

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಕಡತಗಳು
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B'LOKU TOPS ON CENTRAL'S LEASE OF LIVING INDEX

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SCOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT

DENGAURU is an easy-going city to live in, and it's just not the climate, but also because of the presence of lung spaces, economic viability and lifestyle.

- Education in public sector
- Health facilities - setting up government multispecialty centres in each zone
- Improving lake conditions and making water potable
- Coordination among all agencies
- Miscellaneous works to be undertaken

In the rankings released by Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, under the Smart Cities mission, on Thursday Bengaluru was ranked number one on the Ease of Living Index in the category of cities with over one million population. Bengaluru scored 82.76 on a scale of 100, while Pune, which ranked second, scored 80.27. In the category of cities with less than one million population, Davanagere in Karnataka was ranked ninth.



"It is something to be proud of, as last year, Bengaluru's ranking was 68. It shows that the targets which the City has

set are high, there is performance and people are also satisfied with what is being done. The projects which have been undertaken are also in the right direction," Bengaluru Smart City Ltd Managing Director Rajendra Cholan said.

and security, waste management practices), economic availability (scope for economic development of the city, employment opportunities and scope for professionals to grow), and sustainability.

The ranking was given based on three broad parameters — quality of life (facilities in health, education, safety

However, for municipal performance, no city from Karnataka featured in the top 10 in both the categories.

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B'uru's Covid war room earned it laurels

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RECEIVING the award, Parliament member PC Mohan said the way the city is handling the smart city works is commendable. Bengaluru also scored because it was the first to create a Covid-19 war room. The city is also creating cycle tracks and work is on to make the core city area a cycling space.

Earlier Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Commissioner N Narayana Prasad said marks were given based on the works done and citizens' feedback. The city has 1,560 parks, 210 lakes and 141 primary health care centres. "We need to find where we lost and by how many marks in the municipal reforms category. We need to improve there. The number one position has now made the task more challenging as it is important to sustain and improve the score. We need to work with all parastatal agencies and stakeholders. Citizens also need to be more involved and roped in decision-making," he said.

Union Housing Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Smart City mission was started in 2015 and ever

since every city is working on improving itself. The Ease of Living index is a means to see how urban societies are. The experiences generated and lessons learnt have been accounted into a book, he pointed out while noting that there are no 100 per cent greenfield smartcities.

Puri stressed to civic agency officials of all states that the Smart City mission should be taken seriously. "It has been noticed that officials are changed frequently and they are given multiple roles. The Smart City project was conceived based on the thinking of citizens. But now we may have to do some rethinking. It is better that officials assigned to these duties are kept separate and management should be clear. I will also write to the chief ministers on this," he added.



The ranking system harnesses the spirit of competitiveness to propel cities into performing better with the aim to climb higher on the rankings.

Hardeep Singh Puri,
Union Housing Minister

POOL FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT

