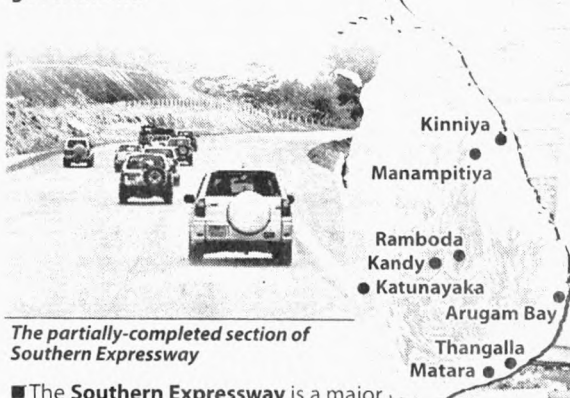


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Highways and bridges - new era of development

Constructing, renovating and rehabilitating highways and bridges in the country were key development projects initiated by President Mahinda Rajapaksa and his government.

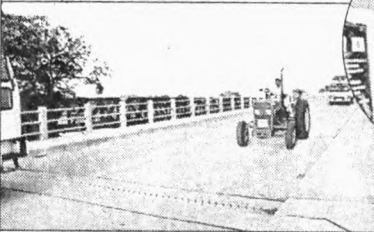


The partially-completed section of Southern Expressway

■ The **Southern Expressway** is a major development scheme launched by the government at a cost of Rs.59.5 billion. A four-lane highway now half completed, it will be completed in 2010.

■ The 22 metres long **Ramboda tunnel** has been completed and opened for the public under the road rehabilitation program.

■ **Colombo-Katunayaka** expressway is under construction at a cost of Rs. 32,120 million.



New Manampitiya bridge

■ Bridges are also part of the highway development projects initiated by the present government and several major bridges have been completed or are still under construction around the country. The 302 metres long two lane **Manampitiya bridge** has been built across Mahaweli river at a cost of Rs. 1,278 million. The bridge is 160 metres long **Arugam Bay Bridge** which cost Rs. 1,400 million was built across Arugam Bay in Pottuvil.

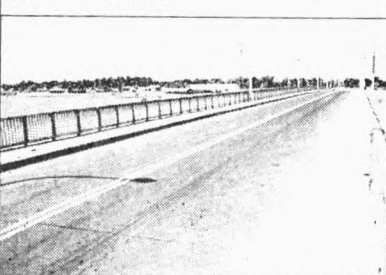
■ The 207 km long major highway in Ampara, Badulla, Moneragala and Hambantota districts have been rehabilitated at a cost of Rs. 2,889 million.

■ **Colombo-Matara** highway has been completed (115 kms from Matara to Kalutara) at a cost of Rs. 2,330 million.



■ The 55 km long **Balangoda-Bandarawela** highway has been rehabilitated at a cost of Rs. 5,084 million.

■ The rehabilitation of **Nuwara Eliya-Badulla, Kandy-Mahiyangana, Puttalam-Anuradhapura** and **Puttalam-Padeniya** highways have commenced. The 81 km two-lane highway of **Padeniya-Anuradhapura** which started in May 2009 cost Rs. 5,720 million.



New Arugam Bay bridge

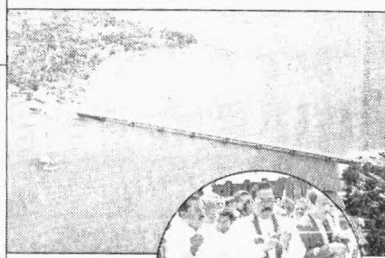
New Ramboda tunnel

■ The 1,107 km long highways which cost Rs. 15,267 million have been rehabilitated covering the Western, Wayamba, North Central, Uva, Central and Sabaragamuwa Provinces.



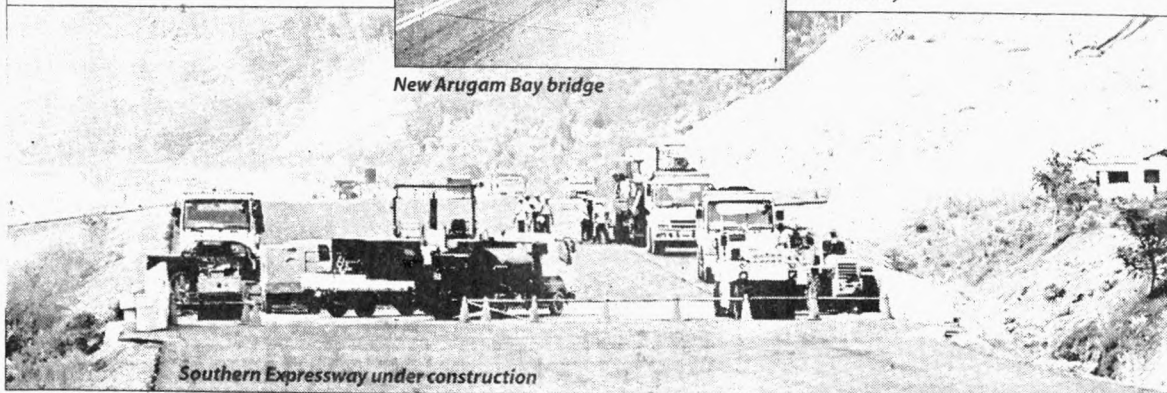
■ 7,817 km long rural highways have been renovated costing Rs. 10,536 under the 'Maga Neguma' program.

■ The longest bridge in Sri Lanka, the 396 metre long **Kinniya bridge** which cost Rs. 786 million was opened by President Mahinda Rajapaksa on October 20, 2009.



New Kinniya bridge

■ The 175 metre long **Bentara bridge**, 130 metre long **Kandy-Katugastota bridge** and **Tangalla bridge** are other major bridges constructed around the country.



Southern Expressway under construction

Pictures: AFP, Sudath Silva

Observer graphics by Mahil Wijesinghe