

Real Event

Making a beginning

The recently held CII's Green Building Congress focussed on the need for constructing 'green buildings'

One of the most rapidly growing sectors in India today, the construction industry contributes significantly to the nation's economy. But, with the green building movement gaining tremendous momentum during the past three to four years, there has been a noticeable shift in the industry - towards constructing 'green' buildings. Many developers are now making their buildings 'green' by adopting energy efficient and environment friendly techniques.

This was the theme of CII's Green Building Congress 2005, held from September 14-17, in New Delhi. In fact, the convention large number of companies showcasing their 'green' products/services.

For instance, Interface Inc. has come up with eco-friendly solutions like Cool Carpets - the industry's first climate neutral carpets and Inspiration Squared - the next generation of modular flooring inspired by nature. Says Lindsey Parnell, President and CEO, Interface Europe, "It is time that we give back to the environment as well. Developing such products is just one step forward - being made of carbon offsets, they are extremely eco-friendly. Not only is there zero wastage in installation, but



The Wipro building that won an award at the Green Congress

these products are also easy to manage and maintain."

Then there was the US-based provider of indoor comfort systems and comprehensive solutions, Trane. Its heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems are one of the most energy efficient in the market today. Says Manoj Mathur, Regional Head, Trane India, "Our offerings include energy efficient heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, service and parts support, advanced building controls and financing solutions. Each Trane system is designed to meet the specific needs of customers who want heating, cooling, dehumidifying and air cleaning systems for residential, commercial, institutional and industrial applications."

Another development at

the event was awarding the design of the Wipro Technologies Development Centre the prestigious Platinum Rated Leed Certification by the US Green Building Council. This is the largest project to be awarded this certification in Asia. Spread over a 1.2 acre plot and a workforce of 1,500 people, this also happens to be the largest green building in the country. The design owes its conceptualisation to Delhi-based architect, Vidur Bharadwaj.

"The building will be finished in two to three months time. Energy conservation through saving on power, building materials and other such areas are the hallmarks of this project," says Bharadwaj.

A report by Varun Soni