

## IISc proposes high-speed rail from Bengaluru's Yeshwantpur to Hubballi

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BENGALURU: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has proposed a high-speed rail corridor from Bengaluru to Hubballi.

According to IISc, the HSR route could be taken up along with the current/proposed railway network with a route length of 400km and stations at Yeshwantpur (near IISc Bengaluru campus), Tumakuru, Chitradurga (near IISc new campus at Challakere), Davanagere and Hubballi.

IISc also conducted a case study for HSR from its Bengaluru campus to its new campus in Challakere. Challakere in Chitradurga district is also proposed to be developed as a 'science and technology city'. The case study describes how the productivity of a research institute can be affected by variations in transportation connectivity to Challakere.

The research paper, titled 'Quantifying wider economic impacts of high-speed connectivity and accessibility: case of the Karnataka high-speed rail', is authored by Saransh Sahu, a former MTech student at IISc, and Ashish Verma, professor and convener, IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab, department of civil engineering.

"Transportation connectivity is assessed with four scenarios: current road network and HSR with speeds of 180, 250 and 320kmph. The result of the case study shows that maximum achievable productivity gets affected with transportation connectivity level. Quantifying productivity in monetary terms has the potential of appraising cost-benefit analysis for HSR projects," the research paper stated.

"High-speed connectivity and accessibility through the transportation network in different regions are crucial for sustainable and uniform development. Results show transportation connectivity level is a key factor for institutional productivity. Through the case study of the IISc Challakere campus, it is shown that prospective industries setting up campuses at science city could benefit from the HSR route that decreases the travel time from Bengaluru to Challakere," it said. "Faster and affordable transportation attracts more workers to live outside campus and travel frequently. With the increase in the number of workers shifting outside, investment required for living infrastructure and services will also reduce."