



Rs 4 cr makeover for Chimbai beach

Little-known, one-kilometre stretch lies between Carter Road and Bandstand

GEETA DESAI

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has a Rs 4 crore beautification for Chimbai beach, a one kilometre stretch between Carter Road and Bandstand in Bandra (west). The project aims to improve the environmental conditions of the area, keeping in mind the practical needs of the fishermen of Chimbai village.

The project envisages a walkway from one end of Carter Road to the end of Bandstand, making it an integrated seafront promenade.

"We want to beautify the beachfront into a 'proud fore-front' for Chimbai village. Today, it's just like a backyard filled with garbage," said P K Das, the architect appointed by the BMC for the project.

The beautification project will

integrate all the existing facilities, which include a temple, fish drying yard, a place to dock boats, a boat repairing area and also a jetty.

Besides these, it will provide people access to the sea, which is presently not the case.

There will also be a children's playground and park. The project will ensure that there is an area for a weekend sea-food bazaar, with plans to organise an annual 'Chimbai festival'.

"We do not want to change the existing arrangements. So we will develop the place in such a way that the existing activities, such as those of the fishermen, are incorporated in the new set-up, with some additional facilities," said Das.

The new water-front is expected to be completed by end of this year.



This is how Chimbai beach looks now

Few takers for Road Safety Patrol in schools

RSP scheme trains students in regulating traffic, under the guidance of a cop



Students marching in the RSP Rally of 2008

DIPTI SONAWALA

With the purpose of inculcating traffic discipline in school children and to sensitise them about road safety, the traffic police has undertaken a campaign to further promote the existing Road Safety Patrol (RSP) scheme in schools. However, the current campaign hasn't gathered much steam as parents are reluctant to allow their kids to join the RSP.

The RSP scheme trains students to regulate traffic near schools, under the guidance of a traffic constable. This helps them to understand traffic rules better and to share their knowledge with fellow students.

Most of the parents are under the impression that RSP is only about students manning traffic near schools and so are reluctant to allow their children to join the scheme. But Amarjit Singh, ACP traffic, said, "The RSP scheme also aims at grooming students in road safety rules. This will help them become better pedestrians and drivers when they grow up."

The traffic police have formed a 34-member com-

mittee to promote RSP in schools. Each member is expected to promote the scheme in 10 schools.

Mohammed Afzal, one of the members of the committee, said, "In Malad, nine out of ten schools that I have covered have not even provided their volunteers with the necessary RSP uniform. I am trying to convince schools and parents to buy the RSP kit as it is available at a very nominal rate. We can promote the RSP scheme only if schools and parents co-operate."

Rupa Kothari from Safe Kids Foundation (NGO) said, "Schools play a vital role in encouraging students as well as their parents to take part in RSP activities.

"They must take these parents into confidence and explain to them the need of RSP training."

Ramanuj Yadav, the RSP instructor at D G Khetan International School at Malad said, "We started the RSP scheme in our school from this academic year. Initially, parents were sceptical about allowing their kids to join the scheme, but we have managed to convince 30 parents."