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Corporation announces slew of development projects

Special Correspondent

Action plan to mark its year-long 70th anniversary celebrations

Thiruvananthapuram: The City Corporation is preparing to take up a decentralised system of solid waste management with public participation to tackle the mounting problem of garbage disposal. The civic body will soon launch a project to establish stand alone garbage treatment plants for apartment complexes in the city.

This is one of the major proposals among a slew of development and welfare projects to be implemented by the Corporation over the next year to mark its 70th anniversary celebrations and the fourth anniversary of the LDF-ruled Corporation Council due in 2010.

Priority to sanitation

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Mayor C. Jayan Babu said sanitation would be given top priority in the year-long action plan. He said the Corporation would provide technical support for builders to establish garbage treatment plants in apartment complexes. "They will be given a choice of technology. The Corporation will amend its bylaws to make waste processing plants mandatory for all new apartment buildings with more than 40 dwelling units".

Against litterbugs

The action plan unveiled by the Mayor proposes stringent action against litterbugs. Vehicles equipped with mobile cameras would be pressed into service to identify persons dumping garbage in public places and canals.

Garbage disposal

The garbage collection system, now active in 66 wards, would cover the entire city. There are proposals to streamline the functioning of the treatment plant at Vilappilsala and equip it with additional facilities for leachate treatment, manufacture of refuse derived fuel (RDF) and sanitary landfill. Efforts are on to cap the accumulated garbage at the site.

Mr. Babu said FACT had agreed to market the entire production of organic manure manufactured at the compost facility. "The Corporation has tied up with the National Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences and Technology (NIIST) for a Rs.50 lakh project to set up another treatment plant utilising new technology. Efforts are on to create a green belt around the site."

The Mayor said the Corporation would spend Rs.50 lakh a year on insurance, health care facilities and other benefits for the 850 Kudumbasree workers involved in collecting garbage.

Comfort stations

The action plan also seeks to repair the 58 public comfort stations in the city, including those in slum colonies, and equip them with modern facilities. Toilets will be made mandatory for shopping complexes, fuel outlets and hotels with more than 20 seats.

Restaurants will be categorised on the basis of the quality of foodstuff.

Construction of classrooms and laboratories and supply of furniture and other equipment are the proposed activities in the education sector.

The Mayor said the beautification of the Puthariandam Maidan at East Fort was expected to be completed by March 2010. The South Palace at Sanghumkham and Singarathope Palace in the Kuriyathi ward were being renovated as heritage buildings.

The Corporation would join hands with residents associations and other organisations to plant avenue trees, under a project to enhance the city's green cover.

No tax hike

The Mayor said there would be no upward revision of taxes. He, however, promised to step up efforts to improve tax collection.