PURI MUNICIPALITY AT A GLANCE

Puri Municipality was constituted on 1.4.1881 as per Bengal Municipal Act vide Notification dated 25.1.1881 duly published in the Calcutta Gazette on 26.1.1881, comprising an area of 16.84 Sq. K.M.

Puri is a place of pilgrims and tourists. It is famous for Lord Jagannath and golden Sea Beach. It attracts all the religious pilgrims as well as tourists of the country and abroad. Apart from permanent population of about 2.01 lakhs, floating population of Puri always remain about 1 lakh daily and more on festive occasions. The climate of Puri is also good for health due to geographical situation. It is situated on 19.28 North to 20.13 Latitude and 84.29 East to 86.25 Longitude. This town is surrounded by Bay of Bengal in South and Eastern side and it is the headquarter of the Dist. administration. Tourism, Fishing, Handicrafts are main income source of the inhabitants of the town. Income generation from tourists mostly flowing from West Bengal. Apart from that pilgrim all over India visit Puri through out the year and mostly on the religious festive days.

Total population of this town is 2.01 Lakhs according to 2011 census. (to be approved) According to 2008 Municipal election, total no. of voters are 1,42,199. According to the 2011 Census the population of Puri Municipality is 2,01,016.

As per the constitution and rule in force, the functions of the Municipality are based on the following aspects.

- Urban Planning.
- Public Health, sanitation, conservancy and Solid Waste Management.
- Protection of environment.
- Slum Development and Up- gradation.
- Urban poverty alleviation.
- Promotion of culture, social, educational and aesthetic aspects.
- Burial and cremation ground.
- Cattle Pound.
- Vital statistics.
- Public amenities including street lighting, Bus stand, and public convenience.
- Slaughter house.
- Hoarding regulation.

Public Works:

Puri is an oldest town of Orissa with historical background. Its infrastructure not yet been changed. There are only 3/4 main road and many lanes and by lanes. Improvement of road and drainage is primary duty of the Puri Municipality. Due to development of new localities, construction of road and drainage system is absolutely necessary. Underground sewerage system is under progress in the town, which will be completed recently. All the roads having tourist importance are restored by the Puri Municipality before Car festival each year. One Children's Park has been established by Puri

Municipality at Baliapanda with private participation. Lot of works are there to be taken up. Municipal Council is aware about this and taking all possible steps for getting funds and improvement of roads and drains.

Sanitation:

For better and effecting management of sanitation work the total Municipal area is divided in to 7 conservancy district. Apart from daily cleaning other activities like road cleaning, drain cleaning, garbage disposal, spraying baytex and Malaria oil are being done regularly and special cleaning on festive occasions. Besides the large dumping areas, there are about 60 /70 waste bins in different areas to collect the garbage and being transported to Solid Waste Plant. Dustbins were supplied by the Govt. under 12th Finance Commission, Solid waste project grant and with assistance from Euro Asia Project. Vehicles with modern facilities for lifting and disposal of garbage were also supplied by them. Total quantity of garbage generated per day is about 50 M.T. and total waste collected and transported to Solid Waste plant is 45 M.T. Two truck, 8 Tractors and many hand borrows are used for the purpose. Solid Waste Plant generates 250 M.T. composts per month. To look after the sanitation work One Health Officer, 6 Sanitary Inspectors, 9 Jamadars and 464 scavengers are deployed.

Street Light:

Street light of the town is being managed by the Puri Municipality. Illumination and beautification of Sea beach area are done by the assistance of Tourism Deptt. and maintained by Puri Municipality. Besides, some High Mast lights are provided in different places like, Lions gate, Sea beach area, swargadwar, Penthakata, Gundicha temple, Swetaganga, Atharnala, Indradyumna, Narendra, Markanda, Netaji Subash Bose chhak, Acharya Harihar chhak, Rly.Stn chhak, Matiapara sqr. , VIP road Darajipokhari sqr. etc. Light with low consumption of energy have been provided in the town from Atharnala to Sea beach. All the localities of the town are provided with Sodium and tube lights. In festive occasions special efforts are being taken for better lighting.

The climate of the town is not suitable for proper maintenance of the street light. All the possible steps are being taken for repair and maintenance of the light with the assistance of Puri Electrical Division. High rate of electric consumption bill is a burden on the Municipality, whereas taxation on street light is low.

Water Supply:

Water supply system of the town is being managed by the Public Health Division, Puri since 1982.

Medical:

There are two hospitals managed by the Puri Municipality alongwith a Panchakarma Therapy Centre at Swargadwar Hospital. Govt. is being requested to provide more financial assistance for renovation and management of the hospitals.

Bus stand:

One Bus stand has been constructed and managed by the Puri Municipality near Gundicha temple, Puri.

Town Hall and Open Air Auditorium:

Puri is a place of culture and traditions. For cultural function, one Town Hall with 500 sitting capacity at Post Office sqr and one Open Air Auditorium at Gundicha temple are constructed and managed by the Municipality. One Audio Recording Studio named as "JHANKAR" was also established by the Municipality with assistance of M.P.Lad but, due to lack of experienced hand and technical person it is not functioning now. Proposal is under consideration for privatization of the studio.

Sulabha Souchalayas:

There are 12 Sulabha Souchalays constructed by the Municipality and being managed by the Sulabha International. Out of which 2 nos. are under privatization.

Education:

There were 21 Primary Schools, 5 M.E. Schools, and 3 High Schools of Puri Municipality. Now these schools have been transferred to the control and management of School and Mass Education Deptt. of Govt.

INCOME:

Main source of income of this Municipality is Holding tax, License, Auction of sairat mahals, Izra, Bus stand fee etc.

Holding Tax:

There are 19761 private holdings, 2310 commercial holdings and 243 Govt. holdings in the town on record. But it will increase a lot as many new basties are developed and new holdings are constructed.

Now the taxation of Holdings is calculated on the yearly rental value of the holding as detailed below:

1. House Tax-   5%
2. Latrine tax-   1%
3. Light tax -   4%
4. Water tax -   2%

According to provision of Orissa Municipal Manual rebate of 10% on Holding Tax have been extended to the tax payers on the current tax due, if it is paid in advance at the beginning of the financial year.

At present, steps are being taken for regular assessment of holdings. As per rule, assessment of a holding should be made in every 5 years, but it was not done previously. Besides, assessment on commercial buildings has been completed for effective and

improvement of own revenue. More importance has also been given for collection of arrear dues.

Licence fee:

According to finance condition of the people as well as businessmen, the licence fees have been increased to some extent this year for betterment of revenue.

Establishment:

The Executive Officer, Addl. Executive Officer,Enforcement Officer, Health Officer, Municipal Engineer and Medical Officers have been posted here on deputation basis and others are Municipal employee in two categories i.e., Local Fund Service and Non Local Fund Service cadre.

Presently there are 3 officers on deputation, 20 L.F.S. Employees, 296 Non L.F.S. employees and 284 temporary employees in the Municipality.

REFORMS :

Project Profile of e-Municipality

Background:

The National Mission Mode Project (NMMP) for Municipalities is one of the Mission Mode Projects that has significant citizen interaction, since municipalities provide a large number of basic services for millions of citizen living in India's urban centers. It is envisaged that MMP for municipalities would provide a major fillip to the Government of India's Ministry of Urban Development's urban reform agenda. The vision for the National Mission Mode Project for e-Governance in Municipalities is to leverage the ICT opportunities for sustained improvement in efficiency and effectiveness of delivery of municipal service to citizens.

Broad objective of MMP on e-Governance in Municipalities is the application of electronic means to improve the efficiency and effectiveness in the interaction between local Government and its citizens as well as other interest groups like NGOs, CBOs, RWAs, private sector, etc. It also aims at boosting internal Government operations to support and stimulate good governance system.

Urban Governance in Odisha:

The project termed as "e-Municipality" is aimed at simplifying processes, bringing in transparency& accountability, providing need based quality and timely information to all the urban citizens.

"OULBAS" a centralized application software is a part of the Transaction Processing System (TPS), which is catering to all the functionality of ULB for providing and maintaining the basic civic services to the citizens. The software has various sub-modules, which are interacting with each other to fetch relevant data/information and generate reports. All these sub-modules have facility of external interfacing for allowing the citizens or other interested stakeholders to post on-line applications, make queries, lodge complaints, view progress/response and also provision for making on-line payments.

The integrated system provides following services to common citizen of Orissa through a workflow platform in a hassle free manner.

i. Online Birth and Death Registration from Hospitals for hassles free delivery of certificate

ii. Collection of Holding tax

iii. Easy to track the traders and collection of Trade license fees for better service delivery

iv. Grievance Redresses and tracking module makes easy way of solving grievances raised by citizen

v. Smart way of cleaning the city through Solid waste management module

vi. Monitoring of Beneficiaries and related payment across the ULB through Welfare scheme Management

vii. Collection of Water tax and connection through Water Connection Management system

viii. Proper Monitoring of the Services and collection

ix. User friendly and easy access to common citizen

Integration of e-Municipality Application with Odisha Online Portal:

It has also been decided that, e-Municipality Application will be integrated with Odisha Online portal. In order to avail the above services through e-Municipality applications by the citizens, user fees can also be collected through various payment modes like net banking, debit & credit cards or through off line service module like Odisha Online Jana Seva Centers or through Common Service Center.

Following e-Municipality modules are already implemented in Puri Municipality

1.Trade License
2.Grievance Redressal Management

3.**Marriage registration**
4.**Birth & Death Registration**
5.**Accounts & Audit**
6.**Stakeholder Information System**
7.**Municipality Information System**
8.**Holding Tax**

Following e-Municipality modules are not functioning currently with reason

9. Welfare Scheme Management Module: This module will start shortly; training to concerned person is going on.
10.**UC Management System**: Master data not yet shared to M/s TCS Ltd
11.Building Plan Approval Module: Building Plan Approval Module is not directly look by Municipality. This section is managed by P.K.D.A. Necessary separate instruction will be given to PKDA to implement the module under e-municipality.
11.Water Connection Module: Water Connection Module is not directly look by Municipality. This section is managed by P.H.D. Necessary separate instruction will be given to PHEO to implement the module under e-municipality.

12.Solid Waste Management Module: This module will start shortly; training to concerned person is going on.

DOUBLE ENTRY ACCOUNTING SYSTEM has already been started in Puri Municipality.

PROPERTY TAX: Tax collectors are deployed for collection of tax and information from the property owners. Property tax reform is under progress. The Holding Tax will be renamed subsequently as Property Tax as per Govt. instruction.

SERVICE CHARGE: Service Charge is being collected on the services like water supply, sewerage, sanitation, street light from the service users, those are not paying Holding tax.

USER FEE:- Municipality is collection Rs.1/- from each patient of the hospital as user fee (Except people under B.P.L. category)

PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES TO POOR: Provision has been made by Puri Municipality for providing Basic service to the Urban Poor such as water supply, sanitation, electricity and improvement of housing.

There are following beneficiaries under Puri Municipality for the different schemes of Government.

1. Old Age pension/Widow Pension (MBPY)   - 4770
2. Disability Pension   (MBPY)   -   876
3. Indira Gandhi National O.A.P.   - 2493
4. Indira Gandhi W.P.   - 1047
5. Indira Gandhi D.P.   -   684
6. D.P./AIDS   -   154
7. National Family Benefit Scheme   -   101

DIFFERENT SCHEMES UNDER PURI MUNICIPALITY

1. NULM

2. PMAY

3. HRIDAY

4. SBA I-conic City

5. SBM

SWARGADWAR

Swargadwar is the cremation ground of Hindus. 'Swarga' means heaven and 'dwar' means gateway, so literary Swargadwar is consider as the 'Gateway to Heaven'. General belief support the idea among Hindus to end their life in this holy place of Puri to get the accessibility to heaven for liberating their Soul and ultimately Salvation. Swargadwar,is in the sandy beachtowards the South western corner of the town. In every Amabasya God Narayana represents Lord Jagannath in visiting sea which is said to be the in-law house of the Lord,through this holy cremation ground. On this holy site situated the temple of Goddess Smasana Kali. Goddess Kali act as the guard of Swargadwar and stand as the proof for all Heaven going Soul.

Purusottam Kshetra Puri has been accepted as the 'Martya Vaikuntha', where Lord Vishnu stays as Jagannath in the Bada deula, the great Temple. Here everything has been said to be great 'Bada' i.e. Bada danda, Mahaprasad, Mahadipa, Mohodadhi, etc. Any body, therefore, dies here straight goes to heaven and attains salvation. 'MUKTI' undoubtedly achieved through this Swargadwar, besides the Mohodadhi (sea). The devotees attach very strong faith in it and get themselves satisfied in visiting directly the two gateway of heven (Swargadwar). Bathing first at Swargadwar beach is conventional. Swargadwar is a sacred place. Sri Chaitanyadev too bathed here first, merged into Brahma (Divine Soul) here in Nilachal. According to scriptures, the Brahmadaru, from which the three main deities of the Jagannath temple are carved out, floated to the beach at Swargadwar.

The ghat itself is a little square of darkness and silence in the centre of this worldly bustle; here the only lights are not those of bulbs and lanterns but of the slow-burning funeral

pyres. It is natural considering the place as a divine for any time in the year, be it the season of heavy rain or shivering cold, be it the mid of dark night or the noon, one can view the magnanimity of the place for which it is famous.

Puri Municipality deployed agency (BSR) for cleanliness of the Ghat and also engaged 3 employees for providing Harishcndra Sahayata Scheme to the public who are coming for cremation of dead bodies and also maintaining the records of the deceased at Swargadwar. There is also a branch of Odisha Forrest Development Corporation (OFDC) for providing fire woods to the beneficiary of the deceased for burning the dead bodies.