



Sanchara Suddi

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"Navigating Bengaluru's Traffic Challenges" - An Exclusive Interview with Bengaluru City Police

Commissioner, Mr. B. Dayananda



Excerpts from the conversation our M.D Dr. Sanjeeva Kumar B.H, Traffic and Road Safety Expert, had with Mr. Commissioner, Bangalore City Police, on 5th of November, 2023

Dr. Sanjeev: According to the latest statistics, there is a humongous rise in the number of two-wheelers across Karnataka, especially in Bengaluru. As a Bangalorean how do you relate to the growing traffic and the reasons behind this growth?

Commissioner Sir: There is a phenomenal growth in vehicle population. The total number of vehicles increased from 55.26 lakh in 2013 to 1.11 crore as of July 2023, a 100% decadal growth. 75% of these vehicles are two-wheelers and managing them is a task and Traffic Police is doing it by the use of technology, man power and capacity building

Dr. Sanjeev: Traffic congestion has been a persistent problem in Bangalore. What strategies and interventions have you implemented or plan to implement to address this issue and make the city's traffic flow more smoothly? Also, your take on ban on Truck movement into CBD area?

Commissioner Sir: Earlier, one-way system was introduced in CBD area, which faced stiff opposition then, but it is proving its utility now. Bangalore earlier was known for its roundabouts which have been replaced by signals. Also, the main challenge now is to provide parking. We are in talks with BBMP to set up multilevel car parks and also make optimal use of existing multi-level car parks.

Dr. Sanjeev: In continuation, what is your take on Master Plan, Comprehensive Development Plans drafted for Bangalore, have they become obsolete?

Commissioner Sir: Master plan and CDP are very much required for planning various projects for the city holistically. The various stakeholders like the BDA, BMRDA and BBMP should implement the various projects listed in the CDP.

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Dr. Sanjeev: The issue of road infrastructure quality often leads to traffic jams and accidents. How is the city planning to improve road quality and maintenance to ensure safer and smoother traffic flow?

Commissioner Sir: Road infrastructure is a vital component of traffic management. We are investing in road quality improvements and regular maintenance.

Dr. Sanjeev: Bangalore witnesses frequent road accidents, including hit-and-runs. Pedestrian safety is a major concern, with vehicles coming on to the footpaths and hitting pedestrians in the recent past. What is the police department doing to ensure better enforcement of road safety rules?

Commissioner Sir: Road safety enforcement is a priority. We are increasing the number of traffic police personnel, using technology for better surveillance, and conducting awareness campaigns. Pedestrian safety is a top priority. We are implementing initiatives such as constructing footpaths, installing pedestrian signals, and raising awareness about the importance of zebra crossings.

Dr. Sanjeev: The proposed tunnel road project is generating a lot of interest. Could you provide insights into this?

Commissioner Sir: The tunnel road project is an innovative solution to address traffic bottlenecks. This will help in decongesting surface roads and improving the overall flow of traffic.

To watch the full video of the interview with the Commissioner of Police, log into

https://www.youtube.com/@SLSTTIC



Bengaluru Traffic Police has adopted the Automated Enforcement System for the city, wherein different types of offences,

- i. Not wearing seat belt
- ii. Not adhering to stop line at signal
- iii. Overspeeding
- iv. Not wearing Helmet
- v. Using mobile phone while driving
- vi. Signal jumping
- vii. Triple riding
- viii. Travelling in the wrong direction, are recorded automatically and challans generated,

What's NEWs in Bengaluru?!

∧ Purple line Metro Corridor connecting east and west Bengaluru is fully operational

- Traffic congestion at K.R Puram and Whitefield areas is significantly reduced
- Travel time for office goers is significantly reduced
- Metro overcrowded at all times time for increasing the frequency and the number of coaches on the Purple line

∧ Bengaluru has a total of 1.1 crore vehicles

are cars. This September, an average of 1300 new bikes and scooters and 409 cars were added every day. Despite many modes of public transport, including an expansive Metro network, and ridesharing apps, a significant section of Bengalureans still use private vehicles for daily commute.

But the BIG questions are,

Revenue generation versus easier and safer commutation?

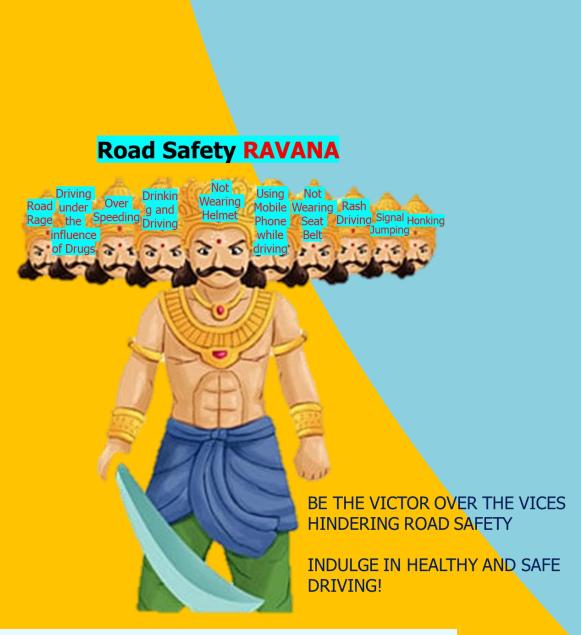
Are people upgrading to new variants of vehicles?

∧ Project Green Light, a Google Research initiative, is helping cities improve traffic flow at intersections and reduce stopand-go emissions - Green Light, a Google Research initiative, uses AI and Google Maps driving trends to model traffic patterns and make recommendations for optimizing the existing traffic light plans. City engineers can implement these in as little as five minutes, using existing infrastructure. By optimizing not just one intersection, but coordinating across several adjacent intersections to create waves of green lights, cities can improve traffic flow and further reduce stop-and-go emissions.

It is to be noted that early numbers indicate a potential for up to 30% reduction in stops and up to 10% reduction in emissions at intersections. Green Light is now live in 70 intersections in 12 cities from Haifa to Rio de Janeiro to Bangalore.



For more insight, watch, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6c NdpbUvE



To view the video on "Ravana's Heads – A Road Safety Take", please visit https://youtu.be/B o28E6GIRQ?si=fzdrEMmBp1m3TPzt

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