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Officials discuss aspects of city sanitation plan

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VARANASI: Before forwarding the city sanitation plan for Varanasi to the state government for its approval, a meeting of city task force was organised here on Saturday.

The state government would forward it to the Union ministry of urban development for the preparation of a detailed project report (DPR).

Regarding the city sanitation plan prepared for Varanasi, Rajesh Pai of Consortium for DEWATS Dissemination Society (CDD), said that to improve the sanitation scene in urban areas, the Union ministry of urban development had formulated the National Urban Sanitation Policy (NUSP) in October 2008. The overall goal of this policy is to transform the urban India into community driven, totally sanitised, healthy and livable cities and towns.

The policy emphasises particularly in the improvement of hygienic conditions for the urban poor and women through cost-effective technologies.

All states were requested to act at par with the National Urban Sanitation Policy to develop respective state sanitation strategies and prepare city sanitation plans (CSPs).

The Varanasi Nagar Nigam also showed commitment for the preparation of CSP with technical support from the GIZ, CDD Society, Bangalore and CEPT University, Ahmedabad.

On Saturday, during the meeting, senior advisor (sustainable urban habitat) of German International Cooperation (GIZ), Dirk Walther laid stress on chalking out measures acceptable to the locals to prove the viability of the sanitation plan.
The city task force (CTF) was set up in 2010.

Before Saturday's meeting, two CTF meetings had taken place for finalising of the status report on the current sanitation situation.

The main agenda of the third task force meeting was to discuss and finalise the draft of city sanitation plan for the city.

The technical team has identified nine major issues in the city concerning various aspects of sanitation that include access to toilets, indiscriminate dumping of solid waste, coverage of underground sewer network, storm water management system, treatment of waste water, institutional, governance, awareness and financial constraints etc.

The process of forwarding the proposal to the state government by the VNN could take a month or two.

Municipal commissioner V K Dubey, additional municipal commissioner Sachchidanand and Anjali from District Urban Development Authority (DUDA) also attended the meeting.

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