

Environment assessment study will decide fate of Sethu project: Pachauri

It will assess ocean current patterns and will be completed by middle of 2011

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: A year-long Environmental Impact Assessment study has been taken up on the Sethusamudhram project by the Centre and only after it is completed will it be decided whether to continue the project or not, said Rajendra K. Pachauri, Director-General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), here on Thursday.

Laying the foundation stone for a science and technology park at MARG site near Marakkanam on East Coast Road, Dr. Pachauri, also Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said the study would look into various ocean current patterns in the area and it would be completed by the middle of next year.

Answering a question on the negative impact of setting up a neutrino laboratory in forest areas in Theni district, Dr. Pachauri said he was not aware of the project. However, he was of the opinion that one should not think that sophisticated science would not be directly useful to mankind.

The Centre, sometime ago, introduced a new certification system for different types of buildings in the country, known as Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA). It comprised 34 criteria categorised under various sections such as site selection, planning, conservation and efficient utilisation of resources, building operation



SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT: *Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, Director-General TERI, laying the foundation stone for MARG Science Park near Marakkanam on Thursday. G.R.K. Reddy, chairman and managing director of MARG Group, is in the picture. - PHOTO: S.S. KUMAR*

and maintenance and innovation points. Eight of these were mandatory, four partly mandatory and the rest, optional. Each criterion had points assigned to it.

The Pune Municipal Corporation had agreed to implement the system in its jurisdiction and the Central Public Works Department was introducing the concept

in its buildings. The indigenously prepared GRIHA system was better than the existing LEEDS Certification System.

A change will come in the bio-sciences field after a breakthrough within a matter of time, he said.

GRK Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director, MARG Group, said a total of 1.3 mil-

lion sqft area would be the built-up area at the project site.

The per square foot cost would range between Rs.2,200 to Rs.2,800. Research and development organisations relating to life sciences, biotechnology, nanotechnology and agriculture sciences would come up at the site.