

The Fatal Accident at Biodiversity Flyover in Hyderabad - A Case Study

Raja Sekhar Mamillapalli¹ and Srihari Vedartham²

¹Assistant Professor, National Institute of Construction Management and Research (NICMAR), Hyderabad, INDIA

²Professor, National Institute of Construction Management and Research (NICMAR), Hyderabad, INDIA

¹Corresponding Author: nitmtech@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Urban disasters, Traffic is unavoidable due to increase in density of vehicles without adding more road space to the city. This is demanding for more flyovers, grade separators to avoid congestion at the junctions. Hyderabad is congesting with many junctions adding up to the heavy traffic and waiting time, energy, fuel and polluting the city with noise and air pollution. For economic benefit and decongestion of major junctions, Flyovers were planned and constructed. To meet this demand in Gachibowli and Hi-Tech city area, a flyover was constructed by MVR Infra projects near biodiversity junction. The present paper describes the incident of fatal accident taken place on November 23, 2019. The study also reveals aftermath actions taken by the government of Telangana and suggested various sections in the Indian penal codes for such incidents.

Keywords-- Flyover, Bridge, Third Dimension, Traffic, Accident

the other projects such as highways, bridges, flyovers and airports.

It has the experience of 50 years plus in the construction industry and served the clients such as Airports authority of India, National highways authority of India, Goa state infrastructure Development Corporation and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

Few of the projects completed by the MVR infra projects are the Development of adequate road connectivity to the Visakhapatnam port it consist of additional link including road work and structures about 12 kilometers from Vishakhapatnam port area junction to NH-5 in association with National Highway authority of India. Construction of left over portion of airport runway, overrun, shoulders and strengthening of existing runway in the Vishakhapatnam airport in association with Airport Authority of India.

I. INTRODUCTION

Flyover Bridge is the one road or rail line above another either with or without subsidiary roads for the communication possible on the both the sides it is constructed along an intersecting highway over an at-grade intersection. The reason for the construction of the flyover bridge is due to the increase of the vehicular traffic day by day there isn't left to construct the roads beside the existing route the only option left to deal with it is to go third dimension and that is achieved through constructing a flyover bridge. Flyovers play the prominent role within streamlining the system of traffic control. By the utilizing the flyovers lot of time is saved by avoiding the intersections on the road which are not necessary for an individual. And this case is about on such project.

II. THE PROJECT CONTRACTORS

MVR Infra projects are the one of the fastest growing construction firm in India. It is established in the year 1962 and mainly focuses on the infrastructure segment projects in the country. And this firm is also into

III. THE MVR INFRA HYDERABAD PROJECT

The project is located in heart of the city it is a uni-directional and 990 meters long starting from DivyaSree Orion SEZ and ends after the biodiversity junction heading towards IKEA. It is constructed to reduce the vehicular traffic near the old Mumbai highway and the IT parks located near the Gachibowli and Hitech city.

It is the two level flyovers, whereas the level one begins at the Cyberabad Commissionerate and ends at the bio diversity junction and the second level begins from DivyaSree Orion SEZ and ends after the biodiversity junction heading towards IKEA. The first level flyover helps the motorists to skip the Gachibowli Biodiversity junction. The total cost of the project is 69.47 crores which have been awarded to MVR Infra projects. It has been proposed under the state government strategic road development programme (SRDP) and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)

The feature that makes this project monumental is the fact that the completion of the obligatory stance was done at the height of 17 meters from the road level making it highest flyovers in the city. It is a challenge for the construction of flyover in dealing with the density of the

traffic. The purpose of this project is to reduce the bottleneck traffics at the Hitech city and Gachibowli area

IV. THE INCIDENT

The incident was happened on the November 23, 2019 a businessman named K. Krishna Milan Rao was travelling towards Hitech city in his Volkswagen Polo GTI he has taken the biodiversity flyover at the Cyberabad Commissionerate at 01:17 pm and he was travelling at the speed of 105km/hr and there where as a steep curve while taking lost his control and as the flyover was having a steep turn hit the railing and flown off the flyover, allegedly as a result of speeding , crushing one women named Satyaveni to death the driver was safe and because the air bags where opened on time[1].

As per the statement given by the victim Satyaveni's daughter who was there at the site of accident. She said that she and her mother was waiting for the bus at the Gachibowli bus stand to go to her relatives house and

at around 1:19 pm suddenly a car from the top of the flyover appeared air flying and rolling in the air has fallen on the bus stand shelter taking the life of her mother on spot and the daughter was has escaped luckily with the minor injuries and scars and 6 others were also injuries in this incident.

The CCTV footage of the accident went viral on the social media platform and within no time the news was spread all over the town. The case has been filed by the Raidurgam police and the injured were sent to the hospital for treatment and later that evening DCP Madhapur addressed the press regarding the incident and said "The car was travelling at the high speed on the flyover and lost control as the result hit the railing and fell off the flyover. And the women who was waiting for the bus has been crushed by the car" and he further added that "total 6 people were injured and one was dead in the incident and a couple of cars parked outside the Nissan showroom were also damaged" [2].



Figure 1: Car falling down from the Flyover



Figure 2: Car hitting the ground and rolling over the bus stand

V. FALLOUT (AFTERMATH)

5.1 Police Complaint

So after the accident, the Raidurgam police have lodged a complaint on the motorist K. Krishna Milan Rao for rash driving, obstructing the traffic, injuring the person and loss/damage of the public and private property. The victims' family members have filed a complaint over the motorist for taking the life of person and the Nissan showroom manager filed a complaint on motorist for damaging the cars which were parked in front of the showroom [3].

5.2 Accused Reply

The accused Krishna Milan Rao responds to the complaints lodged on him claims that he wasn't over speeding and adds that he was driving at 40–50kmph. And further he blames the design of the flyover for the accident. He further demanded compensation from the GHMC for the damage of his car and his medical expenses.

5.3 Police Action – Investigation, Filing of Charges and Arrests

The police after undergoing through the investigation on the case concluded that the accused was driving at the speed of 104kmph with the reference of the nearby CCTV footage and the statement given by the eye witnesses. The RTA has revoked the driving licence of the Krishna Milan Rao for over speeding and negligence

driving. And the police further found out that blood alcohol content level of the accused at the time of accident was 185 mg/100 ml, as against the permissible level that is of 30 mg/100ml.

The police have filed the charges under IPC section 304 part II (on the act rashly or negligently endangering human lives), Section 336 who acts rashly or negligently on endanger human life, Section 185 whoever drive moto vehicle with the alcohol content over the permissible limit is imprisoned for 6 months or fined or both

5.4 Compensation for Victim

The government of Telangana has announced the ex-gratia of Rs.5 Lakhs to family of Satyaveni, the women who was died in the accident on the behalf of government. Mayor Bontu Rammohan has personally given Rs.3.5 Lakhs as compensation.

5.5 Safety Precautions after the Incident

People started calling it as the design of the flyover was immature and poor. The flyover was further shutdown for 2 months and the expert panel was formed and conducted the safety test on the flyover by the experts of JNTUH and later stated that there are no flaws in the design and the design was approved one. But the panel has suggested few safety measures such as rumble strips on the surface of the flyover, side barriers, speed limit boards, cutters which were not installed by the contractor before.

Later, they were installed by the contractors as the panel

suggested.



Figure 3: Side barriers/rollers installed all over the flyover after the incident



Figure 4: Rumble strips and sign boards were installed after incident

VI. INDIAN PENAL CODE SECTIONS

According to Indian penal code, the following sections furnish the actions to be taken by the police department. The section 174 explains the procedure to be followed by police office during unnatural death of a person. Whereas the 185 describes the alcoholic limit [30mg/100ml] in the blood while driving or attempting to

drive motor vehicle shall be punished with imprisonment of 6 months or with fine or both. The section 304A explains punishments for causing death by negligence. The Sections 336 and 337 says that the rash and negligent drive endanger the human life or personal safety of others will impose a punishment of imprisonment with or without fine.

VII. CONCLUSION

Urban traffic congestion issues can be addressed partial by adding more road space through flyovers. As the flyovers are free lanes without any heavy traffic, few commuters use it as racing track by accelerating high speeds which are not permitted on urban roads. Considering the speed limits, the design of the pavements and the safety barriers are to be provided as per the standard guidelines to avoid accidents and the intensity of damage. The present case study suggest that rash and negligent driving leads to accident. According to various sections of penal codes imprisonment or fine or both may be possible. Hence rash driving should be avoided during peak hours of traffic and at the places of narrow zones. Technology adoption for controlling and motoring of vehicle speed and unsafe driving behavior is to be regulated proactively before the harm is done to the commuters. Smart city technologies along with Artificial

Intelligence and Computer eye Systems can alarm rash vehicles on atleast flyovers which are having more threat to the commuters.

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