

Hyderabad Metro Rail extends reach

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

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Governor flags off the stretch between Ameerpet and L.B. Nagar

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Unique distinction

The opening of 16 km stretch completes the entire Corridor One of Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) project of 29 km from Miyapur to L.B.Nagar. This, along with 30 km of inaugural metro line of Nagole-Ameerpet-Miyapur in November, got the capital this unique distinction.

The inaugural route is part of Corridor Three - Nagole to Ameerpet (17 km) and Corridor One - Miyapur to Ameerpet (13 km) and more than a lakh passengers have been riding on the trains. The number of riders is only expected to double with latest opening of metro stretch, announced Minister for Municipal Administration K.T. Rama Rao during a presentation made to the Governor at L.B. Nagar.

Construction is under way on two other routes: Corridors Two - Jubilee Bus Station to Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS)/Falaknuma - 15 km and Corridor Three - Nagole to HiTec City/Raidurg



Inaugural run: Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan flagging off the Metro Rail on the Ameerpet-L.B. Nagar stretch in the city on Monday. -K.V.S. GIRI

- 28 km. Altogether, 72 km of elevated metro line is being built on three dense traffic corridors.

A special feature of the latest metro stretch is the commissioning of MGBS interchange metro station touted to be among the largest in Asia (460 ft/150 ft) where Corridor Two metro line on top will halt here for now. The original plan is to build it into the old city till Falaknuma. The Minister said HMR was also the world's largest public-private partnership project with the Government spending close to ₹3,000 crore for land acquisition, road widening and shift of utilities and L&T Metro Rail

Hyderabad (L&TMRH) investing more than ₹12,000 crore while the Central Government is chipping in with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) of ₹1,458 crore for the entire work estimated to cost up to ₹14,132 crore.

HMR was also taking care of improving ground level infrastructure all along the metro corridors like designer footpaths, drains and signages while barricading is being taken up underneath stations to prevent spillover of passengers onto the main road. All metro stations could be used as road cross-overs. Frequency of trains is about 7-8 minutes and first train chugs in at 6.30 a.m.

and last train 10.30 p.m.

First and last mile connectivity is being provided through bicycles, bikes and taxis. Soon electric charging points will be provided for bringing in electric vehicles into its fold, he added. The Governor commended the project and requested the citizens to make use of the facility for the sake of personal health and environment. He called for speedy induction of smart card/smart phone ticket facility and opening of HiTec City line by Dec.15.

Mayor B. Rammohan, Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi, HMR MD N.V.S. Reddy, and L&TMRH CEO & MD K.V.B. Reddy were present.

Ride to cost between ₹10-₹60

No change in the fare structure announced last year

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Travel from Miyapur to L.B. Nagar, a distance of 29 km, will cost passengers between ₹10 and ₹60 to travel with the L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad (L&TMRH) making no change in the fare structure decided when the inaugural 30-km route of Miyapur-Ameerpet-Nagole was thrown open in November last year.

The entire distance will be covered in less than an hour. Citizens were allowed to use Corridor One fully including the stretch between 16 km Ameerpet to L.B.Nagar opened by Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan on Monday from 6 p.m.

Hyderabad Metro Rail MD N.V.S. Reddy later informed that the frequency initially will be about 6.5 minutes and will be gradually brought down to five minutes on that route. The last train will leave at 10.30 p.m., which means it will reach the terminal stations of Miyapur, L.B. Nagar and Nagole by 11.30 p.m.

Earlier in the day, the Ameerpet interchange top-most floor was choc-a-bloc with mediapersons, officials



Joy ride: Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan, IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao and others riding battery-powered bicycles from Khairatabad station to Raj Bhavan. -K.V.S. GIRI

and politicians of all hues before the Governor arrived. Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Naidu skipped ostensibly due to election code but his ex-cabinet colleagues and members of Parliament like T. Srinivas Yadav and T. Padma Rao came, apart from K.T. Rama Rao.

There was a mild flutter when supporters of former Union Minister Bandaru Dattatreya raised slogans, protesting over his name/photo missing from the invite. But, after a quick flag-off, the inaugural three-coach train filled with VIPs, politicians, hangers-on, corporators, police personnel plus media zoomed past overhead halting only at the MGBS interchange for while before

stopping at L.B. Nagar where Mr. Rama Rao made a presentation to the Governor.

Throughout the journey, people, young and old alike, waved enthusiastically watching the train overhead. Mr. Narasimhan, after travelling from Ameerpet to L.B. Nagar, got down at Khairatabad and cycled towards Raj Bhavan along with other senior officials, throwing traffic haywire for a while.

Later in a statement, Mr. Dattatreya found fault with the Governor for ignoring the Centre's contribution, not keeping Prime Minister's photo and not extending an invite to the Union Minister of Urban Development. He also sought speedy completion of Corridor Two.