

Govt to procure portal to scrutinize building plans

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Panaji: Chief town planner of Goa S T Puttaraju said that the government is in the process of procuring Auto DCR, a portal designed to scrutinize any building plans to check for compliance with all the existing regulations.

He was speaking at a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) for the outreach of its project 'Directions, Innovation and Strategies for Sustainable Development (DISHA) in Goa' organized by The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), Goa, at the International Centre, Dona Paula, recently. He emphasized that before deciding on a green building, planning and selection of a site was also very crucial in Goa considering that it has different eco-sensitive zones which need to be protected. He expressed the need for more training programs to get more Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) certified buildings and evaluators in the state.

The discussion was held to share insights from the study with stakeholders from the construction and building sector.

REGULATIONS CHECK

The discussion was attended by 36 participants representing allied government departments, architects, developers, contractors, engineers and academicians. The overall focus of the discussion was to assess opportunities and promote action towards a more green construction sector in Goa.

The findings and recommendations from the DISHA study for the construction sector were presented by Hina Zia from TERI. Some of the major challenges that were highlighted include scarcity of land available in settlement zones, rampant sand mining leading to erosion, rising land prices, distinct change in the architectural style, excessive use of energy intensive construction materials not conducive to local environment, dilapidated heritage structures and increasing water demand.

Architect Dean D'Cruz highlighted the importance of good construction management practices on site and use of locally available material. A K Rege, principal of Goa College of Architecture, expressed the need for inclusion of GRIHA and energy conservation and efficiency into the existing curriculum. GRIHA-certified evaluator from Goa Alinto Coelho talked about various policy initiatives in different parts of the country to promote sustainability.