

The Green Ring project will concentrate on the use of solar power for lighting common areas

## GREEN RING PROJECT IN GURGAON

TEAM TIMES PROPERTY

The Huda City Centre Green 'Ring' Project, held at the Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Park recently saw all the participant groups engage in an interactive session on "how to make Gurgaon a greener city".

The ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) and the BNL of the US Department of Energy were the participants at the inaugural meeting. Advit Foundation was the technical partner and magicbricks.com, the online communications partner.

The developer body representatives included Ravi Saund, chief operating officer of CHD Developers, Praveen Raheja, the director (services) of Raheja Developers, Vikas Gupta, joint managing director of Earth Infrastructure, Deepak Uppal, the executive director of Vatika Hospitality, D K Mandal, the president of ILD and Rajesh Kumar, senior vice-president (projects) of Central Park.

Others who participated were Anup Nair, the owner of Incentive Destinations, Charu Jain, the director of Advit Foundation, Nisha Singh, councillor of Gurgaon and Mahesh Dayama, councillor of Gurgaon.

The forum was a platform for developers and councillors to discuss the challenges they face while adapting alternate energy sources. The government representatives acknowledged the grievances and promised to take up the issues with the authorities concerned.

Some of the issues raised by developers included the mandatory obligations related to the amount of solar water that can be used per floor. This posed a major challenge for the multi-storey apartments where the floors are more than G+4 while in highrise buildings there is not enough roof space to meet the mandatory requirements.

Another challenge that developers faced was the lack of space, and land, to install solar power plants. The space allotted is fixed, especially in highrise towers, where there is not enough roof space to meet the mandatory requirements set by authorities. This, in turn, pushed them to spread out their green agenda across towers and plotted layouts.

Developers suggested that collaboration should be facilitated between various developers working on the same stretch, where the developers could in-

stall solar panels through collaborative effort and get the incentives and the benefits of using solar energy. They felt that if the use of solar energy is made transferable from one project to another, it can benefit many developers. Participants also suggested the creation of a visible working model to persuade the developers or the consumers to go green.

Praveen Kumar, the Huda administrator, said that for the generation of solar energy, battery, storage and maintenance is a costly affair and, in India, there is a high probability of theft. However, he said the government could help in setting up solar panels in parks and police stations under its jurisdiction, where the solar panels would be safe and secure.

He also said that collective action could kick in economies of scale. Kumar said that Huda is keen to facilitate collabora-

tion, adding, "In the civic domain, charitable organizations are allowed a subsidy of 90%." The Green Ring project will concentrate on the use of solar power for lighting common areas; adding greenery to the neighbourhood; waste management through composting; retrofitting existing structures; using green technology in new constructions and energy-efficient water pumping.

"Renewable energy is for households and new constructions. It is not confined to the government, rather it should be a part of the action plan of all builders and architects," A K Tripathi, the director in the ministry of new and renewable energy, said.

This project will first be tried in pilot sample areas, 1km from Huda City Centre to Golf Extension Road and from Sohna Road to Golf Course Road.

This is the first time that solar energy will be used to light up the common areas of the city. "Gurgaon has been selected for this pilot test as it is already a solar city," Jayashree Kurup, head of content and research of Times Business Solutions Limited, said.