

# Ameerpet-LB Nagar Metro launch today

The inauguration makes Hyderabad Metro Rail second largest in the country after New Delhi

## CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

Governor ESL Narasimhan is set to inaugurate the much-awaited 16-km Ameerpet-LB Nagar Metro Rail route on Monday.

The inauguration of the corridor will make Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) the second largest in India after New Delhi, with an overall operational route of 46 km — 30-km stretch between Uppal and Miyapur and 16-km between Ameerpet and LB Nagar.

The opening of the Ameerpet-LB Nagar stretch will also mark the culmination of the entire Corridor-I route of HMR between Miyapur and LB Nagar of 29 km. The new stretch promises to have a positive impact on travel time between Ameerpet and LB Nagar. This distance will be covered by Metro in just 52 minutes as compared to two hours taken by road. Authorities are planning to keep 5 minutes as the frequency.

It was in last November, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 30-km Miyapur-Uppal route and since then, the service has been successful in attracting a good patronage with 85,000 passengers using it on a daily basis.



ALL SET: A metro rail chugs off during a test run in Chaithanyapuri on Sunday. — Photo: Hrudayanand

## MGBS station one of the biggest in Asia

The Metro station at Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station will be nothing short of a modern architectural marvel that strives to balance practicality with design. HMRL MD NVS Reddy said the interchange at MGBS will be one of the biggest Metro stations in Asia.

"It is a huge station specially designed with 58 main pillars and 6 grids. The strength requirement of the main pillars of this gigantic station was so high that the steel reinforcement had to be made extremely dense,

and special techniques employed to pump specially reinforced cement concrete into them," he said.

It has an overall length of 140m and a width of 45m with two arms, one catering to MGBS bus depot and the other to Chaderghat area across the Musi river.

The interchange connects corridor-I (Miyapur-LB Nagar) and corridor-II, which is between Jubilee Bus Stand and Falaknuma. While the corridor-I station is at lower first and second floors, the corridor-II station

is at the upper level of third and fourth floors.

"Two big skywalks connect all the platforms of MGBS bus station on one side and Chaderghat on the other. Chaderghat area skywalk is a long one with a length of 600 ft. The skywalks with a width of 20 ft have been built very wide keeping the traffic increase over the next few decades in mind," Reddy said. The street level on both MGBS side and Chaderghat side are being beautified aesthetically, with a combina-

tion of cobble, Tandur and Shahbad stones etc., to merge with the 'Heritage Precinct' being developed by Metro Rail in the 5-km stretch between Assembly station and MGBS station via Nampally, MJ Market, Jambagh, Osmania Medical College, and Rangmahal areas. "The whole area will be developed as an international tourist destination with authentic heritage objects, period street furniture, designer pathways and greenery among other things," Reddy added.