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No new permits for autorickshaws in city

Special Correspondent

BANGALORE: A decision has been taken not to grant any more permits for autorickshaws in the city. The reason behind the decision was to check congestion and pollution.

Speaking to presspersons, Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa, who chaired a meeting of Ministers and officers on Saturday, said the Government had taken into account the views of experts and citizens in this regard. A 3,000-acre plot would be earmarked on the outskirts of the city to dispose of solid waste. He said 40 plots in the city had been identified for parking vehicles, and the BBMP would develop the sites for the purpose. The racecourse in the city would be shifted to the outskirts at the earliest.

A mini-Lalbagh, a hospital and a bus stand would be built at the Central Relief Committee (Beggars' Colony) on Magadi Road after shifting it to a place on the outskirts of the city. The meeting discussed the possibility of developing the Devika Rani Roerich Estate (Tataguni Estate) on Kanakapura Road. He said a case connected to the estate was before the Supreme Court, and a decision would be arrived at based on the directions of the court.

Swajaladhara

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Shobha Karandlaje said that she was leaving for the U.S. to meet World Bank officials seeking extension of the Swajaladhara scheme beyond December this year. She said the State Government was seeking an assistance of Rs.1,500 crore for the project.