

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation plans to set up Tourism Department

After successfully implementing the Mumbai 24x7 initiative across the city, Aditya Thackeray, Maharashtra Tourism and Environment Minister is now planning to set up a Tourism Department within BMC.

The BMC is also likely to allot a dedicated fund for tourism development. The fund is likely to give a boost to the civic body's existing projects such as restoration and beautification of heritage precincts, beautification of beaches, upgrade and expansion of Byculla Zoo and a cycle track along the Tansa pipeline. The civic tourism department will be given as an additional charge to an existing top-level civic officer, such as a deputy municipal commissioner, a senior civic officer confirmed. The plan on how to take it forward could find a mention in the upcoming BMC budget, to be presented before the standing committee in the first week of February.

In tandem with the state government, the BMC recently took several decisions to boost tourism such as facilitating the implementation of the Maharashtra government's earlier decision to allow certain malls and eateries to remain open 24x7, making open spaces and gardens tourist-friendly, launching the concept of urban squares at public places to create centres for art, music and public interaction, and development of Fort area in South Mumbai.

As part of this plan to boost tourism, the BMC is likely to open the doors of its headquarters at Fort to tourists on Saturday and Sunday and organise guided tours of the heritage building.