

# Study of rivers' capacity: BITS, Annamalai Univ roped in

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Panaji:** With the department of environment refusing to conduct a study to ascertain the carrying capacity of rivers, the Goa state pollution control board (GSPCB) on Thursday decided that for major projects like marinas, the interested companies will be directed to undertake studies on the carrying capacity of rivers along with BITS Pilani, Goa and Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu. The companies will then have to submit their reports to the GSPCB, which will take the final call on whether the activities outlined can be permitted within that particular jurisdiction.

Speaking to mediapersons after the board meeting, GSPCB chairman Jose Manuel Noronha said, "We have decided to ask the proponents to undertake a study of the area in which they plan to set up marinas."

The study has to be conducted by the promoters of marinas and other such projects along with the department of ecology of Annamalai University and department of environmental engineering of BITS Pilani.

The department of environment had recently declined to carry out a study on the carrying capacity of rivers in the state, especially in the context of location of sites for marinas. The GSPCB had directed the department to conduct an assessment in view of any potential projects, last year.

"This office cannot undertake such a project-specific study. The GSPCB may undertake such a study in terms of the powers and functions vested under it, under Section 17 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, read with Section 17 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981," department of environment, director, Srinet Kothwale, had said in a letter to the board.