

Karnataka passes Bill for new traffic authority

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In news—The Karnataka Legislative Assembly has recently passed The Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Bill, 2022.

Key features of the bill-

- The legislation **will be applicable to the Urban Mobility Region of Bengaluru.**
- It is **aimed at the regulation of development, operation, maintenance, monitoring, (and) supervision of urban mobility within the said region.**
- The enactment of the Bill will **ensure a Comprehensive Mobility Plan** for the gridlocked city, by adopting sustainable urban transport models.
- The legislation also **provides for measures such as congestion parking, parking regulations, tolling, special purpose lanes etc.** to regulate travel demand in the Urban Mobility Region.
- **It addresses the overlap in responsibilities and functions of different institutions and departments** related to transport in the city.
- Moreover, the **National Urban Transport Policy had also laid down a framework** for the integration of various departments to enable holistic transport planning in cities such as Bengaluru.

Composition of BMLTA-

- BMLTA will **consist of 36 members with the Chief Minister of Karnataka as its ex-officio chairman,** along with **representatives from agencies such as BBMP, Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Bengaluru City Police, South**

Western Railways and National Highway Authority of India.

- Based on the suggestions made in the Assembly, **an MLA elected from Bengaluru**, who is a minister in the state Cabinet, will be its member.
- It will also **consist of three experts in the field of urban mobility, corporate governance or Law, Finance or Transport economics, two representatives from civil society organisations** working in urban mobility, **three representatives from institutions and associations** representing the private sector and professional bodies, and **two representatives from academic institutions**.

Functions of BMLTA-

- BMLTA can **establish an appropriate framework for engagement of the private sector in planning, development and management of mobility service delivery** and effective contract execution by the Urban Transport Agencies, Traffic Management Agencies and Infrastructure Development Agencies.
- **Recommending policy measures, issuance of permits, registration of vehicles**, operation of mobility services, handling of goods, management of traffic flow and other issues fall under the ambit of BMLTA.
- The agency will also **prepare a parking policy, non-motorised transport policy**, transit-oriented development policy, multi-modal integration policy and freight transport policy.
- BMLTA will also have to **prepare a traffic management plan at least once a year**, with a detailed traffic flow plan for road networks, movement of a certain type of vehicles such as freight and construction vehicles, traffic calming measures including a partial or full closure of streets, traffic management plans for special occasions, incident management plan, emergency evacuation plans etc.