

The foundation stone for the airport at Bellary was laid, at the hands of Sri Kurubara Ramesh and Smt. Kurubara Meenakshi, farmers from Changanur village, in the auspicious presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr. B. S. Yeddiyurappa and the Hon'ble Opposition leader in the Lok Sabha, Ms. Sushma Swaraj. The Bhoomi Pooja ceremony was presided by Mr. B. Sriramulu, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka. MARG has set up a special purpose vehicle (SPV) in the name of MARG Sri Krishnadevaraya Airport Ltd. to execute the project.

Mr. Ananth Kumar, Member of Lok Sabha (Bangalore South) & General Secretary (BJP); Mr. M. Venkiah Naidu (Sr. BJP leader), Mr. G. Janardhana Reddy (Hon'ble Minister for Tourism & Infrastructure Development, Government of Karnataka), Mr. G. Karunakara Reddy (Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Government of Karnataka), Mr. Shasheel-G-Namoshi (Chairman of Dr. Nanjundappa Report Implementation Committee) and Mr. N. Rudragowda, President, Zilla Panchayat, Bellary were present on the occasion.

MARG Limited, has been awarded the contract for the development and operation of the Greenfield airport by the Government of Karnataka, on a build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis under the public-

private partnership (PPP) model. Mr. GRK. Reddy, C.M.D, MARG Group was also present at the ground-breaking ceremony.

Bellary Airport will come up on 900 acres of land at Sanganakar village (around 12 kms. from Bellary), which the state government has acquired for the Greenfield airport.

"MARG is happy to be partnering with the Government of Karnataka in developing a world class Greenfield airport at Bellary. This airport will be a magnificent gateway to the exotic second fastest growing district in Karnataka after Bangalore. We are confident that Bellary Airport will be a giant leap towards bridging the gap between the potential growth centres and urban centres in the state," says Reddy.

MARG will operate and maintain the airport for 30 years, post which it will be transferred to the state. In addition to terminal buildings, runways and control towers, MARG will also develop access facilities and build utilities necessary to serve the airport during the operational phase. MARG would plan and undertake the development of facilities, amenities and other infrastructure like an aviation academy, exhibition / convention centre, business parks, shopping mall, flying club, theme / entertainment parks etc. which would address the needs of the local population and tourists.

# BELLARY GREENFIELD AIRPORT PROJECT TAKES OFF

