

Shuttles make Metro top pick

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Metro Rail services, which emerged as an effective mode of public transport in a short span, is taking further steps to reduce traffic congestion on city roads by introducing shuttle services on the busy IT corridor. If the launch of Metro services on the Ameerpet-Hitec City route last month came as a big relief for scores of IT employees and other workforce in Madhapur and its vicinity, the shuttle services helps them reach their workplace more comfortably. In tune with the increasing ridership, L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited launched free shuttle services from Durgam Cheruvu station to Raheja Mindspace, Ascendas IT Park and Inorbit Mall. These services operate from 8 am to noon and from 4 pm to 9 pm on weekdays.

In addition to these, 12 companies, involved in IT and ITES operations, with campuses located on the IT corridor, also commenced shuttle services from Hitec City and Durgam Cheruvu stations for the convenience of their staff, Metro officials said. According to the officials, the average daily patronage on all routes increased to nearly 2.30 lakh passengers on weekdays.



On Wednesday, the Metro ridership touched 2.60 lakh, including 9,000 paper tickets sold for the IPL match at Uppal stadium. "Every week, we

see an addition of about 4,000 commuters," Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited Managing Director NVS Reddy said. The introduction of shuttle services by the IT and ITES companies is a major step — their staff, on disembarking at Hitec City or Durgam Cheruvu stations, can hop into the bus and directly reach their offices without having to hail shared autos or use other transport. "More such services are likely to be launched soon," an official said. The introduction of shuttles followed a series of meetings between HMR officials and these firms. They were advised to convert their long-distance feeder buses operating beyond LB Nagar, Uppal and Miyapur into shuttle services.

Passenger-friendly

- L&T MRHL launches free shuttle service from Durgam Cheruvu station to offer last mile connectivity

12 companies also commence shuttle services from Hitec City, Durgam Cheruvu stations

- More such services expected to be launched in days to come
- Metro patronage crossed **2.30 lakh** passengers a day
- On **April 17** it touched **2.60 lakh** passengers

HMRL EYES ONE MILLION PASSENGER TARGET

HMRL, which transports 2.3 lakh passengers every day, is aiming for an ambitious 10 lakh figure in the coming years. The company is taking several measures to improve the last mile connectivity for commuters, said the company's top official at the Hysea's annual infrastructure summit on Thursday. HMRL MD NVS Reddy said: "We are aiming to make Hyderabad a green city with our Metro rail project. From easing commute to saving energy, we are going to make a major impact on Hyderabad".