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PANJIM: With Goa striving to meet the target of providing 100 per cent sanitation to the entire state by 2014 end, the Union Urban Development Ministry has come to the rescue by offering expertise to improve sanitation by preparing a city sanitation plan.

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Royal HaskoningDHV to prepare sanitation plan for the capital city, which would be later implemented in

other parts of the State

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PANJIM: With Goa striving to meet the target of providing 100 per cent sanitation to the entire state by 2014 end, the Union Urban Development Ministry has come to the rescue by offering expertise to improve sanitation by preparing a city sanitation plan.

Union Urban Development Ministry has appointed Noida-based management consultancy and engineering firm Royal HaskoningDHV to prepare a sanitation plan for Panjim, which would be later implemented in other parts of the state. The plan will outline detailed recommendations and suggestions for tackling sanitation situation for the next 35 years.

The firm's scientists are already in Goa and in the process of gathering information from the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) and its corporators as part of the 10-15 week study. The city sanitation plan is part of urban water supply and sanitation scheme of the Union Ministry.

A senior state official linked to the project said that the sanitation plan has been drafted to seek financial assistance from the Union government to improve sanitation, cleanliness and sewage treatment in the city.

"The Union government helps local self-governing bodies to improve the infrastructure required for keeping cities clean and healthy and has made it mandatory for cities to draft cleanliness plans," the official said.

Goa, though much less than other states, is still found wanting in sanitation such that no village is completely open-defecation free and thereby it's far from winning the Nirmal Gram Puraskar award. While states like Sikkim and Maharashtra have won the award for good sanitation coverage and Kerala is doing very well, Goa has only achieved 85 per cent sanitation coverage.

The Union Ministry has recently launched a programme to ensure that all Indian cities and towns become totally sanitized, healthy and liveable and ensure and sustain good public health and environmental outcomes for all their citizens with a special focus on hygienic and affordable sanitation facilities for the urban poor and women.

"The plan that will be submitted to Union government will elucidate the current sanitation scenario in Panjim and suggest ways and means to improve it," official said.

State government has already unveiled its plan to have 100 percent sanitation cover by 2014 as part of the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan scheme. According to 2011 Census, 2,57,338 households have latrine facilities in Goa, of which only 46,640 households have connections for the underground sewerage system. On the other hand, 1,82,224 households have septic tanks, 10,479 households have other chambers and 14,177 households have pit latrines.

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