

# Landscape architects can play key role in development: CM

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Chief Minister Digambar Kamat said that landscape architects have a vital role to play for sustainable growth of development. "The role of these architects is directly linked to maintain natural landscape and environment and to implement architectural designs that blend with the surroundings," he added.

Kamat was delivering the inaugural address after inaugurating a two day 6th National Indian Society of Landscape Architects (Isola) annual conference at Kala Academy in the city.

Speaking further, Kamat said that while undertaking developmental projects, it is pertinent to understand the aspirations of the people. "The government scrapped the Regional Plan and placed it before the panchayats and gram sabhas to elicit the views of the people," he said and urged landscape architects to deliberate on such issues to clear the doubts in the minds of the people while expressing hope that they will come out with fruitful and meaningful deliberations.

Kamat further promised that the suggestions put forth by the participants will be given weightage



by the government to make Goa a more beautiful State to live in. Complimenting the organizers for having chosen Goa as the venue for the conference, Kamat said that the State is one of the most sought after international tourist destination but added that it is facing tremendous pressure on infrastructure due to heavy flow of tourists.

The Chief Minister presented Isola awards to landscape architects for their lifetime achievements and contribution to the society. The recipients of the awards included Prof Ravindra Bhan,

Ravindra Gawand and others. Isola President Savita Punde said that such conferences are of immense importance to deliberate on issues concerning environment and hospitality industry. She said the next Isola conference will be held in Gujarat.

Eminent Town Planner Edgar Rebeiro, Isola Secretary Rohit Moral and Manguesh Prabhugaonkar were present. Earlier, Isola Chairman Kishore Pradhan highlighted the significance of such conferences in the interest of the country and the States.

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