Govt to relocate IT habitat to Kadamba plateau

Project To Get 4.5 Sqm Land Allocated

Times News Network

Panaji: Goa's IT habitat project, which didn't have takers while it was earmarked in tony Dona Paula, will be relocated to 4.5 lakh sq m of government land near the electricity department's sub-station on Kadamba plateau, within the precincts of Chimbel village.

The plateau is being developed for several years now as a residential-cum-commercial area, although it faces severe water problems. TOI had reported in August 2014 that the government is keen to shift the IT habitat project from Dona Paula, due to poor response from entrepreneurs, to a "suitable place".

The government is also looking at developing a new electronic city, for design and manufacturing, on 6.5 lakh sq m of land in Tuem village of Pernem taluka. In the 1990s, the Congress government had proposed to name the industrial estate at Verna as an electronic city, but it turned out not to be an exclusive electronic city as there was not a good response for the same.

On Monday, announcing these two projects on the sidelines of a function on e-governance in Panaji, chief minister Laxmikant Parsekar said his government's priority is to create employment. He envisages the two projects creating 10,000 jobs. Further, stating that he has discussed these projects with senior government officers, he said he would personally attend an NRI meet later this month to attract entrepreneurs.

Parsekar was speaking on the sidelines of the inaugural of the two-day 'e-governance leadership meet' organized by the national institute for smart government in collaboration with Goa info-tech corporation and department of information and technology.

Earlier during the function, Parsekar said the support of the people and political class is required for e-governance to succeed. He said the government has initiated steps to make e-governance a reality, and has successfully created infrastructure for the same.

Also speaking at the event, deputy chief minister Francis D'Souza said the government is making efforts to remove difficulties in the path of e-governance and would set up public service centres for people to acquire government services easily.

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➤ **2001:** IT minister in BJP government, Ramakant Khalap, proposes IT resort at Mandrem

➤ **2005:** IT minister in Congress government, Dayanand Narvekar, proposes IT park at Socorro and IT habitat at Dona Paula

➤ **2006:** Both projects hit controversies. IT habitat described by opposition as real estate park as many plots allotted to real estate firms and one plot to Narvekar's kin. IT park not pursued as part of land in private forest

➤ **2008:** Taleigao MLA Atanasio 'Babush' Monserrate protests with locals against IT habitat at Dona Paula. Project put on backburner by CM Digambar Kamat

➤ **2012:** CM Manohar Parrikar's government buys back IT habitat plots from allottees and decides to reallot them as per industry requirement

➤ **2013:** Government tries to auction plots, but finds no takers