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CCP cannot fund Smart City mission: Mayor

Panaji: Reiterating that the corporation of the city of Panaji was not in a position to contribute towards the Smart City Mission proposal or raise taxes to mobilize capital, mayor Surendra Furtado said he would seek the intervention of the defence minister Manohar Parrikar. Furtado said that a delegation of CCP officials would visit Delhi and try to impress upon the ministry of urban development to make an exception for Panaji.

According to the Smart City Mission fund-sharing formula CCP has to generate 20% of the funds, while 40% of the funds will be contributed by the state government and Union government each.

"The commissioner and I will go to Delhi. We will meet my contacts in Delhi. The defence minister must help and negotiate for Panaji," Furtado said while addressing mediapersons at the CCP office. "CCP is not in a position to fund this project."

Panaji is one of the 100 Smart cities selected under the Smart City Mission of Union ministry of urban development. Though it missed the first round, Goa's capital city features on the list of 23 cities, which have been invited to revise and fasttrack

their Smart City proposals for submission before April 15.

Clarifying on the reasons why Panaji missed out on the first round, the ministry of urban development said that while Panaji's smart city proposal provides information on various service aspects, it failed to provide quantified service indicators and that issues or levels of service-related to transport for were not well defined.

"It is recommended that the linkage of such interventions with sustainability and economic development be explored and elaborated more strongly in the proposal," the ministry of urban development observed regarding the city's area based development plan. CCP has invited suggestions from locals and will hold a public deliberation on March 22 to finalize the draft proposal. "The consultants will then fine tune the proposals and by April 15, the final proposal will be submitted," commissioner Sanjit Rodrigues said.