

Deal struck as Metro authorities agree to keep the road width to 65 ft as against the proposed 100 ft

# Sultan Bazaar traders fall in track

V. GEETANATH

**H**yderabad Metro Rail project execution received a major thrust on Sunday — Metro Rail authorities and the Sultan Bazaar traders agitating for an alignment change in the site have buried the hatchet and have struck a deal.

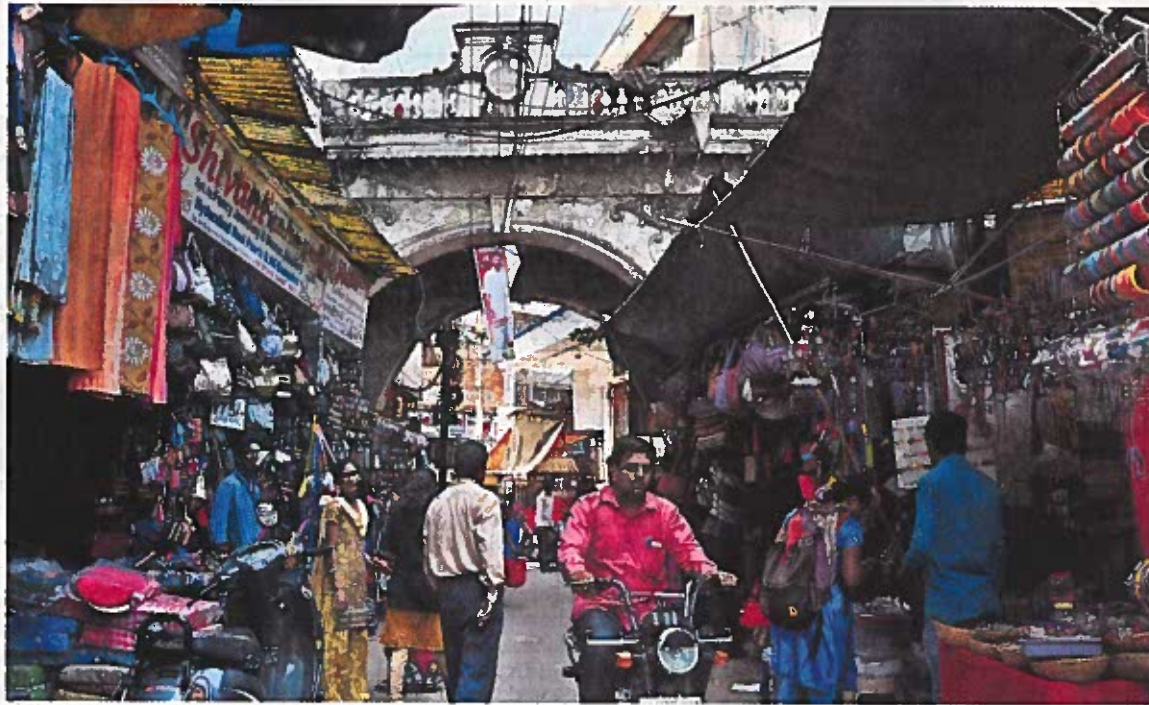
After intense negotiations between the traders, Metro Rail officials and top TS Government functionaries in the last couple of months, it was decided to keep the road width at 65 ft at Sultan Bazar — from Bata showroom to Andhra Bank crossroads, instead of the 100 ft as was originally proposed in the Master Plan reducing the need for major demolition of properties.

Metro Rail officials have also agreed towards reducing road width to 80 ft in the roads connecting to Sultan Bazaar. This is from Kacheguda crossroads to Bata showroom or Bade Chowdi and again from Andhra Bank crossroads till Puthlibowli junction.

“Eighty per cent of our traders, including property owners and hawkers, have decided to accept this solution. Metro Rail authorities have assured us of minimal property acquisition and demolition plus rehabilitation of affected traders and also hawkers,” said V. Kishen Yadav, president, Sultan Bazaar Traders Joint Action Committee for alignment change of Corridor Two

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**V. Kishen Yadav,**  
president, Sultan Bazar Traders JAC



The bustling Sultan Bazaar street from where the proposed Metro Rail will pass through. — FILE PHOTO: G. RAMAKRISHNA

- Jubilee Bus Station to Falaknuma.

Mr. Yadav pointed out that the Metro Rail authorities had vowed not to acquire properties or start work till “everyone is convinced and they stuck to their word”.

“We do not want to go against development of the city and we are happy with the financial package also being offered,” he said.

He pointed out that the proposed alignment change, which would have entailed taking the Metro Rail piers into the University College of Women, Koti, and also onto Osmania Medical

College (OMC) besides quite a few private properties at a considerable cost, was not worth the effort.

Bowing to the traders’ demand, Metro Rail authorities have agreed to spare the GHMC municipal complex and Sardar Patel Trust Bhavan in the area.

It is estimated that about 500 traders and 160 hawkers do business on this stretch from Kacheguda crossroads and Puthlibowli.

“Sultan Bazaar is a unique case. We are trying to minimise affecting shop space to five feet to 10 ft and will pro-

vide alternative accommodation to any trader losing more than 25 per cent space. Our Sultan Bazaar Metro complex at Puthlibowli has 80 shops and can have 130 hawkers,” said HMR MD N.V.S. Reddy.

The HMR wants to “rejuvenate” the decades-old bazaar and pedestrianisation along with skywalks at OMC will give it a major fillip. With the acquisition of a fuel filling station near OMC at a cost of Rs.13 crore, the market would have direct approach to the overhead station through a skywalk, he said.

## Religious structures to be rehabilitated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**HYDERABAD:** Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) authorities have decided to take up ‘rehabilitation works’ of religious structures on priority to ensure faster completion of the Metro Rail works apace in the twin cities.

Conscious of the traffic jam on roads where the Metro Rail construction is on, senior officials of both the organizations, including GHMC Commissioner and Special Officer B. Janardhan Reddy and HMR MD N.V.S. Reddy, decided to ask their personnel to identify space in all critical traffic stretches for creation of bus bays so that buses do not stop on the main carriage way and block free flow of traffic.

The traffic police too will be roped in to help in designing model bus stops that are ‘aesthetic’ and ‘comfortable’ for commuters.

At a coordination meeting with top officials — HMDA Commissioner T. Chiranjeevulu, Rangareddy Collector Raghunandan Rao, SCB CEO Sujatha Gupta and DCPs (Traffic) L.S. Chohan, A.V. Ranganath, and Avinash Mohanty to discuss measures to speed up Metro Rail work, it was decided to take immediate action against footpath and road encroachments.

Dr. Reddy wanted the traffic police to monitor collection of parking lots fee.

The GHMC has permitted Water Board to collect road cutting charges and HMR to shift utilities near Sarathi studios.