthen pots, mugs and ladles are provided by SMC. The focus would be service-oriented without compromising the quality of water at the kiosks. The local Public Health Engineering Organization (PHEO) divisions will smooth supply drinking water to each kiosk, sources said and the expenses borne by the SMC.

13/4 On the auspicious occasion of Maha Bishuba Sankranti a Jala chhatra (free drinking water kiosk) in the city to quench the thirst of passersby in summer was opened by Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) near the City collectorate ,Treasury, Dhanupada chowk, Kachery chowk, .Peerbaba chowk, Jail chowk, Charbati chowk, Gobindtola, Dhanupali chowk, Sankarmath,

Dhanupali deogrh road,Peer baba chowk, Kulutkani chowk. The efforts for continuously rendering the Jala Chhatra service in the locality every year.

Inaugurating the Jala chhatra, from ward no 1 to 5 municipality chowk, Station pada, Kolathkani chak Municipal commissioner Mr. Bimalendy Ray Sambalpur said “We have taken such initiative in order to serve drinking water to the passerby and pedestrians which would provide them a bit relief in this hot summer”. Mr Sudhansu ku. Bhoi Deputy Secretary of SMC has been appointed as the chief coordinator of the committee.

With maximum daily temperature climbing continuously, there is a considerable rise in the temperature in the past couple of days. Chances of temperatures dipping at least till May15, adding that the mercury might continue to go up at several places for that our Sambalpur municipality corporation has initiate timely measures regarding this. According to some locals,” said Mr Badal teacher in St Xavier School Burla, Sourav vihar resident. Mr. Badal said the civic body should also initiate measures to keep ice, first-aid kit and ORS sachets to provide immediate treatment to sunstroke victims. He also conveys his thanks to SMC and commissioner for such initiatives.

There is a rise in sunstroke deaths for the last 15 days. Water kiosk is primary precautions measures to pedestrians. The Municipal Commissioner made an appeal to NGOs for opening water kiosks at bus stations, railway stations, factories and busy junctions in the city. He stated that services of NGOs will be complimentary to government services. He advised people to support NGOs for opening water kiosk in the city. We are spending every day for distribution of drinking water. “My mission is to supply buttermilk, ORS packets and first-aid kits to the public and drinking water to children and elderly persons,” said civic body Bimalendu Ray, Commissioner SMC. He stated that he would continue water kiosk until the completion of a summer season. “

A team comprising SMC officials headed by Mr Bimalendy ray, Commissioner SMC will visit kiosk to kiosk to check if are they functioning or not. A help line number **18003456791** at any point of time in the day, Monday to Saturday from 6AM to 10PM of SMC will also be made available at each Jala Chatra Kendra through which anybody can inform about the neglecting condition of the kiosk to the SMC. Besides, the committee will check the cleanliness of the kiosks and the quality of water before serving it to the people.

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