

Tramways, no answer

Sir: This is in reaction to the letter 'Tramways the answer' by B.R. Bhagavan (IE, Sept.2). I oppose the idea of introducing trams on the Bangalore roads. I had been on an all India tour recently during which I had an opportunity to visit Calcutta. I was really amazed to see the different modes of transport in Calcutta, as we are only used to the inadequate BTS. The buses, the trains, the metro trains and trams have been able to satisfy the transport needs of the Calcuttans. While the frequency of local buses (run mostly by private operators) and local trains did astonish me, the wisdom in retaining the trams was questionable. The trams are an obstacle to smooth traffic movement and have made traffic control on Calcutta roads more difficult. Due to slow speed of the trams and the length of two bogie trams, traffic jams are frequent. The tram tracks which run in the middle of the roads have destroyed the beauty of Calcutta roads. Besides, the low lying electric lines which provide power supply to the trams has made the growing of roadside trees a dream. It has also made the movement of big trucks and double deckers difficult. It is therefore better to dismantle the tram service in Calcutta itself, let alone extending the service to Bangalore.

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