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Form development authority for Coimbatore soon: RAAC

Special Correspondent

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COIMBATORE: The Residents' Awareness Association (RAAC) of Coimbatore has appealed to the State Government to constitute soon a Coimbatore Urban Development Authority, on the lines of the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority.

Such an agency is needed to review and revise the Master Plan and the Development Control Rules (DCR) of Coimbatore, president of RAAC C.R. Swaminathan has said in a press release.

Master Plan

The first Master Plan was drawn up in 1994, followed by several Detailed Development Plans. However, there were schemes for Coimbatore even before these plans had been drawn up, the release said.

Coimbatore's first town planning schemes or plans were cleared in a Government Order issued on November 30, 1933 by the Local Self-Government Department of the Government of Madras.

Objective

The objective was to ensure orderly and controlled land development of the town, keeping in view the social and economic uplift of the people. Each scheme had maps and plans for the formation of new streets, widening of existing ones and land development.

Schemes

An important aspect was the Development Control Rules for specified buildings and layouts.

The location of the houses of huts, reserved sites, shops, business premises and industries was earmarked.

Six schemes were sanctioned for the town prior to Independence, between 1933 and 1947. And, seven were cleared from then till now. The association contended that 19 other schemes were in use now, but were not approved ones.

Standardisation

The fully developed parts of the town such as Oppanakara Street, N.H. Road, Range Gowder Street, Sukkrawarpet and Edayar Street did not have approved schemes even now.

In view of the non-uniformity of rules and norms, standardisation was the need of the hour.

The revision should be incorporated in a new DCR for Coimbatore. It should be the only reference area.

Therefore, a new Master Plan should be formulated soon, the release said.