

PERMANENT STALLS

City vendors to hawk in zones

AKANKSHA MEHROTRA

DC | BENGALURU

Sept. 1: The city will soon get its very own 'hawkers' zone', a first-of-its-kind attempt in the state to help vendors sell their wares legally. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) is presently identifying areas where roads and pavements can be cleared to set up stalls for the vendors.

"The government departments are in talks to introduce the new system of designating a few permanent spots to the vendors. Some places have been identified in BBMP wards and in the months to come, a hawkers' zone will come up in the city," said A. Ravindra, advisor to the Chief Minister and member of Agenda for Bengaluru Infrastructure and Development Task Force (ABIDe).

The move has come in the light of the recommendation by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to implement the revised National Policy on Urban Street Vendors 2009, as an act of



"personal intervention". City-based non-governmental organisations, in a study to draft a comprehensive policy for the development of the urban poor, had also suggested the creation of separate and permanent ward-wise zones for hawkers.

Hawkers, who currently ply their wares on pavements, will be rehabilitated and provided with a proper stall to carry out business. Officials will ensure that no other important activities take place at the designated locations.

"The plan is in its preliminary stages. A licence system may be introduced to see that the zone is not occupied by unwanted elements," said a BBMP senior official.

briefs

BBMP to pump in Rs 22k cr

DC CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Sept. 1: In order to boost infrastructure in areas under BBMP's jurisdiction, the civic body has prepared a capital investment plan for the city spread over three years at a cost of Rs 22,000 crore.

The investment plan was prepared in the wake of Crisil's recommendation that Rs 36,000 crore will have to be pumped in for the overall development of BBMP areas.

The investment plan aims at providing high density corridors in the newly added areas and core area of the city, signal free corridors, remodelling of storm water drains, construction and improvement of flyovers, underpasses, road-over-bridges, road-under-bridges and others, according to highly placed sources.

A detailed sketch of the investment plan has been submitted to the state government and Agenda for Bengaluru Infrastructure Development (ABIDe). Finding financial resource for investments as part of the plan is under consideration. Funds will be borrowed from financial institutions and the project will also depend on government for grants, said sources.

When BBMP commissioner Bharat Lal Meena was contacted, he declined to reveal details on the investment plan.