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State hopeful of getting approval for 10 cities under Smart Cities project

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Close on the heels of the Union Cabinet clearing the '100 Smart Cities Project' on Wednesday, Karnataka is hopeful that at least 10 of its cities would be included in this flagship programme that would give a fillip to infrastructure development.

As of now, the State is eagerly awaiting guidelines regarding the Smart City Project from the Centre to chalk out its plans. Karnataka Urban Development Minister Vinay Kumar Sorake told reporters in Bengaluru on Saturday that there were indications that the Centre may issue the guidelines in about a week from now.

"Going by the population size and other parameters, at least 10 cities in Karnataka must get approval under the Smart city project," he said.

The State has already proposed different cities and towns to be included in three categories for the smart city project. This includes Ramanagaram, Channapatna, Devanahalli and Tumakuru under the category of towns and cities with a population of less than 5 lakh; Gulbarga, Belgaum, Hubli-Dharwad and Mangaluru for the category of population size of 5 to 10 lakh; and Bijapur, Udupi and Hospet under the heritage category, he said.

He alleged that the Centre had released only 50 per cent of the Rs. 6,400 crore committed by it towards infrastructure development of the State under various urban development schemes, including the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. This had increased the State's financial burden, he said.

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