



31/19



29/19



31/18



A cool/foggy morning. A large day. The night to remain cool. 16° C. RH max 89%.

Conditions/ max temp/min temp in Celsius;

# Rs. 691 crore sanctioned for four projects in city

## They are to be implemented through JNNURM

Staff Reporter

**BANGALORE:** Plans to improve Bangalore's infrastructure have finally got a major boost with the Union Government sanctioning Rs 691 crore for executing four major projects that are expected to streamline traffic and reduce flooding during rain.

These projects to be implemented through the Centre's Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) include remodelling of storm water drains along the four major valleys and construction of underpasses at Malleswaram, R.V. Teachers' College junction and Tagore Circle. The Union Urban Development Ministry, which had earlier rejected the BMP's City Development Strategic Plan (CDSP), approved it on Friday at a meeting in New Delhi.

However, the tripartite memorandum of agreement (MoA) that was to be signed between the Centre, Karnataka Government and the BMP, did not come through at the meeting. It is likely to be

• **Sanction a major achievement for BMP: Jairaj**

• **Rs. 648 crore is for remodelling Challaghatta, Hebbal, Koramangala and Vrishabhavathi valleys**

signed on December 1. BMP Commissioner K. Jairaj, who along with Principal Secretary (Urban Development) Lakshmi Venkatachalam and other top officials made a presentation on the CDSP at the meeting, told *The Hindu* over telephone from Delhi that the approval of these projects was a "major achievement" to the BMP.

"Of the Rs 691 crore that has been approved, Rs 648 crore is for remodelling the Challaghatta, Hebbal, Koramangala and Vrishabhavathi valleys. The remaining amount is for constructing the three underpasses. The funds are likely to be released shortly," he said.

While work on remodelling of storm water drains had already started, that on the underpasses would begin in December, he said.

While the Union and State governments would contrib-

ute 35 per cent and 15 per cent respectively of the sanctioned Rs 691 crore, the BMP would have to contribute the rest.

JNNURM Mission Director Raja Mohan, Union Joint Secretary for Poverty Alleviation Mohanty and Union Urban Development Secretary Ramachandran, who were present at the meeting, appreciated BMP's various citizen-friendly schemes.

They also expressed a desire that these schemes, including "Suvarna Khata," "Suvarna Parvanige" and property tax collection, should be taken up in other cities, he added.

### Meeting

Administrator of BMP Dilip Rau, who assumed office on Thursday, went round the BMP head office and the modern Council Hall on Friday. After an introductory

meeting with the joint commissioners and other officials, Mr. Rau asked them to make a presentation on the ongoing projects on Saturday.

### MoU

Delhi Special Correspondent reports:

Speaking to a group of presspersons, Mr. Jairaj said that a formal memorandum of understanding would be signed with the Union Ministry of Urban Development in about a week for the implementation of the projects. A draft of the MoU was almost ready. The Central Ministry had sought some clarifications and they would be given in the next few days.

He said a perspective plan had been prepared to make full use of Rs 12,000 crore allocated under the JNNURM over the next four to five years.

A team of officials from the Central Ministry would soon go over to Bangalore at the request of BMP to help local officials finalise a detailed project for a massive programme of the housing for the poor.