

DECCAN Chronicle

19 MARCH 2012

TO MEET DEADLINE

Corp hurries on e-toilet project

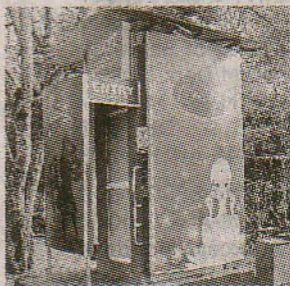
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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
MARCH 18

With less than two weeks left for March 31, the City Corporation is hastening the procedures to roll out the much-hyped e-toilet project — one of the major announcement in the previous budget. The civic authorities and Eram Scientific Solutions Ltd — the consultants for the project — have conducted a joint site inspection at the proposed spots to check the feasibility.

However, the civic authorities are apprehensive about implementing the project owing to protest from public. The actual plan was to install eight e-toilets at various points in the city, however, after site inspection, the authorities could finalise only four feasible locations in the city.

The locations where the state-of-the-art e-toilets will be installed include Thampanoor (near the Corporation-owned parking lot), Pettah Park near railway station, Medical College Hospital (near society payward) and the Corporation office premises. The other proposed sites include Statue, Sangumugam and Eastfort.

“As of now we could



finalise only four locations. E-toilets are assembled units and it will not take much time for installation. We will be able to complete the project before March 31. We will start the implementation once the Health committee approves the site inspection report,” said executive engineer Mr S. Sivakumar, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation.

It is learnt that the civic body has earmarked only ₹30 lakh for the project. The estimated cost for installing four e-toilets would come to around ₹25.52 lakh. “The actual cost quoted by the consultancy was ₹3.75 lakh. But now the cost has escalated. Including the installation charges and sewage treatment unit, the actual amount for each unit will now come to around ₹6.38 lakh,” a senior official of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation said.