

# Indian Express

INDIA'S ONLY NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

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Dated January 12, 1996

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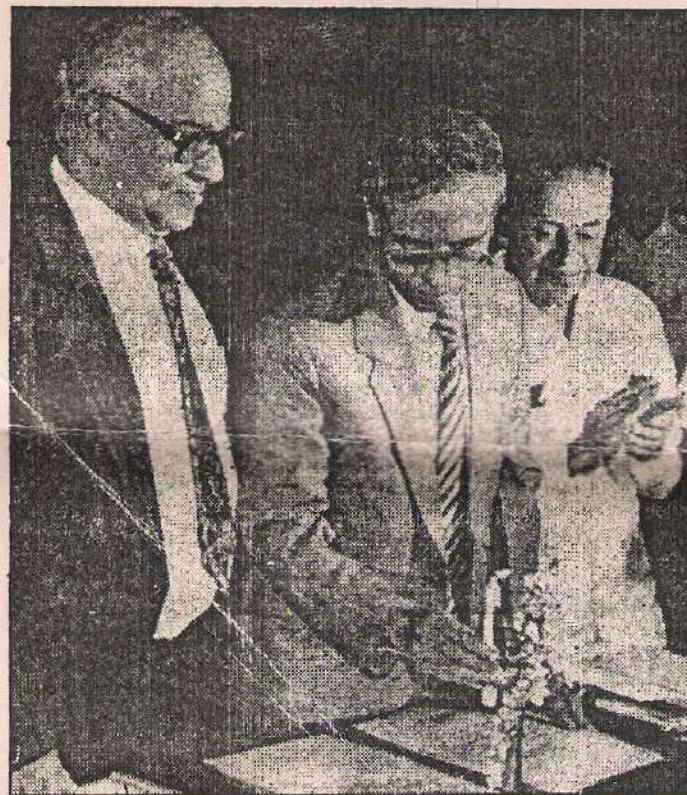
## Offices for interaction between citizens, officials soon

### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

BANGALORE, Jan. 11: Dr A Ravindra, Administrator, Bangalore City Corporation, today announced the setting up of a few ward offices in the City to serve as centres for interaction between citizens and civic officials, to find appropriate solutions to the civic problems of their respective areas.

Delivering his keynote address, after inaugurating the seminar on 'Community Participation in City Development', organised jointly by Swabhimana - a joint NGO-Government initiative, the BCC and the BDA, here, Dr Ravindra said that this was in keeping with the need for decentralising routine services like solid waste collection, maintenance of roads, drains, street lighting and water supply as envisaged by the 74th Constitutional Amendment which aims at urban decentralisation by making local bodies truly institutions of self-governance. At the same time, there is need to create public awareness of the issues confronting the city and the plans that the government and the civic authorities have already set in motion, he said.

While the 74th Amendment envisages a Ward Committee in each of the wards of the City comprising elected members, representatives of NGOs and some prominent citizens of the locality, a 'model' ward office is being set up initially, under the auspices of Swabhimana, he said. Swabhimana will also be organising a seminar on the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) to inform and educate people regarding the process of decentralisa-



BDA Chairman Dr. A Ravindra inaugurating the seminar on 'Peoples participation in City' at Rotary house in Bangalore on Thursday. Also seen are former Chief Justice of Karnataka D M Chandrashekar (right) and Capt V V K Mani of The Hindu.

tion to better facilitate planned growth.

With urbanisation having led to the degradation of the environment to the extent of dehumanisation, the traditional approach to city development has fallen short of expectations. The Government too has been unable to bear the burden alone in view of resource shortage, lack of trained manpower, unplanned growth and

urban poverty among them. So people's participation has become not only desirable but essential, he added.

Capt. V.V.K. Mani, Manager, The Hindu, Bangalore, spoke on the role of media in motivating community participation. Dr. Jayachandra Rao, additional Health Officer, BCC, welcomed and Ms. Almira Patel, INTACH, Bangalore, proposed a vote of thanks.