

[Art Initiative]

Metro pillars to showcase TS pride

Officials roping in artists to use them to unfold State's history

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The mammoth pillars that dot the corridors of the Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) will not only facilitate coaches to chug along and help commuters travel in comfort and with speed, but will also showcase the rich and varied heritage of Telangana.

HMR authorities are in the process of roping in artists and firms to use these plain pillar spaces as a canvas to unfold the State's history and heritage in rich and vivid colours. Using different art forms including murals, the initiative will also have the pillars depicting the flora and fauna and monuments of the State.

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NEW CANVAS: Most of the pillars sport ads. — Photo: Hrudayanand

Presently, most of these pillars sport advertisement boards promoting different products and services. In addition to these, the authorities have planned to put these to use for promotion of the State's heritage and culture. Artists were invited to come up with works with different themes to design and paint in a medium of their choice, mosaic, terracotta, ceramic etc. "They

can come up with a subject of their choice whether it be monuments, wildlife or landscapes," said an official.

Two of the four sides of the pillars facing the traffic will be used for the purpose while the other two faces will go for advertisement boards, he said.

To begin with, HMR intends to launch a pilot project on the Jubilee Hills-Hitech City stretch covering 100 pillars. Depending on

the feedback for the project, efforts will be made to emulate it on the stretches across the three corridors of the Metro. The idea is to make the Metro add a new aesthetic touch to the city's ambience. Since the Metro pillars are covering major stretches, they will come in handy in enhancing the city's landscape, besides helping spread information on the State's culture and history, the official added.