

SHORT TAKE

## METRO FREE SHUTTLES TAKE OFF

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HYDERABAD, MAY 2:

In order to facilitate commuters in IT Corridors, the Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited has started free shuttle services with a shuttle departing every 20 minutes as part of its last-mile connectivity programme. HMRL managing director N.V.S. Reddy and the Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar on Thursday flagged off the dedicated Microsoft shuttle services from Hitec City Metro Station to the Microsoft campus in the presence of the Microsoft vice-president Rajiv Kumar and L&TMRHL managing director K.V.B. Reddy.

On the occasion, Mr N.V.S. Reddy said that 20 IT/ITES companies have introduced shuttle services from Hitec City and Durgam Cheruvu Metro stations to their respective campuses. These companies include Value Labs, Epam, Invesco, Verizon, Cambridge, ICICI Bank, Novartis, Hexagon, etc. He further mentioned L&TMRHL's "merry-go-round" services from Durgam Cheruvu and Hitec City Metro stations to Gachibowli and the Financial District areas and said that these shuttle services had become extremely popular. Additionally, he indicated that with last-mile connectivity emerging, Metro ridership has begun to rise and that about 2.5 lakh passengers were recorded to be using Metro Rail services on a daily basis. "We bring to you the Free Metro Feeder Services that are available from Hitec City Metro Station to Deloitte G. Block, Xilinx, and DLF, Monday to Friday from 8 am to 12 pm and from 5 pm to 9.30 pm, with a service frequency of 20 minutes. Please contact the Hitec City Metro station staff for more details," he said.

Stating that Microsoft has an abiding commitment to environmental sustainability, Mr Rajiv Kumar indicated that the shuttle services from campuses to Metro stations would benefit the employees a great deal and help reduce traffic congestion in the area.

Mr Sajjanar made an appeal to other companies to run similar shuttle services in order to minimize traffic congestion in the Cyberabad area. Mr K.V.B. Reddy informed the gathering that several IT/ITES campuses had started purchasing Metro Smart Cards in bulk and asked those who might be interested to contact Mr Rishi Verma of L&TMRHL on 994915833.