



Hyderabad Metro Rail MD NVS Reddy speaking at a panel discussion held at Indian School of Business in Hyderabad

## Metro Rail will transform Hyderabad: HMR chief

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**Hyderabad:** Stating that infrastructure projects have to be citizen-centric rather than being mere engineering projects, Hyderabad Metro Rail MD N V S Reddy informed that Hyderabad Metro Rail project is aimed at transforming Hyderabad as a safe and people-friendly green city with emphasis on high quality public spaces.

The HMR-MD was speaking at a panel discussion on "Examining the role of technology, government and the private sector in re(building) a smart city" organised by McKinsey Global Institute at Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad on Monday evening.

The HMR MD stressed on the importance of an efficient public transportation system for a smart city and the role of citizens in it. He urged the corporates to join hands with government in the transformation of Hyderabad as a global city as per the vision of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

He said that cities should not be built for cars but have to be built for women, children, senior citizens, differently-abled and all other sections. He pointed out that currently 40 lakh vehicles were plying on Hyderabad roads and every year four lakh vehicles were being added, leaving no space for citizens to walk. "As a result of this, people are being deprived of space for walking and it is affecting their health with air and noise pollution," he said.

Explaining about the HMR project, Reddy indicated that technology was not only for technology sake, but it should serve the needs of people and provide technical solutions to socio-economic problems and eradi-

- ▶ Hyderabad Metro Rail MD N V S Reddy says an efficient public transportation system indispensable for a smart city
- ▶ Corporates urged to join with government in transformation of Hyderabad as a global city
- ▶ Says HMR is an example for engineering and financial innovation

cate poverty. Illustrating how latest technologies have been harnessed to build the project, he said that Hyderabad Metro Rail was an example for engineering and financial innovation. Sidewalks and skywalks would be built to connect nearby schools, offices, hospitals and private properties directly to Metro stations, added Reddy.

To provide last mile connectivity, Metro Rail stations would have feeder bus services and bicycle facilities to nearby residential colonies, offices and shopping areas. He also added that multi-modal connectivity was being provided with integration of Metro with main railway stations, MMTS stations and bus depots.

McKinsey Global Institute director Jonathan Woetzel and Hong Kong University Professor of Urban Design Guy Perry, who participated in the discussion, emphasised on the need to redesign cities to encourage public transport, cycling and walking so that cities improve the health of their people by practically working as 'open gyms'.

They stated that Hyderabad should aim at being its own self and shall be a better Hyderabad rather than imitating some other mega city in the world.