

5 townships planned around B'lore

Bangalore, Dec 24: In keeping with the international trend of having integrated townships combining "work-live-play" and with a view to de-congest the Bangalore metropolitan area, the Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) proposes to develop five new integrated townships around the city, a top official said.

The townships with modern amenities and facilities involving an investment of over Rs 30,000 crore were being planned at Bidadi, Ramanagaram, Sathanur, Solur and Nandagudi, BMRDA Commissioner Sudhir Krishna said. The project was aimed at creating self-contained new integrated townships by integrating select economic activities in manufacturing/service/business categories, he said.

The townships, Krishna said, were expected to offer the same or more facilities as available in Bangalore city minus the congestion and traffic bottlenecks in a serene and environmentally rejuvenating atmosphere.

Besides, Reliance Energy Ltd and Gammons India Ltd, Singapore's

The townships with modern amenities are being planned at Bidadi, Ramanagaram, Sathanur, Solur and Nandagudi,

Jurong Construction Company and Shanghai Urban Construction Corporation are among the 32 consortia competing to be on the shortlist of bidders, he said.

"The applications of all the 32 consortia are under process", Krishna said, adding, the townships are slated for completion in the next five years.

The construction work for the first township in Bidadi would commence in June, Krishna said. The government order dated June 23, 2006, he said, clearly spelt out the aim for developing the integrated townships.

The focus is not just to preserve and improve the quality of life for citizens within the Bangalore Metropolitan Region, but also cater to the needs of rapidly increasing population.

It was felt necessary to take up development of integrated urban settlements in the region to relieve the

pressure on Bangalore Metropolitan Authority and facilitate balanced urban growth, Krishna said.

The locations and areas for the proposed townships were identified based on considerations such as least displacement to human habitations, least disturbance to forests and water bodies, least acquisition of valuable agricultural land lower cost for lands, far from existing developed locations and good connectivity.

The proposed townships will be independent, self-contained and eco-friendly human settlements. "What makes the townships unique is, they will be based on integrated land use concepts, centering around one or more specific economic activity with concomitant residential components aimed at promoting work-home relationship," Krishna said.

The townships would be developed with proper

infrastructure facilities and modern amenities and were proposed in the limits of 85 villages having a population of about 79,000, Krishna said. In course of developing the township, it is proposed to integrate these villages keeping intact the local heritage and making it economically and socially viable for the inhabitants.

It is one of the biggest projects undertaken by the state and one of its kind since it

"aims at economic integration" of the land losers. "No land loser will be required to go outside the township. He will be provided a place to live and pursue an economic activity", he added. PII

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