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GPS made mandatory for school vehicle permits

• Staff Reporter



Private school managements are opposing the order. File photo



Private school managements are opposing the order.— File Photo

Vehicles registered before July 13 have up to Oct. 12 to install

In what could raise a storm, the district administration has made it mandatory for all new school buses and vans managed by school managements or outsourced vehicles to have GPS installed, failing which permits to ferry school children would not be issued.

The Bangalore Urban Deputy Commissioner, who is the Chairman of the Regional Transport Authority, issued the order about a fortnight ago, directing all school buses registered after July 13 to install GPS immediately. The vehicles registered before July 13 have to complete GPS installation by October 12, a release on Wednesday said.

However, this has been opposed by private school managements. Sources said this would not apply to private school vans and buses.

Private school managements pointed out that a similar directive issued by the Police Commissioner in July last year was challenged in the High Court. In fact, the Karnataka Motor Vehicles (Conditions for Vehicles Engaged in Transport of School Children) Rules, 2012, which lays down guidelines for safety of children in school vehicles also does not mention making GPS mandatory.

Although the release quotes the Supreme Court order and the government notification, experts point out that the Supreme Court order has no mention of GPS. D. Shashi Kumar, of Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, questioned Mr. Shankar's