



TRIVANDRUM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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Master Plan lacks vision and will stunt the growth of the Capital City

Various Stakeholders in the Capital criticised the new Master Plan proposed by Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation, pointing out that the provisions will slow down the growth of the City, and adversely affect future developments. Trivandrum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI), Trivandrum Agenda Task Force (TATF), and Awake Trivandrum (AT), also indicated that enforcing the draft Master Plan even before the public consultations are complete will cause regulatory uncertainty, affecting investor confidence.

"Current Master Plan is more than half a century old, and hence the need for the new one to be futuristic. We need an innovative Master Plan that will drive the most efficient use of the limited land available for the development of the Capital City. Best utilisation of other available resources also needs to be factored in. However, the proposed draft is not only nonprogressive but also appears to be the handiwork of some Officials determined to sabotage the future of the State Capital Region (SCR)", said S N Raghuchandran Nair, President of TCCI.

"Master Plan should have a long-term vision for the City's growth including infrastructure facilities, define implementation strategies, establish performance indicators and allow for flexibility to accommodate changing circumstances and emerging trends. That is not what we see in the new document though", he added.

"Applying the Draft as a binding document till the Master Plan is finalised will create uncertainty for investors, developers, and businesses. They will hesitate to make long-term investments or commitments if the regulatory framework is uncertain or subject to imminent changes", said Abraham Thomas (Joji), Secretary of TCCI.

"Planners must consider the exponential changes the City has undergone, especially in the past two decades, and also the accelerated growth expected to be fuelled by the commissioning of Vizhinjam Port, progress of knowledge-based industry, introduction of advanced modes of transport, etc. Regular review and updates are to be provisioned to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness of the Master Plan", said K Srikant, Secretary of TATF.

"Draft must undergo a thorough review, extensive Stakeholder engagement and a comprehensive refinement process, to avoid adverse consequences and ensure a well-informed and well-coordinated approach to City development", said R Anil Kumar, Secretary of Awake Trivandrum.

For

TCCI

S N Raghuchandran Nair
President

