

Build affordable houses, govt tells developers

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BHUBANESWAR: Housing and urban development minister Badri Narayan Patra on Saturday exhorted real estate developers to build houses that are affordable for people representing all income groups.

Inaugurating a three-day property exhibition, organized by Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations (Credai), the minister said property should be developed in a way that there's a house for people across all income groups.

Revenue minister S N Patro, too, emphasized on the need for houses for the economically weaker sections of the society.

Speaking on the occasion, CREDAI national president Santosh Rungta expressed the need for a single window clearance system for housing projects. He added: "The government should consider special residential zones on the lines of special economic zones to make affordable houses a reality."

Credai Orissa president S C Bhura said the association was committed towards its social duty and would urge its members to float affordable housing projects. Coinciding with the inauguration of the exhibition, the state chapter of Credai adopted a 28-point code of conduct according to which developers should take steps for registration of cooperative housing societies in the interest of flat owners. "Besides, developers at sites bigger than 4,000 sq ft should have creches and educational facilities for children of labours engaged in the respective projects," the code said. It added that builders should ensure clear and marketable property title, present proper plans before booking is done by customers, sign agreement only after receiving advance amounts with all stipulated terms and conditions and open a grievance cell where a consumer can lodge his or her complaint.

Several housing projects in the state in general and Bhubaneswar in particular are on offer at the property fair. Besides, many leading financial institutions have put up stalls to offer various financial packages to meet consumers' requirements.