



Goa Propertiez Residential Plots In Goa @ 27 Lakhs Onwards
Sea Touch And Sea View Properties Also Available [Learn More](#)

Home India India-Others Supreme Court panel says no to mega rail link through Western Ghats

Supreme Court panel says no to mega rail link through Western Ghats

A joint venture between the Railways and the Karnataka government, the original project involved construction of 329 bridges and 29 tunnels, and required felling of more than 2.5 lakh trees on 965 hectares of forest land.

Written by **Jay Mazoomdaar**

New Delhi

Updated: Aug 24, 2015, 14:45

Like 1.3k

333

75

INDIA



J&K CM Mufti Sayeed passes away due to multiple organ failure: Here's what happened



LIVE: Mufti Mohammad Sayeed passes away, political leaders pay rich tributes

RELATED VIDEOS



Pathankot Attack Update: Sharif Tells Modi He Will Act



Technology makes life easier and convenient



BSE closes 174.01 points down on January 6

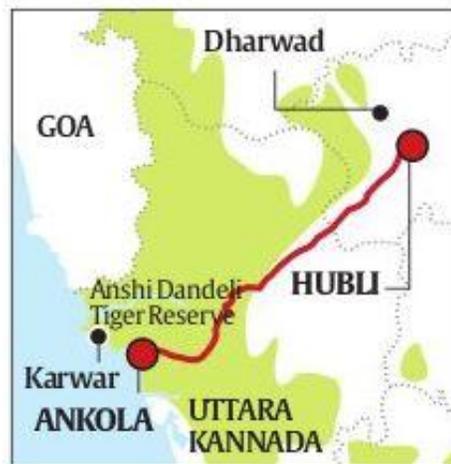


BSF seizes six packets of heroin from Punjab



Supreme Court underlined that the net present value of the modified requirement forest land for the project works out to Rs 7,426 crore ? more than triple the proj

The Rs 2,315-crore Hubli-Ankola railway line, cutting across the Western Ghats in Karnataka, has been shown the red signal by a Supreme Court panel on wildlife, which said that the project's "huge and irreparable" ecological damage would "far outweigh" its "actual tangible benefits".



Last August, Railways Minister D. V. G. Gowda, who is also a senior BJP leader in Karnataka, had claimed that he would get the Environment Minister Prakash Jadhav to issue an order and that the 168-km rail line would be completed in a year.

However, in its report submitted earlier this month, the Supreme Court Empowered Committee (CEC) underlined that the net present value requirement of 727 hectares of forest land for the project works out to Rs 7,426 crore ? more than triple the project cost.



S SAFFRA
TRUST IT'S NAME WE BUILD

EAST CREST
The east side story

2&3 BHK Premium Residences in Old Madras Rd, Starting from Rs. 55 Lac*

15 Min from Whitefield, Varthur & Indiranagar

KNOW MORE

SHARE THIS ARTICLE



RELATED ARTICLE



Final notification on Mumbai coastal road by November-end: Devendra Fadnavis



Mah sign MUT

“These figures most effectively demonstrate the extraordinary hi economic value of the forest land involved in the project,” it said, that the apex court may direct the Environment Ministry not to r approve the project it had earlier rejected.

MoEF officials refused to comment as the matter was sub-judice.

A joint venture between the Railways and the Karnataka governi project involved construction of 329 bridges and 29 tunnels, and more than 2.5 lakh trees on 965 hectares of forest land.

The proposal was rejected by the Environment Ministry in 2004 l modifications in 2006. Pushing the rail link in 2008, the Karnatak claimed it was “inevitable that the Western Ghats has to be pierc point to ensure this connectivity between coastline and eastern p

The CEC’s opinion follows a series of adverse reports the project l its foundation stone was laid by then prime minister A B Vajpaye

In 2002, the Karnataka forest department observed that no natio be served by dissecting the forest landscape of Uttara Kannada w when the potential of the existing alternatives such as Hubli-Vasc and Hospet-Vizag lines was yet to be tapped fully due to the low v traffic.

It further reasoned that the deposit of Bellary-Hospet itself woulc 20 years, making mining economically unviable.

But by then, the Railways had already started work on the project stretch. In 2003, the then Karnataka forest chief reiterated that “the terrain really do not permit a railway line” but the proposal “has been in the light” of “more than one commitment” already made by the state and the Railways Ministry.

Submitting the proposal to the Union Environment Ministry, Karnataka principal secretary (forest) acknowledged that the rail link “will disturb the forest and expose fresh areas to anthropogenic pressure”, but added that “these appear inevitable given the importance of the line”.

In May 2004, the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Environment observed that the project “for transporting mainly iron ore has no justification” while “this will simply be a tragedy on the prime forest of Western Ghats. Accordingly, the ministry rejected the proposal.

In the following months, the Railway Ministry mounted pressure on the state government over the importance of the project in view of increasing global demand for iron ore. In September, the FAC asked the Karnataka government to critically re-evaluate the proposal. The Railway ministry modified the proposal in 2005, reducing the land requirement to 720 hectare.

In 2006, two NGOs approached the CEC which found that though the proposal was rejected, work was in progress on a 40-km non-forest stretch. Before any further action, 80 per cent of earth and bridge works up to 47 km between Kiravatti and Chikmagalur was complete.

In 2011, the state government engaged the Indian Institute of Science to prepare a technical report. Recommending a Rs 450-crore mitigation package, the report said in 2012 that the proposed link would cut through a key biodiversity corridor and trigger conflict, while removal of trees would lead to the release of 3,69,000 tonnes of carbon and annual sequestration potential of upto 3,69,000 tonnes.

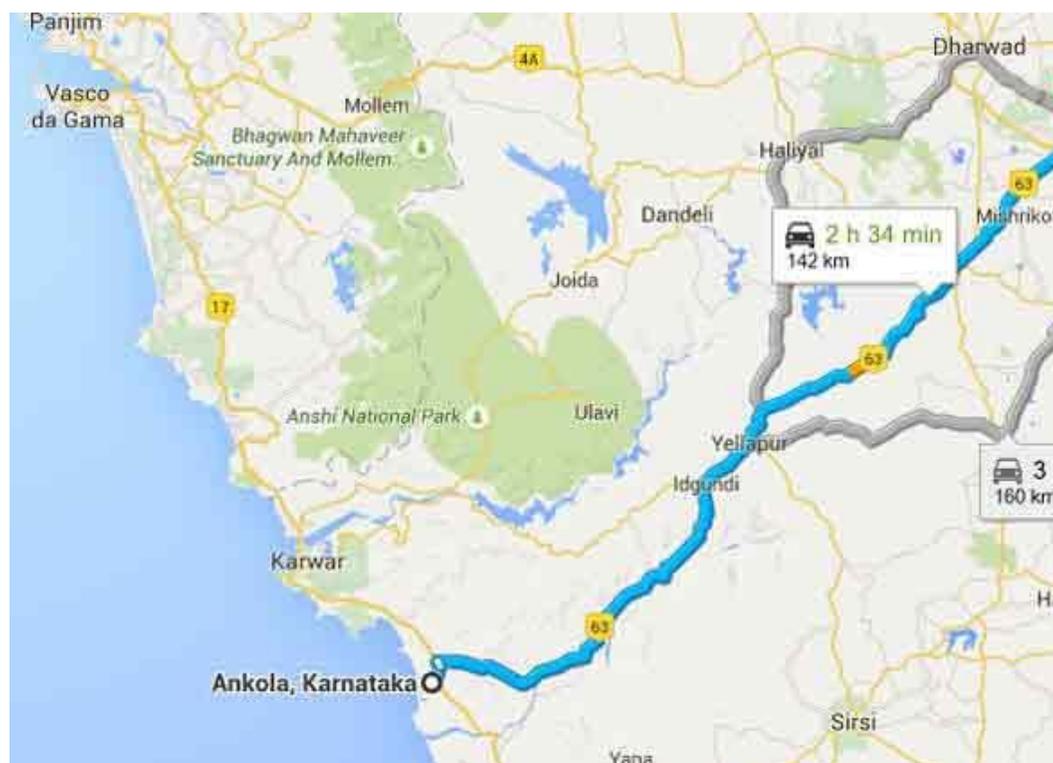
Between 2006 and 2013, the CEC held seven hearings and meetings with the state government and the Railways Ministry.

During this period, the Railways proposed to implement the project in Karnataka further reduced the total forest land requirement to 6

Dismissing the reduction in forest-land requirement, the CEC said of mitigation measures would be adequate to contain the severe damage to the biodiversity-rich dense forest of Western Ghats.”

However, it said that the MoEF may divert five hectares of fringe forest. The Hubli-Kalaghati stretch of the proposed link as sought by the Railways was confirmed that the segment would be commercially viable by itself.

13 YEARS, MANY TWISTS AND TURNS



Present road routes from Ankola to Hubli.

2002: Karnataka forest department says no national interest would be served by dissecting forest.

2003: Karnataka forest chief says forest and terrain “do not permit a rail link”.

2004: Environment Ministry panel says project will “be a tragedy for the Western Ghats forests”.

2005: Railways cuts forest requirement to 720 hectares.

2006: CEC finds work in progress on a 40-km non-forest stretch.

2012: IISc says link would cut through elephant corridor.

2006-2013: Railways says will implement project in stages, Karna requirement to 687 hectares.

2015: SC panel says “no amount of mitigation measures would be contain the severe adverse impact on the biodiversity-rich dense

DO YOU LIKE THIS STORY 29 4

Like 1.3k

555

73

FROM AROUND THE WEB



5 Celebrities who had a great New Year Party
LiveInStyle.com



Salary Credited! Take the wise step now, Start a SIP
Aditya Birla Money MyUniverse



Unique Lost Hair
Lifestyle Jc



25 things people don't tell you about being pregnant
Pregnancy



Ekta Kapoor: The Queen of Lavish Parties
LiveInStyle.com



Checkou celebrat
LiveInStyle



Top 5 small cars in India under INR 5 lakh

News



Turn your small castle into a massive fortress

Stormfall



You're C Tickets i

The Lotter

Recor

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE



How to party like Sunny Leone?

LivInStyle.com



Are you a strategic thinker? Test your skills with millions of addicted players!

Plarium



3 Crazy I Stories

theLotter

Recor

TAGS: Hubli-Ankola Railway Line Indian Railways Supreme Court

Is your data centre / future ready?!

Learn More >

CURRENT

RESULTS

FIXTURES

 NZ 182/4 (20.0 OV)

 SL 179/9 (20.0 OV)

SCORECARD

 AUS 172/2 (36.0 OV)

 WI 330 (112.1 OV)

SCORECARD

PHOTOS



Happy Birthday Bipasha Basu: Her best pictures with rumoured boyfriend Karan Singh Grover



Priyanka Chopra dazzles at People's Choice Awards



Jacqueline at Anil Kapoor's birthday celebrations in Dubai

BEST OF EXPRESS



India

Probing Pathankot attack: Fence floodlights that didn't work, gaps in border patrol



Opinion

Opinion: Left is stuck with old issues, writes Prakash Karat

India

Bajrang Dal leader Vivek Premi, who beat up & paraded Muslim, is out of NSA net



India
Chhattisgarh Tapes:
Congress expels MLA Amit
Jogi for six years



Business
Sensex tumbles 378 pts,
Nifty cracks 7,700 on
global rout



Entertainment
Priyanka wins for Quantico
at People's Choice Awards



Entertainment
Bollywood congratulates
Priyanka Chopra on her win
at People's Choice Awards



Incredible India campaign:
Contract over, govt did not
remove Aamir Khan



Entertainment
Katrina, Sidharth's 'Baar
Baar Dekho' to release on
Sep 9



Sports
Amla steps down as South
Africa Test captain



Sports
Over-age players a big
problem for cricket:
Sehwag



Sports

England, South Africa draw as weather plays spoilsport



Technology

Netflix in India: Here is how it will work



Technology

CES 2016: Lenovo launches unique PC products, says industry has missed the mark in India



Technology

Microsoft Surface Pro 4 launch in India: Here's everything you need to know



Lifestyle

An a cappella tribute captures the evolution of singer-composer AR Rahman as he turns 49

L&T Realty RRAINTREE BOULEVARD

NEW LAUNCH

**2, 3 & 4 BHK APARTMENTS
AT HEBBAL, BENGALURU
STARTING FROM
₹ 95 LAKHS***

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST ▶

JAN 07: LATEST NEWS



Priyanka Chopra, Johnny Depp: Big winners at People's Choice Awards 2016

11:10 am, Jan 07, 2016



US, Japan, S Korea vow tough response to N Korea H-bomb test

11:03 am, Jan 07, 2016

Govt's gold schemes will not lower demand for the yellow metal

11:00 am, Jan 07, 2016



Priyanka Chopra wins at People's Choice Awards: Bollywood congratulates the Quantico girl

11:03 am, Jan 07, 2016



HC allows govt to conduct interviews for professors in Anna University

10:52 am, Jan 07, 2016

Microsoft Lumia

Windows 10

Introducing the new Lumia 950 XL with Cortana.

Learn more

Hi, I'm Cortana.

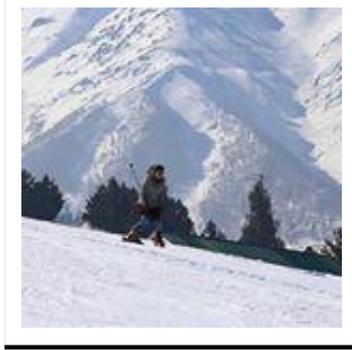
News Feed

The Indian Express

No fast food in schools canteen: CBSE

In a circular to all affiliated schools, the CBSE has written that consumption of food high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) has been found to ...

The Indian Express



#Tourists #enjoy #skiing at #Gulmarg in #Kashmir
Express photo by Shuaib Masoodi (@shuaibmasoodi) ...

Crowdynews

Fullscreen Social News feed

Engage your audience
with the power of social
Social content curation made easy

C CROWDYNEWS **LEARN MORE**

The Express Group | The Indian Express | The Financial Express | Loksatta | Jansatta | Ramnath Goenka Awards
Business Publication Division | Express Pharma | Express Healthcare | Food & Hospitality World | Express Travelworld
Express Computer
Privacy Policy | Advertise with Us | Contact Us | Subscribe

Copyright © 2016 The Indian Express [P] Ltd. All Rights Reserved

 Powered by **WordPress.com** VIP