

Bhubaneswar smart city plan gets USA global award

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BHUBANESWAR: The American Planning Association has announced this year's international excellence award for the Bhubaneswar smart city project.

The award called Pierre L'Enfant International Planning Excellence Award 2017 will be given on May 8 in New York city, according to a media release issued by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) here on Thursday.

In a tweet message chief minister Naveen Patnaik welcomed the award. "Congratulate #SmartCityBhubaneswar on becoming 1st Indian city to win @APA Planning Pierre L'Enfant International Planning Excellence Award," the chief minister said.

The APA annual award recognizes planning practices and efforts undertaken outside the USA to promote communities of lasting value.

Earlier, when the Union government initiated the smart city concept Bhubaneswar was adjudged as the best amongst entries from other states.

This is the first time in the 50 years history of APA's annual award programme that an Indian city has been recognised for its planning efforts, the BMC release said. "The award is a

recognition of the citizen-driven vision planned to ensure economic growth and improve the quality of life in Bhubaneswar city with the help of technology," the release pointed out.