

BCE keen to draw road traffic norms for smart Silk City

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BHAGALPUR: The Bhagalpur College of Engineering (BCE) is keen on preparing a plan for effective management of non-motorised traffic (NMT) to ensure road safety, a thrust area under the smart city mission (SCM).

Bhagalpur is among 13 towns that have made it to the second list of 'places to be developed as smart cities' nationally.

BCE principal Nirmal Kumar said road safety was an important component of sustainable smart city. The college would initially involve its students in preparation of a database of road accidents here to be shared with local stakeholders, as well as officials, for effective planning, he added.

The two-day national workshop on road safety, organised jointly by the BCE and the local municipal corporation also drew faculty members of IIT-Delhi.

The deliberations focussed on provisions of law for ensuring road safety, apart from structural aspects related to construction of road that can be useful in preventing accidents.

Taking note of the fact that maximum victims of road accidents involved either pedestrians or two wheeler riders, participants also shared data that could be useful for working out an NMT management plan.

Geetam Tiwary of IIT-Delhi, associated with transportation research and injury prevention programme, said designs of road have been found to be contributing to the behaviour of users. Hence, roads should



■ The watch tower at Bhagalpur is a major landmark of the city. FILE PHOTO

ROAD SAFETY IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF SUSTAINABLE SMART CITY. THE COLLEGE WILL INITIALLY INVOLVE ITS STUDENTS IN PREPARING A DATABASE OF ROAD ACCIDENTS HERE TO BE SHARED WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS AND OFFICIALS

NIRMAL KUMAR, principal, BCE

be designed in such a way that it encouraged correct behavior, Tiwary said, adding that rumble strips, speed humps and slightly elevated zebra crossings could be useful in speed control.

Citing data, she said Bihar figured almost at the bottom of the list of road accidents in different states. However, the data showed that road accidents in Bihar had substantially increased between 1996 and 2014, she added. Tiwary said the BCE could play an important role in management of NMT.

Other speakers included

Dinesh Mohan, emeritus professor at centre for biomedical engineering, IIT-Delhi, Girish Aggarwal and Kumar Neeraj Jha, also from IIT-Delhi, deputy mayor Preeti Shekhar, SDO (sadar) Kumar Anuj, former VC of BIT (Mesra) J Jha and retired air force officer Ajit Sahay.

Divisional commissioner RL Chogthu pointed out infrastructural deficiencies that have to be addressed under SCM. The inaugural session was conducted by Shashank Shekhar and MK Jha, senior BCE faculty members.