PRESS RELEASE

Memorandum of Understanding signed with eGov Foundation by the Government of Puducherry for Online Building Permission System.

To achieve the ambitious plan of driving e-governance across Planning Authorities in the Union Territory, the Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Puducherry has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with e-Gov Foundation on 3rd September 2020. The MoU was signed between the Chief Town Planner, Town & Country Planning Dept. and eGov Foundation. E-Gov Foundation was established in 2003 by Tvl. Nandan Nilekani and Srikanth Nadhamuni to partner with city administrators in order to leverage the transformative power of technology for better quality of life in cities and to make them sustainable. The organization has built a DIGIT platform- a Public Digital Good that can be used by Governments, Enterprises and civil society to co-create and deploy locally relevant solutions. Over the last **17 years**, the foundation has partnered with more than **1000+ towns and cities** across India and more than **12 crore citizens** have benefited from its platform.

The MoU was exchanged between the Town and Country Planning Department, Puducherry and eGovernments Foundation, Bengaluru on 18.09.2020 in the presence of Thiru.A.Namassivayam, Honourable Minister for Town Planning, Government of Puducherry. Thiru.K.Mahesh, I.A.S, Secretary to Government (Town Planning), Thiru.V.Sathiyamurthi, Chief Town Planner, Thiru.S.Sridarane, Senior Town Planner, Thiru.S.Rajasekar, ASIO, NIC, Thiru.M.Kandarselvan, Member Secretary, Puducherry Planning Authority and Thiru.P.R.Krishnamoorthy, Vice President, eGov Foundations were present during the event.

Under the MoU, eGov will be providing eDCR, an auto scrutiny software for scrutiny of building plans and support the U.T. of Puducherry in effective and seamless implementation of Online Building Plan Approval System.

The Town and Country Planning Department has introduced an Online Building Permission System in web portal https://obps.py.gov.in, in the month of December 2019 in order to streamline the sanction of Building Plans & Layouts for general public, so as to bring transparency, accountability & speedy disposal of applications by the Planning Authorities. The software for Online Building Permission System has been developed by NIC. The system has been developed in such a way that the general public can submit their application to the respective planning authorities through online, know their applications status through e-mail & SMS alerts and obtain permission through online. Now, the submission of application for Building Plans/Layouts through online for the four regions of U.T. of Puducherry. i.e., Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe & Yanam, came into operation without auto scrutiny part. Now the Government has decided to integrate the auto scrutiny part using the DIGIT eDCR engine developed by the e-Government Foundation a non-governmental organisation recommended by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. The egov foundation will provide, implement, customize and configure the auto scrutiny of the online building permission system called DIGIT DCR which will be integrated with software developed by the NIC, Puducherry **at free of cost**.

P R Krishnamoorthy, VP-Delivery, eGov Foundation expressed, "*The initiative, apart from putting an end to people running from pillar to post to get approvals, will also remove middlemen from the system. We hope to bring greater transparency, eliminate red tape and save citizen's time and money by enhancing the financial and technical capacity and operating systems of all Planning Authorities and urban local bodies across Puducherry*".