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Hubballi-Ankola rail route gets green signal

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The Union Ministry for Environment and Forests has given a clean chit to the pending Hubballi-Ankola railway line and instructed the Railways to take up the project soon, said the Minister for Basic Infrastructure Development and Information and Public Relation Roshan Baig on Monday.

The project was opposed as it was feared that it would affect natural forest areas and its biodiversity there.

A committee to study and survey the areas was set up under head scientist T.V. Ramachandran of Indian Institute of Science.

The Minister had come to Ankola to inaugurate a district minority conference held there. Hubballi –Ankola railway line will promote connectivity between north Karnataka and coastal line and would certainly boost exim (export and import), activities, he said.

The tender process was under progress to develop Tadadi and Belekeri ports in a public-private partnership model and a team has gone to Gujrat to study more about the model.

The airports at Hubballi and Kalaburagi will be developed as an aircraft base .

Permission has also been granted to launch civil aviation at Bidar airport which was mainly meant for defense services earlier, the Minister said.

Former MLA Umesh Bhat was present on the occasion.