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KARNATAKA

Departments need to spend more to meet green targets

A majority of government departments fall woefully short in implementing programmes and policies that encourage sustainable development and mitigate effects of climate change. The State-run research centre, Environmental Management Policy & Research Institute (EMPRI), analysed the budgets for 10 major departments to study their expenditure on “green components”. The Green Budget report, a first-of-its-kind in the country, shows the Public Works Department, which has one of the biggest outlays in the State government, spends barely 4% of its budget for mitigation, while at least seven major departments spend less than a third of their budget for environmentally-sustainable programmes.

(H.,02/05)

GOA

Goa govt plans ‘shacks on fields’ with fresh beer

Stressing on the need to bring more land in the state under agricultural cover, deputy CM Vijai Sardesai disclosed his plan of introducing “a shack in the field” project on the lines of agro-tourism concept that will also serve fresh beer. Speaking at the concluding session of the summer agriculture camp held at Fatorda, Sardesai said, “Tourism made inroads in North Goa through agricultural land. So, if one needs to build a shack in the field, there has to be a field in existence first. If the agriculture department certifies the existence of a field, then we can give permission for setting up a shack there, which will be a temporary structure.”

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