

Safety panel nod for Metro roll-out

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ALL CLEAR

Hyderabad: In a move that finally clears the decks for the 30-km Miyapur to Nagole flag-off of the much awaited Hyderabad Metro Rail, the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) on Monday gave L&T Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (LTHMRL) the green light to operate the stretch between SR Nagar and Mettuguda.

L&T officials said they got the clearance to inaugurate the entire 30-km stretch after a team of officials from the CRS, led by commissioner of railway safety (south central circle), Ram Kripal, inspected the Hyderabad Metro Rail works over three days.

The CRS team, which was in the city from November 17 to 19, inspected the civil works, tracks, Rail Over Bridge (RoB), viaducts, stations, electricals, signalling and train control systems, telecommunication, rolling stock and other systems of the Hyderabad Metro Rail, and also conducted speed trials.

An elated municipal administration minister KT Rama Rao tweeted late in the eve-

ning: "Happy to announce that Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety cleared 10-km stretch from Mettuguda to SR Nagar. All statutory clearances in place now for Hyderabad Metro. All set for launch now."

So far, the Hyderabad Metro Rail had clearances only for operating the 8-km Nagole-Mettuguda and the 12-km Miyapur-SR Nagar stretches on the 30-km Miyapur-Nagole corridor, with the 10-km Mettuguda-SR Nagar stretch being the crucial missing link. While L&T secured the safety clearance for the Nagole-Mettuguda stretch in April 2016, it got the nod for the Miyapur-SR Nagar stretch in August 2016.

► Missing Link: P2

SR Nagar-Mettuguda was missing link in 30-km Metro rail corridor

Minor Pending Works To Be Finished Soon

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Hyderabad: Even as the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) gave L&T Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (LTHMRL) clearance to operate the stretch between SR Nagar and Mettuguda, Metro Rail officials said this stretch was an important link to completing the Nagole-Miyapur corridor.

"This authorisation will enable us to operate the Metro Rail from Nagole to Miyapur via Ameerpet Interchange Metro Station seamlessly. CRS approval for Stage-1 - Nagole to Mettuguda and Stage-2 - Miyapur to SR Nagar have already been authorised for commissioning. This is a great moment for team L&TMRHL and its partners," said L&TMRHL managing director and chief executive officer Shivanand Nimbargi, pointing out that the minor pending works along the corridor would be completed shortly.

Both, the state government and L&T were worried about clearance for the missing stretch, which was mandatory for kicking off operations as the Telangana government had already invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Miyapur-Nagole corridor, as part of first phase of the project on November 28 when he is slated to inaugurate the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017, to which President Donald Trump's daughter and advisor Ivanka Trump will be heading the US delegation.

Though the L&T and Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited had initially proposed kicking off operations on the 8-km Nagole-Mettuguda stretch, the state government had turned it down stating that running the service on such a short route would not serve any purpose and asked the project developer to complete the entire 30-km corridor.

In fact, a few days ago KTR had announced in the Assembly that if only an 8-km stretch was inaugurated, it would not serve the purpose of commuters and the much vaunted Hyderabad Metro Rail may be labelled a failure.

ALL HURDLES CLEARED, METRO READY TO CHUG OFF

CLEARING THE DECKS FOR 30-KM MIYAPUR TO NAGOLE FLAG-OFF OF HYDERABAD METRO RAIL, COMMISSION OF RAILWAY SAFETY ON MONDAY GAVE L&T HYDERABAD METRO RAIL LIMITED THE GREEN LIGHT TO OPERATE STRETCH BETWEEN SR NAGAR AND METTUGUDA

KTR @KTR TRS

Happy to announce that Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) cleared 10 km from Mettuguda to SR Nagar. All statutory clearances in place. Now for Hyderabad Metro @hmrgov



Metro to chart indelible route on Hyd map, says HMRL boss

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Hyderabad: After all the ups and downs and twists and turns, Hyderabad Metro Rail is finally gearing up to chug off, thanks to the final hurdle being cleared — the safety clearance being granted for pending 10-km Mettuguda-SR Nagar stretch by Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle.

There is no one more relieved and excited than the man who has been at the helm of Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL). "I am extremely elated," HMRL managing director NVS Reddy told TOI on Monday. "The way we were working towards making Metro a reality, we knew all safety approvals would come and

that it was only a matter of time," he added.

Reddy, who feels Metro rail is very significant for the city and will chart its own indelible route on city's history, said: "The history of Hyderabad will henceforth be seen as pre-Metro and post-Metro. The Metro rail will change the face of city forever and for the better."

He said development of Hyderabad Metro in PPP mode showed how an Indian city could be redesigned. "We have shown how infrastructure can be created and that too world class infrastructure," he said, adding that latest techniques were used for Hyderabad Metro.

Reddy has been the project's biggest champion, coun-

tering skeptics in his own way whenever doubts were expressed about its feasibility. "Those who are against Metro rail are against Hyderabad. And those who are against Hyderabad are against India," he would say time and again to those opposing landmark project.

NVS Reddy began his career with Indian Railways Accounts Service (IRAS) and had also worked with 'Metro Man' E Sreedharan in Konkan Railway. He then got a posting with erstwhile AP government and also worked as Addl Commissioner in MCH (now GHMC). He was appointed as MD of HMRL in 2007. While in MCH, he got Delhi Metro Rail Corporation to do a detailed project report for the proposed Hyderabad Metro.