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## Kochi all set to get solar crematorium

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**KOCHI:** If the plans of Kochi Corporation are anything to go by, soon the city will have an eco-friendly, solar and biogas-based crematorium.

The local body is holding talks with the Rotary Club of Cochin for setting up the new facility at Ravipuram. The existing electric crematorium had turned defunct in 2008, and it is after this that the civic body started exploring possibilities of constructing a new one. "The project is estimated to cost around Rs 1 crore. The new crematorium will provide several facilities including a prayer hall for holding pre-funeral rites. Also, corporation officials visited some of the crematoriums in Coimbatore in order to understand the working of solar and biogas-based facilities," said a senior official.

Though the local body has not finalized the design, officials said they will go through the designs of the proposed hybrid crematorium project at Thrikkakara municipality. "A final decision in this regard will be taken only after consultation with the council," said K J Sohan, chairman, Town Planning Committee. At present firewood is used for cremating bodies. Though there were plans to renovate the crematorium in 2011, corporation authorities had to drop the plan owing to opposition from the council.

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The electric crematorium at Ravipuram was introduced in the 90s, but its functioning was frequently disrupted. In 2009, the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) disconnected electric connection due to non-payment of electricity bills.

"The operational cost of electric crematorium is extremely high and its maintenance is risky. We do not have the expertise to repair it when the facility develops technical snags. Moreover, the death rate in the city does not match the requirement for an electric crematorium," added Sohan.

Meanwhile, the Rotary Club of Cochin Midtown has come up with a Rs 3 crore modern hybrid crematorium project plan for Thrikkakara municipality. This will be a collective effort of the municipality, Ernakulam Karayogam and the Club. Situated on 11,800 square feet area, it will work on solar power and biogas. This eco-friendly project has obtained certificate from the pollution control board and will require 50 minutes to complete the process.

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### Reader's opinions



KG DIVAKARAN (kerala)

Sir, to speed up the availability of the crematorium facilities all over the State, the dead should be buried in front of the panchayat and/or other govt organisations. while christians and muslims do not face any problem, majority of hindus are denied of such facility virtually in every village. it should be the government policy to have the facility in every panchayat. also, state and central government should own at least one acre of land for each, to house its establishments such as post office, bank, village office, panchayat office.



K.Mundan (Navi Mumbai) replies to [KG DIVAKARAN](#)

An alternate solution (even) to burying is by donating the cadavers to medical college hospitals. Most of the dear and near ones would reject this suggestion, even if a person executes a will to that effect, with the result that there is reportedly a clandestine market for dealing in, and smuggling of, dead bodies. All must understand that donation is a cost-saving measure, as funeral expenses would not be incurred by your dependents! If thought fit, youngsters among the rationalists may come forward to propagate this idea. Kerala has a reputation for accepting new ideas, but after arguments, debates and discussions. KG DIVAKARAN (kerala) may initiate it.



KG DIVAKARAN replies to [K.Mundan](#)

Sir, very good suggestion. Unfortunately, I do not have talent and support to that much extent.

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