IIT-Gn develops app for Goa firemen to reach accident spot faster

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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THE Goa Fire & Emergency Services on Tuesday launched an Android phone app developed by the Safety Centre at the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-GN) that will aid fire services in reaching the accident spot faster. It will also offer information to onlookers and those trapped on handling the situation until help arrives.

A team of two IIT-GN faculties - Raj Srinivasan and Chinmay Ghoroi - with two under-graduate students Gaurav Sharma, Ashish Gupta developed the android phone app called 'Fire Stop Goa', with the support of Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

They discovered that communication of the precise address of the fire between the public and the firemen was a big factor that often delayed firemen in reaching to the fire spot. To address this issue, Fire Stop Goa uses satellite information to communicate the precise location of the fire accident and the type of fire. The application also guides onlookers and residents with immediate measures they can take until the fire fighters arrive.

Raj Srinivasan said, "The smart app will also help you with information on how to put out the fire; should you throw water or not; should you use the fire extinguisher and so on."

The firemen also received a corresponding Android app, which is connected to Fire Stop Goa. This app receives the information on the fire and location and provides them the fastest route and also updates the position of the fire-vehicle to the control room every minute.

If the fire truck is stuck in traffic, the control room would learn immediately enabling it to send another fire truck from a different route. The app also helps reduce errors when firemen file their reports. Most of the information for the report is automatically collected and filled in by the app.