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# HMRL gets tough with encroachers

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

In a three-day drive taken up by the Hyderabad Metro Rail, several encroachments on sidewalks and pedestrian spaces, including some permanent ones, were removed.

The HMRL, in a press release, said the drive was undertaken as the designated sidewalks/footpaths, service roads and parking areas being developed by it in the Metro Rail corridors were getting encroached upon and misused by some shopkeepers, vendors and hawkers.

The encroachments that were cleared in the last three days include over 20 permanent structures (steps, walls and railings), 300 temporary structures (pan dabbas, kiosks and tea stalls), 130 temporary stalls, and 300 hoardings. These were found to be obstructing the free movement of pedestrians and thus removed in the demolition drive in Malakpet/LB Nagar stretch of Metro Rail corridor-I, said HMRL Managing Director NVS Reddy.

Inspecting the demolished structures on Sunday,



Staircase of a commercial establishment being demolished on the Malakpet-LB Nagar stretch of Metro Rail corridor.

Reddy instructed the HMRL engineers to create more parking places in the retrieved open spaces and provide safety railings and bollards to the newly laid footpaths, wherever re-

quired, to prevent encroachments.

He also warned that strict action would be taken against those who occupy footpaths and service roads, the press release added.