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MNRE proposes enhancement of budget allocation for green buildings through GRIHA

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On the second day of the 6th GRIHA Summit, awards were presented to green buildings, LEED EB and Alternate Compliance Paths launched and GRIHA-NASA Trophy awarded

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The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has proposed a manifold increase in the allocation for the transition phase from megawatt to gigawatt through the Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA). Speaking at the 6th GRIHA Summit, Mr Upendra Tripathy, Secretary, MNRE, said that speed, scale and skill sets need to be enhanced to increase the renewable energy mix in our energy production. "The Summit is providing various ideas and is bringing together specialized professionals from different sectors to give a new thrust to renewable energy. We need to expand the number of institutions who are working to take this movement forward." He added that India would soon overtake other countries in renewable energy, as the country has the resources and ideas to make this happen.

Dr Leena Srivastava, Acting Director-General, TERI, said: "Since energy efficiency is at the core of sustainable habitats, renewable energy must be given a head start. We have enormous experience not only on green buildings, but also on renewables. The creation of capacities is going to be vital to achieve clean and sustainable habitats. TERI University has taken the lead by offering various specialized courses to move towards a green economy."

Ms Mili Majumdar, Director, TERI, and Secretary cum Treasurer, GRIHA Council, thanked the supporters of GRIHA Summit, which include Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

Awards to green projects/people

Mr Tripathy also presented awards to exemplary GRIHA projects and professionals in attaining sustainable habitats. They are Aishwaryam Courtyard, Pune, BPCL, Chembur, Circuit House, Pune, GAIL, Kailaras, Income Tax Commissioners Office, NOIDA, IRICEN, Pune, Neelkanth Park, SIDBI, Bhubaneswar, Sonu College, Salem, National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Delhi (Site Management), Assam Water Research Management Institute, Guwahati (Passive Architecture Design), MNIT, Jaipur (Construction workers' health and safety), Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP), Lonar (Use of sustainable building materials) and Phase I and II of IIM, Udaipur (Integrated water management).

Among the professionals who were felicitated include Mr Divakar Garg, Director General (Works), Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Ms Anamika Prasad, Director, EDS, Mr Anurag Bajpai, Director - Planning & Sustainable Design, GreenTree Building Energy Pvt. Ltd., Mr P Sahel, Vice Chairman, Lotus Greens, Dr Anoop Kumar Mittal, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, National Building Construction Corporation Ltd., Ms Swati Puchapalli Reddy, Terra Viridis and Ms Poorva Keskar, Trustee, Sustainability Initiatives.

TERI-LEED pathways

Among the highlights of the Summit was the launch of the LEED EB and Alternate Compliance Paths (ACPs) jointly developed by TERI and USGBC. Experts, consultants and officials of USGBC, TERI and GBCI shared their experiences on the tools and platforms developed to address issues around resource optimization in existing buildings.

Mr Mahesh Ramanujam, Chief Operating Officer, USGBC, said: "USGBC and TERI have a shared vision and a great opportunity to leave a sustainable planet for future generations. Existing buildings hold incredible promise. We are very pleased to announce the LEED EB launch and look forward to an enriching and fruitful partnership. Let us not forget that all buildings are existing buildings."

Ms Mili Majumdar, Director, TERI, and Secretary cum Treasurer, GRIHA Council, said: "TERI and USGBC entered into a strategic collaboration in July, 2014. One of the key initiatives taken under the collaboration is the launch of LEED for existing buildings. It is a programme to retrofit existing buildings to make them green."

GRIHA-NASA trophy

Lotus Greens and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) have joined hands to renew their commitment to the development of sustainable habitats by presenting the GRIHA-NASA (National Association of Students of Architecture) Trophy. The winners are NIT, Calicut, AMS Academy of Architecture, Chennai, Gateway College of Architecture (Sonipat Winner) and the Faculty of Architecture & Ekistics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

Mr P Sahel, Vice Chairman, Lotus Greens, said, "The students of architecture will be the ambassadors and champions for green buildings. As part of Lotus Greens' commitment to promote sustainability across India, we have been sponsoring the GRIHA-NASA Trophy. We are elated to see the response; some exemplary work have been showcased by the students."