

Relief on horizon for B'luru-Mysuru commuters

Survey begins for upgrading the crowded highway

Asha Krishnaswamy

BENGALURU: For frequent users of the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway, where traffic jams, slow-moving vehicles and pollution are the order of the day, there's potential relief on the horizon.

With this crucial State highway being upgraded to a national highway status, No. 275, in March 2014, a survey for preparing a detailed project report (DPR) on its upgrading and expansion has begun. A Bengaluru-based company, Secon, has taken up the DPR work for which the station/topography survey work is underway.

The DPR will explain the nature of traffic on the existing four-lane highway, the possible ways of adding two more lanes to the stretch and to also provide four-lane service roads. Besides, the scope for constructing bridges and subways has to be assessed.

Sources in the Secretariat said the State government had no say in the project as it had been upgraded to a tolled national highway (NH). The plan is to develop the Bengaluru-Bantwal road via Mysuru, Madikeri and Sullia, covering 373 km. In the first phase, it will be upgraded only up to Mysuru.

Recently, a Chinese company had evinced interest in developing roads, in particular the Bengaluru-Mysuru road, when it made a presentation to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Public Works Minister H C Mahadevappa had recently announced he would visit Japan to get international funding for the development of the highway. However, officials insist that there is no scope for the State to take up the work as it is an NH. Whoever wants to take up the road work will have to participate in a bidding to be conducted by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The NH zone, which functions out of the State public works department, is the implementing agency.

In all probability, the survey work would be completed in August and the DPR would reach the Centre in November. The cost of the survey work has been put at an estimated Rs 2.31 crore. Officials are hopeful of completing the road work by 2018 in case it begins in 2016.

The present rough estimate, according to officials, is about Rs 4,000 crore to Rs 4,500 crore. This is inclusive of a six-lane express highway and a four-lane service road all along the route. The present width of the highway is seven metres (not uniform across the length) and the upgrading may take it to 10 metres to 12 metres.

Is such a massive investment required to ease the situation when the use of railway tracks

between the two cities has not been maximised? Officials, who do not like to be named, said that as per the present growth in vehicular traffic, even six lanes would not be sufficient by 2020. Eight lanes would be required up to Bidadi in another five years. By 2024, eight lanes would probably be required between the two cities.

The sources said cars used the roads the maximum. A lot of tourist traffic moves between the two cities. A large number of people travel to Mysuru, Kodagu and Udhagamandalam and nearby places. It is but natural for them to use private

two-wheelers and three-wheelers, while two-wheelers considerably reduce thereafter. From Ramangaram onwards, four-wheelers and buses ply in large numbers. But again, in Maddur, Srirangapatna and Mandya town, mixed traffic begins. Finally, it is cars and buses which reach Mysuru in large numbers. In Mandya belt, even bullock carts get onto the highway. Eight cars can move in place of a bullock cart, as per the Indian Road Congress standards.

With vehicles jostling for space, their average speed, which should be around 100 kmph to 120 kmph, hovers around 40 kmph. People criss-

Land acquisition

The biggest challenge for the authorities is to acquire land for road work. They foresee problems in Mandya and Maddur where wetland will also have to be acquired. The total land acquisition will have to be around 700-800 acres and the cost is estimated at Rs 1,600 crore. The cost of land is very high near Bidadi and the guidance value itself is nearly Rs 80 lakh an acre. The government will have to pay 2.5 times more than the guidance value to those who part with their land.

The acquisition of land would be according to the NH 1956 Act and the compensation



Traffic moves at a snail's pace on Bengaluru-Mysuru Road near Kumbalgod. (Below) A topography survey is on the Mysuru-Bengaluru highway near Maddur. SRIKANTA SHARMA R



transport or taxis. They do not fancy train travel. Car usage will only increase in the coming years.

The road was built during the Mysuru Maharajas' time and later upgraded to four lanes without scientific planning and scope for expansion.

It is not that the highway is witnessing the highest density of traffic compared with other highways in the State. The Devanahalli Airport road or the Yelahanka-Doddaballapur stretch may have more traffic than the Bengaluru-Mysuru road. However, the unique problem of the Bengaluru-Mysuru stretch is that it has mixed types of vehicles moving at various speeds.

From Bengaluru to Bidadi, it is mixed traffic – buses, lorries,

crossing the highway is also common. According to an estimate, not less than 18,000 cars ply on a single day. Segregation of vehicles based on speed can be done, provided there is a broad expressway and service lanes, the sources said.

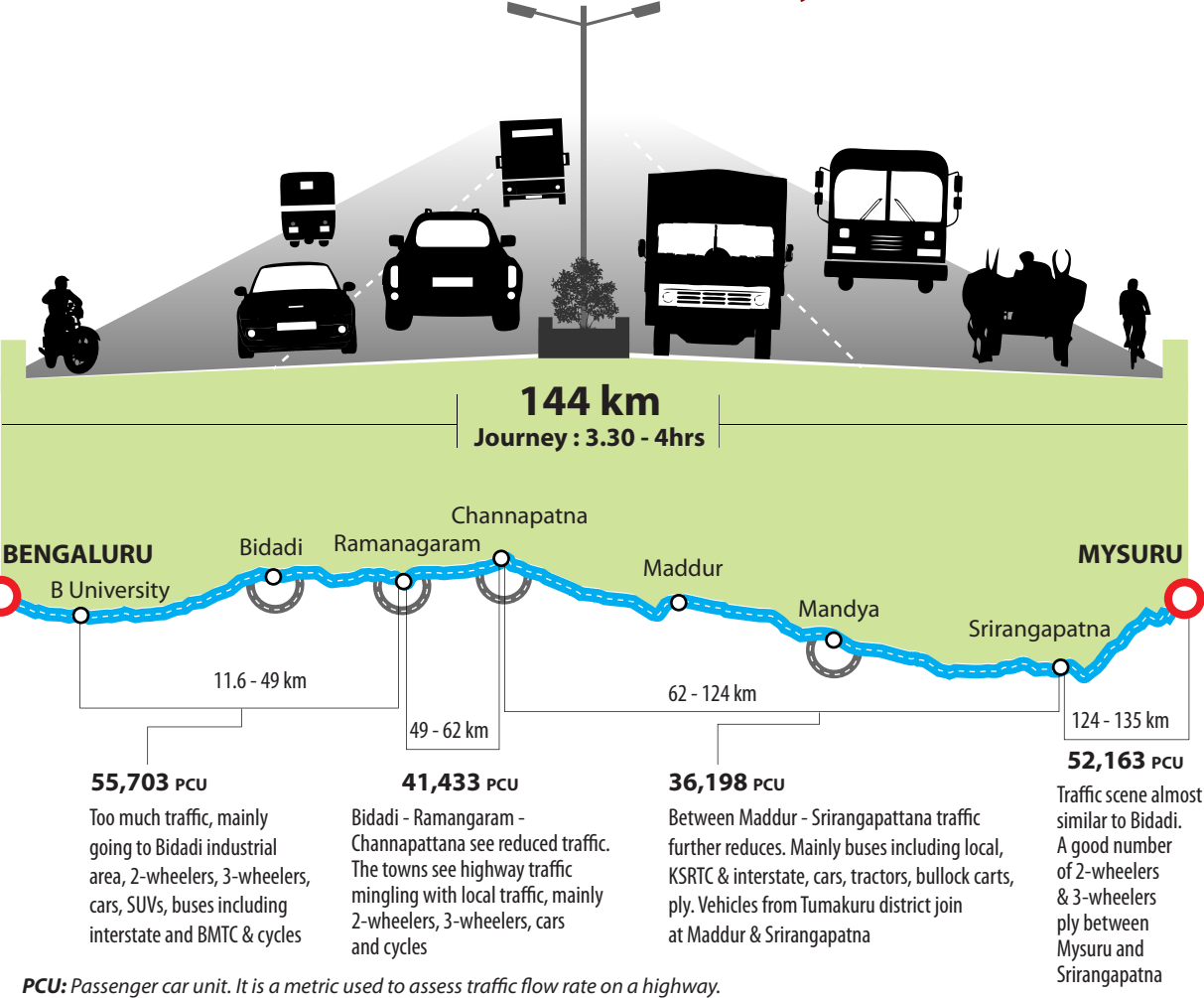
As per a presentation made by Secon to the chief minister and the public works minister in 2014, 55,703 PCUs (passenger car units) was the movement before Bidadi, while after Ramangaram, it reduced to 41,433; before Mandya 36,198 and after Srirangapatna 52,163. It might have touched 59,000 PCU by now. The growing traffic is only making the authorities plan even the design of the proposed four-lane service roads to make them six-lane in the next five years.

as per the new land acquisition rules. While no social impact assessment would be conducted, environment and impact assessment is mandatory.

It would be ideal to have a greenfield (a new) route between the State capital and the cultural capital, Mysuru, by using the existing road as service road. But the government has no such plans.

Officials said elevated roads would not be viable as they are very cost-intensive. The Metro section near Kengeri, the Nice peripheral road and the bridge would pose a problem. In addition, extensive demolition of buildings would be required if elevated bridges have to be built. Economic activities of the people too will suffer. **DH News Service**

Crawling traffic all along the way...



PRESENT PROBLEM	FACTS & FIGURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Intermixing of highway traffic with local traffic in townsCongestion, pollution, frustration among road usersTravel time: 135 km - minimum 3.5 - 4 hoursHorizontal & haphazard growth of towns all along the highwayCommercial and residential buildings abutting the highway in many townsPoorly designed highway with too many curves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing road length between Bengaluru and Mysuru - 144 kmApproximate volume of traffic: 55,703 to 52,163 PCUFrom 2004 to now, the traffic volume increase is 3 to 4 foldPresent planning is for six-lane express toll wayBy 2024, eight lanes are essentialBypasses will have to be 2-3 km from townsMinimum duration for upgrading the highway: Two years
TOLL GATES	WHERE BYPASSES REQUIRED
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sources said the NH was for having only two toll collection gates - one at the entry and another at the exit point of the highway. The plan is to toll users based on the distance they travelService roads, about two km from a town, would be toll-free	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BidadiRamanagaramChannapatnaMandya
	WHY BYPASSES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To avoid densely populated areasTo avoid archaeological sitesTo avoid conflict with local trafficTo avoid cost-intensive elevated roadsTo avoid acquisition of too many buildings

Infographics: Mallik

HC declares aided institutions Act unconstitutional

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court on Friday held that the Karnataka Private Aided Educational Institutions Employees (Regulation of Pay, Pension and other Benefits) Act, 2014 as unconstitutional.

Hearing a batch of petitions (240) by Munirajkumar and others, all teachers in private educational institutions, Justice Aravind Kumar has held that the government cannot upset the judgment of the courts.

The petitioners had challenged the Act stating that it was introduced in order to nullify the orders of the High Court and the Supreme Court and the apex court, way back, held that the period in which an institute undergoes a transition from unaided to aided shall be considered for pension. Stating that the State government has no power to enact such an act, the petitioners had sought to quash it.

Several petitions

The High Court had allowed several petitions based on the Supreme Court judgement, which stated that the 'unaided' period of an educational institution should be taken into account while calculating the service for pension. However, the government brought in the legislation and the petitioners

moved the High Court challenging it.

Appointment quashed

The High Court on Friday quashed the appointment of agriculture scientist Dr Y B Patil as a syndicate member of Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Science University (KVAFSU).

Hearing a petition by Patil, challenging the withdrawal of his appointment as syndicate member, Justice Ashok B Hinchigeri vacated the stay granted to the Governor's notification withdrawing his nomination.

The petitioner was nominated as syndicate member to KVAFSU and the same was withdrawn by the Governor following a complaint by some of the members stating that he is not a veterinary scientist. The Governor's notification was a result of the report by Principal Secretary Rajneesh Goel. Following complaints, the Governor had ordered an inquiry into this.

Patil, who obtained a stay against the Governor's order in February, in his petition, had contended that he had obtained his degree as an agriculture scientist, when the agriculture science and the veterinary science were not segregated.

India Post introduces Turant Tarang services

BENGALURU: Turant Tarang services will be made available in all post offices in another 20 days, announced Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka, B V Sudhakar on Friday.

Customers can use any bank debit or credit card to pay for around 26 services offered at post offices, he said.

Speaking at a press conference, he said the Postal department is in talks with the State Bank of India over this. Through this service people can quickly deal in cashless transactions. The service is also extended to speed post, money orders and registry booking. This is an immediate service, he said.

The letter box automation service was also inaugurated on the occasion. Through this service, people can track their letter from the time it was dropped into a letter box on the department website - www.karnatakapost.gov.in. This was introduced as a response to people's complaints that mail boxes are not cleared on time. It will also allow the department to keep a check on the postmen and their chores, he said.

Sudhakar said the department will start pick post service from home in another 15 days. People can just SMS or send an e-mail to the nearest post office and a post man will come over to collect mail. Taking this one step further, cash delivery at

B V SUDHAKAR, CHIEF POSTMASTER GENERAL, KARNATAKA: The department will start pick post service from home in another 15 days. People can just SMS or send an e-mail to the nearest post office and a post man will come over to collect mail.

doorstep will also be started for senior citizens. A customer will just have to call the post office and share his account number details, following which a post man will deliver the money to his doorstep. The maximum amount that can be delivered is Rs 20,000 and the customer will be charged Rs 20 per transaction. People can also pay a one time fee of Rs 100. Customers can be assured of no cheating as everything will be computerised, said the post master.

He pointed out that the annual income generated by the department is increasing every year. In the year 2013-14, the department earned Rs 697 crore, this increased to Rs 801 crore in 2013-14 and Rs 907 crore in 2014-15. Around 378 post offices in the State offer core banking services. **DH News service**

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 9/2, Mahalaxmi Chambers, 6th & 7th Floors,
M.G.Road, Bengaluru - 01. Ph: 2532 0213 / 214 / 335 / 339
Fax : 2559 1412 E-mail: kerc-ka@nic.in
Website : www.karnataka.gov.in/kerc

No.Y/01/15/543Date: 09-07-2015

NOTICE

Sub : Draft "KERC (Procurement of Energy from Renewable Sources) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2015.

The draft "KERC (Procurement of Energy from Renewable Sources) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2015, is published in the State Gazette on 7th July, 2015. A copy of the draft is made available on KERC's Website www.karnataka.gov.in/kerc Interested Persons can file their written objections / suggestions / views, if any, on the draft Regulations to the **Secretary, KERC, on or before 6th August, 2015.**

Sd/- Secretary
KERC, Bangalore.

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL & BHEL IFCIL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

No. : SE/ERPCL/Y/PS/30Dated : 08.07.2015

SHORT TERM BID NOTIFICATION

Sealed bids in two parts are invited from qualified bidders for "providing power supply to temporary pump at KIADB Tank at YTPS". Interested bidders may collect the brief bid notification at the address given below. Details of NIT & brief bid notification can also be seen on KPCL website: www.karnatakapower.com The request for Bid document shall be accompanied by Crossed DD drawn for **Rs.105/-** (including 5% VAT) in favour of Deputy General Manager (Finance)-Thermal, RTPS, Shakthinagar-584170, Dist. Raichur payable at State Bank of Mysore, Shakthinagar (Code-40452) Raichur OR Syndicate Bank, Deosurgur (Code: 1813), Raichur Dist. If the bidder wishes to obtain the document by the post/courier an extra amount of **Rs.100/-** shall be paid along with the cost of bid documents. Blank bid documents will be issued from **13.07.2015 to 20.07.2015**. RPCL is not responsible for any postal delay. Last date for receipt of completed bids is on **20.07.2015 upto 16.00 hrs.** with EMD of **Rs.10,850/-** by the way of DD. Date of opening of Part-I (Pre-qualification & Technical Bid) is on **21.07.2015 at 16.00 hrs.** Date of opening of Part-II (Price Bid) will be on **21.07.2015 at 16.30 hrs.** Further details can be had from Superintending Engineer (Elec), RPCL, YTPS, Yermarus-584134. Mobile: 9449596480, Fax : 08532 286011. E-mail: seeytps@gmail.com

Government of India
Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CENTRAL EXCISE,
Bangalore Zone, P.B.No.5400, C.R. Building,
Queen's Road, Bangalore-560001

C.No. IV/16/354/2005 CC C.Ex(BZ)Date: 07.07.2015

Part file IV

Invites application in the prescribed format for empanelment of Senior and junior Standing Counsels for handling cases of Indirect Taxation matters (Customs, Excise & Service Tax), before various High Court of Karnataka, Tribunals and other Courts.

The eligible candidates may send their application to the under signed on or before 31.07.2015

The terms and conditions of the appointment and the guidelines are at Annexure I & II. The particulars to be furnished by an advocate/other eligible person applying for appointment as Jr./Sr./standing Counsel in Proforma 'A' and the application by officers who have retired from Customs and Central Excise Department in Proforma 'A-1.'

For the application and terms and condition please login to website :
<http://www.centralexcisebangalore.gov.in>

Last date for receiving the application	31.07.2015
Scrutiny of the applications	1st week of Aug '15
Interview for short listed applicants	2nd week of Aug '15

Sd/- (BASWARAJ NALEGAVE)
ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER

National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations are invited in the office of Project Director, NHAI, PIU-Mangalore for work of Erection of Traffic Signals at Nantoor Circle on NH-17 (New NH-66).

The details of above said work can be seen in the website www.nhai.org and in the office of Project Director, NHAI, PIU-Mangalore. The quotations are invited up to **1:00 PM on 24.07.2015** and the quotations will be opened on the same day at **3:30 PM** in the O/o. The Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, PIU-Mangalore, # 7-35/10(4), Shri Mahalingeshwara Temple Road, Near Pumpwell, Kankanady, Mangalore-575 002. Ph.no.0824-425 4499.

Sd/-
Project Director,
NHAI, PIU-Mangalore

NOT JUST ROADS, BUILDING A NATION

Government of Karnataka
Department of Public Instruction
Office of the Commissioner for Public Instruction, Centralised Admission Cell, Central Junior College Campus, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 009.
Ph.: 080-22228805, 22483145 E-mail : cackarnataka@gmail.com

Date : 10.07.2015

KARNATAKA STATE TEACHER ELIGIBILITY TEST (KARTET-2015) NOTIFICATION

Sub.: Submission of Online Application for Teacher Eligibility Test.

Ref.: 1) Govt. Order No. ED 87 Yoyoka 2013 Bangalore dated 14th Aug. 2013. 2) Letter No. C3(1)PSTR.TET Exam./02/2014-15 dt. 26-06-2015 from Commissioner for Public Instruction, Bengaluru-1.

With reference to the Govt. Order besides the required educational qualification, eligibility for teaching Ist Std. to 8th Std. in Govt./Aided/ Un-Aided Schools candidates should get eligibility in Teacher Eligibility Test. **KARTET Exam will be conducted on 20th Sept. 2015.** Duration for submission of Online application is from **13.07.2015 to 03.08.2015.** More information related to KARTET Exam is available in Department Website: www.schooleducation.kar.nic.in

Sd/- Special Officer

Mysore Minerals Limited
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.: MML/MKT/e-Auction 08/GNT/83/2015-16/1236 Date : 10.07.2015

e-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
SALE OF GRANITE BLOCKS THROUGH e-AUCTION PLATFORM
(<https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>)

e-Auction bidding is invited by Mysore Minerals Limited (MML) for Sale of Granite Blocks (Fresh Production) from interested Actual users / Value added Industries / Reputed Trading Firms on "as is where is" & on "ex-Quarry basis" from its various quarries as per the calendar of events mentioned below:

Last date for submission of interest for e-Auction	22.07.2015 upto 6.00 p.m.
Date of Pre-qualification Scrutiny	27.07.2015 upto 1.00 p.m.
Date & time of e-Auction	30.07.2015 11.00 a.m. onwards

Detailed e-AUCTION NOTIFICATION containing Lotwise details, calendar of events, Terms & Conditions of disposal and e-Auction Manual containing e-Auction procedure, can be downloaded from e-Procurement platform (<https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>) from **14.07.2015 onwards.** Interested parties/firms are requested to register in the e-Procurement platform well in advance and participate in the auction.

Sd/- General Manager (Mkt.)