

'Harihar-Hosapete train service to begin in July'

Harapanahalli: In what could be a rejoicing news for people of Davangere district and surrounding areas, particularly Harapanahalli, the much-awaited Harihar-Hosapete passenger train service is expected to begin from this July. However, the freight services on the route will begin from May end itself.

Divisional Railway Manager Ashok Kumar Jain, who visited the town to inspect various railway development works undertaken in the town, told press persons that presently, the Railways is operating a train from Harihar to Kottur in Ballari district. People of the region had been demanding to extend the train services to Hosapete. Fulfilling the demand, the Railways will initially begin freight services from Harihar to Hosapete by the end of May this year. The passenger train will be extended to Hosapete officially from July. The railways is already operating a daily passenger from Harihar to Kottur since two years.

Mr Ashok Kumar Jain said that Kottur-Hosapete train route is one of oldest train routes built by the railways. After a long struggle by the localites, it was repaired at a cost of ` 40 crore sanctioned by the Union government. The railway track connecting Kottur and Hosapete is completely perfect now and is all set for inauguration. Initially, the railways will operate freight train from Harihar to Hosapete. Passenger train services from Harihar to Hosapete via Kottur to begin from July this year, he confirmed.

Mr Jain also said that the operation of Harihar-Hosapete freight and passenger trains will facilitate building network and encouraging trade and commerce between Ballari and other parts of India. It will facilitate transportation of commercial crops like tobacco, pepper, cotton and maize apart from movement of iron ore and coal-based products from Mangaluru to Ballari through Kottur. It shortens the distance of travel and saves money and time for the railways as well as the passengers. It will also help the thermal power and steel plants operating in Ballari district. Presently, the passengers of Ballari and Hosapete region have to pass through Andhra Pradesh to reach Bengaluru, the capital city of Karnataka. However, the railways have worked out a plan to run trains on Hosapete-Kottur-Harihar/Davangere- Bengaluru route.

Railu Horata Samithi activists D Ranamal Jain, Idli Ramappa, Ibrahim Saab and others were present.

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