

The Hindu - 09/7/2016

# Metro Rail to plant 1.5 lakh saplings

HMR has also translocated 2015 trees and planted 120 saplings for each tree removed

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**HYDERABAD:** Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited will take up plantation of 1.5 lakh saplings on July 11 as part of the State wide 'Haritha Haram' programme.

This will be in addition to the four lakh saplings planted since 2012 as part of the avenue plantation.

Metro Rail MD N.V.S. Reddy pointed out that about 38,000 saplings were distributed to senior citizens, stu-

dents, housewives in various residential localities. For developing green belts along the metro rail corridors, depot lands, station locations about 50,000 shrubs were planted and are being well maintained.

Flower beds were also developed under the metro rail viaduct where one lakh saplings have been planted.

All these activities were taken up after the metro rail authorities took clearance from the Forest Department

under the WALTA Act, to remove 4,453 trees for creating Right of Way (RoW) for the project.

Besides, the HMR has also translocated 2015 trees and it had planted 120 saplings for each of the tree removed.

These 120 saplings for removal of each tree are against five saplings prescribed by the Forest Department or more than 24 times of the prescribed plantation, explained Mr. Reddy, a press release said.

The Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited has taken up avenue plantations, development of central median under the metro viaduct, green track development along the metro rail corridors, flower beds at station locations and picturesque aesthetic promenade development at Parade Grounds and Gymkhana Grounds to safeguard and sustain the ecological balance and enhance the urban rejuvenation of this historic city.