

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telephone density in Bangalore is 3 per 100 persons. Although this is low compared to Bombay (7.2 per 100) and Delhi (8.4 per 100), the number of telephone lines in the city has doubled in the last decade.

Despite being a manufacturing base for telecommunication products, Bangalore has a large waiting list for new connections. In 1992, there were more than 100,000 applicants on the waiting list, however, there are faster ways to get a new connection including the 'Tat Kaal' (immediate) plan, which is the fastest. Depending on the location, under this plan new connections take from 1 week to 2 months once an official premium of INR 30,000 is paid.

The situation is expected to improve in the next 2 to 3 years as private sector companies begin to participate in basic telecommunication services like cellular, paging and other types of value added services.

In addition to private sector initiatives, the Indian Telecommunications Department is planning an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) which will support telex, fax, videophone, data communication and e-mail applications. The Department is also expanding the number of connections by providing 80,000 new lines in the next year.

Bangalore offers relatively reliable international connections in comparison with other cities in India. The availability of high-speed data link earth stations, satellite linkages and leased data lines allow access to remote global networks and databases as well as the export of software.

POWER

In 1902, Karnataka was the first state in the country to harness hydro-electric energy to generate power. However, over the years, Karnataka has changed from a power surplus state to a power deficit state. In 1993 the supply gap was 20%.

The current installed capacity for power generation in Karnataka is about 3200 MW with a high dependence on hydro-electric power (70%). Bangalore is often faced with scheduled power cuts and blackouts which makes standby generators a necessity.

The present power shortfall is a result of inadequate capacity, slippage in project implementation, inefficient operation of existing plants and high transmission and distribution losses.

Private sector participation in power generation, which was approved under recent Indian economic reforms, should improve the situation. The State government has encouraged private companies, including overseas corporations, to participate.

Recently, Karnataka signed an agreement with Cogentrix for a 1000 MW power project at Mangalore and five more power projects are at an advanced stage of negotiation. Within the next five years, if these power projects are completed, the State expects to have approximately 9000 MW installed capacity. Karnataka will then be more or less self-sufficient with respect to its power requirements.

WATER

The river Cauvery, about 80 Km. from Bangalore, is the chief source of water for the city, but the supply source, pumping capacity and pipelines are currently under strain. This, coupled with an inadequate water distribution system, has resulted in water shortages. Private water is available by truck, graded by usage, and the municipality also supplies potable water.

INDUSTRIAL AREAS

Karnataka State has a number of industrial parks developed under the aegis of the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) and the Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation (KSSIDC).

Major industrial townships near Bangalore and their distances

Mysore	-	140 Km.
Tumkur	-	70 Km.
Kolar	-	90 Km.
Hosur	-	40 Km.

In and around Bangalore, there are 10 industrial parks covering an area of 5,000 acres. Peenya industrial area, on the outskirts of Bangalore, is spread over 1,500 acres and is one of the largest in India. In addition, there are approximately 25 industrial areas within 140 Km. (Mysore, Kolar, Tumkur). Map 3 indicates the major industrial areas around Bangalore.