

### **₹86 lakh for music schools in all wards**

MUMBAI: Setting up language labs in its schools, installing CCTV cameras, appointing counsellors, a trip to visit penguins at the Byculla zoo and setting up music academies in each ward — these are some of the plans the civic body has for education in its 2019-20 budget.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) allocated ₹2,733.77 crore for education in its budget on Monday. Despite opposition from education committee members, ₹2.60 crore was allocated for developing international schools under the state's upcoming Maharashtra International Education Board (MIEB). Apart from this, BMC also plans to decide on a dress code for teachers and students of MIEB schools. Twenty-five BMC-run schools are proposed to be a part of the first 100 international schools in the state.

The BMC also plans to paint the walls of all civic schools in yellow and brown, for which ₹201.73 crore has been allotted. The money will also be used for repair work and beautification of schools. Also, a budgetary allocation of ₹86 lakh has been made to set up the music academies in 24 wards.

Education committee members said BMC has mirrored some state schemes in its budget. "Allocation for MIEB and tinker labs seems to be considered on the lines of the state-run schemes. The committee would continue raising objections over participation in MIEB as that money can be channelised into some useful schemes," said Sainath Durge, a committee member.

However, some key schemes of the civic body, including distribution and maintenance of tabs given to students and installation of sanitary vending machines in schools, did not see a mention in the budget. Also, from this year, in line with a state's Direct Benefit Transfer policy, the BMC will start transferring money for purchasing school essentials — such as bottles, tiffin boxes and stationery— directly to the students' bank accounts. It has allocated ₹19.69 crore for school essentials, some part of which will be transferred via DBT.

The civic body has also allocated ₹80 lakh for setting up Management of Information System (MIS) to keep data on students, infrastructure, etc, under a single portal.

#### **HERE ARE SOME ESTIMATES**

- ₹24.30 cr to installation of CCTV cameras in schools
- ₹2.60 cr for int'l schools
- ₹1.42 cr to set up tinker labs
- ₹20 lakh for school accreditation through National Accreditation Board for Education and Training
- ₹1 cr to appoint counsellors
- ₹86 lakh to set up music academies in every ward
- ₹12 lakh for Balbhavans