

# Cabinet Reshuffle Likely By Second Week Of May Regularisation of 'B' khata properties may face hitch

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI

**Bengaluru:** While property owners are cheering the government's decision to convert all 'B' khatas to 'A' by directing the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to lay the groundwork and collect betterment charges, the civic agency is still wary about the implementation aspect, considering the hurdles involved.

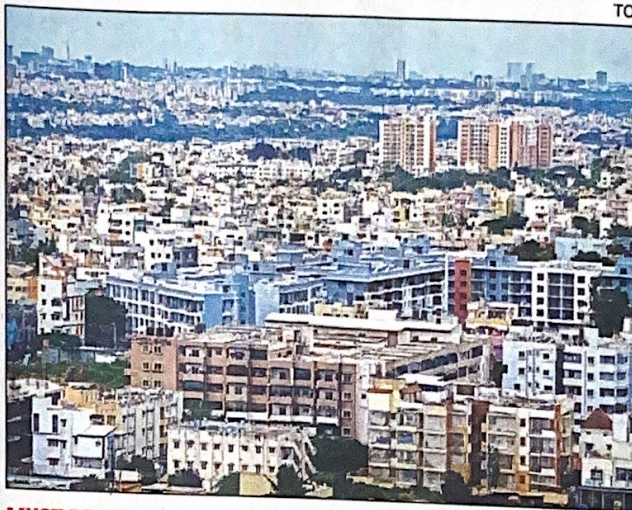
Chief secretary P Ravi Kumar has reportedly directed the civic agency to issue khatas and property identification numbers

## CONVERSION PLAN

(PID) to all properties in Bengaluru. The order follows a budgetary announcement for the 2022-23 fiscal, which has projected an additional Rs 1,000 crore revenue from the conversion scheme.

'A' khata properties are those with genuine documents and are verified by state agencies, whereas 'B' Khata properties have anomalies in documentation and include premises constructed in violation of byelaws. There are an estimated 6.6 lakh 'B' khata properties in Bengaluru.

The Karnataka Administrative Reforms had recently recommended bringing these properties into the mainstream by collecting penalties and land conversion charges.



**MUST BE STUDIED:** Officials say with assembly elections around the corner, the decision could have a massive political impact

However, the civic body said it is waiting for the government to formally issue an order, spelling out details for them to take up regularisation of revenue sites in city limits.

"The issue may have to be discussed with the chief minister and require assessment of the urban development department before it is issued as a directive to BBMP," said Gaurav Gupta, BBMP chief commissioner. Palike officials say a formal decision may not be taken anytime soon as there are a lot of legal and financial issues that need to be considered and assessed before the process begins.

With assembly polls fast approaching and BBMP elections yet to be announced, the decision to regularise the 6.6 lakh revenue plots where thou-

sands of people are residing will have a significant political impact. As a result, BBMP officials say there will be a detailed study on the "manner in which it needs to be implemented" and "how much citizens will have to pay as betterment charges".

In fact, on Tuesday evening, Gupta is believed to have held a meeting with his revenue and legal departments of the agency to discuss implementation of the proposal.

"The course of action will have to be studied. At the individual level, with our 27 revenue officers and 63 plus assistant revenue officers (ARO), we will need to inspect documents and map these revenue plots before arriving at guidelines on how to convert khatas," said a BBMP official.