

BMP plans central business dists in City

DH News Service

BANGALORE, April 28

All the old commercial areas of Bangalore, including key market areas and traditional business hubs like Gandhinagar, Chickpet, Balepet, N T Pet, Cottonpet, Kalasipalyam, parts of Seshadripuram and surroundings areas will be developed into Central Business Districts (CBDs) without disturbing the aesthetics of the buildings and architectural heritage of these areas.

The Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) has embarked on this ambitious project to decentralise commercial activities and decongest vehicular traffic, which is increasing day by day due to the tremendous growth of business. The BMP will implement this project in the coming months.

The plan includes the shifting of major industrial and allied firms to other parts of the City and tightening traffic regulations in the CBDs. An alternative parking arrangement will be made for businessmen operating in these areas in the Central School Grounds (opp Cauvery Bhavan) where a multi-storeyed car parking complex will come up for the purpose. Mini buses will ply in these CBDs to augment

transportation.

Revealing these details while delivering a lecture on the future of Bangalore at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) here today, BMP Commissioner K Jairaj said though these CBDs are not based exactly on the western model, they will help the overall development of Bangalore. Besides, no harm will be brought to the heritage of these old areas, he pointed out.

Adding that the formation of CBDs is high on the agenda of the BMP, Mr Jairaj said that the CBDs were part of the BMP's comprehensive plan to rejuvenate the older areas of the City.

The Kalasipalyam bus-stand will be converted into a high-tech bus stand as part of the plan. Also, a corporate firm has come forward to develop cement roads in the Kalasipalyam area, he said. The proposal is being studied as projects like road development cannot be entrusted without inviting tenders in the official manner, he explained.

The BMP has entrusted the Institute of Town Planning to provide more inputs and technical consultations for the development of the CBDs, Mr Jairaj said.

On the BMP's plans to develop Bangalore

into the best City of the country in the future, he said that a comprehensive programme with a three-dimensional approach has been initiated. Rejuvenation of the old areas of the City, development of slums and development of new wards included under the BMP purview since 1996, are the three major tasks ahead of the BMP. The BMP is committed to make Bangalore the best City in the nation, he asserted.

Due to financial constraints, the BMP is approaching the corporate world to shoulder the responsibility of the development of Bangalore. As part of this shift, the BMP has offered a number of parks to corporate industries for development and maintenance. Already, 12 corporate companies have evinced interest in developing these major parks of the City, he added. Also, modern signs and boards will be put up with the help of corporate industries on all major roads asphalted under the Municipal Bond scheme, he said.

He explained the short-term and long-term agenda of the BMP announced during the recent Bangalore Summit organised by the Bangalore Agenda Task Force towards taking Bangalore forward. Mr Jairaj appealed to the NIAS intelligensia to provide suitable inputs for the development of Bangalore.