

Long wait comes to end, Metro rail expansion begins in Old City

Pics: Syed Omar

41 Owners Get Compensation Totalling ₹20cr

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Hyderabad: The long-awaited expansion of Hyderabad metro's green line from Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station to Chandrayangutta, connecting the Old City to the metro network, has commenced. The expansion, initially planned during the first phase, faced numerous delays due to alignment disputes and property acquisition challenges.

Demolition work is along Mir Alam Mandi Road near Charminar, where roads are widened to accommodate metro pillars and stations. The 7.5-km elevated track extension, part of the metro's second phase, will connect Shalibanda, Falaknuma and Chandrayangutta, bringing modern transit infrastructure to one of Hyderabad's densely populated areas.

90 more cheques to be handed over to owners today

"This expansion for the Old City is long due and is a crucial step in integrating it with Hyderabad's modern public transportation system," said Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited (HAML) managing director NVS Reddy. "I just signed 90 more cheques which will be handed over to property owners on Wednesday. Works are going to roll ahead in full swing," the senior official added.

The project already began disbursing compensation to affected property owners. In the first phase of payments, 41 owners of 34 properties received

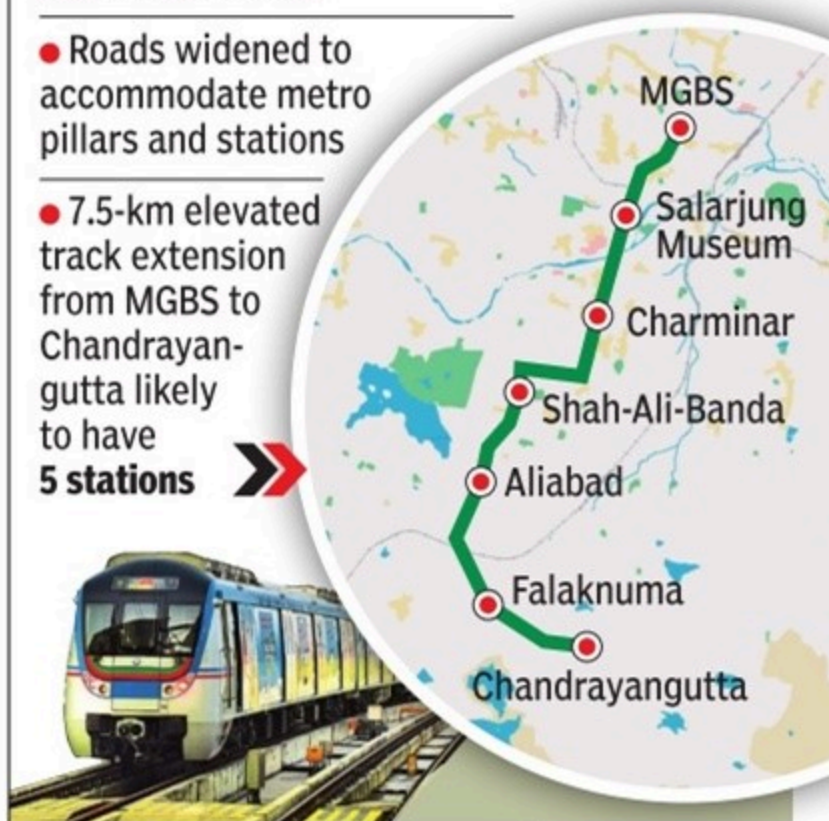


NEW FACE OF OLD CITY

- Demolition work underway along Mir Alam Mandi Road

- Roads widened to accommodate metro pillars and stations

- 7.5-km elevated track extension from MGBS to Chandrayangutta likely to have 5 stations



compensation totalling ₹20 crore. According to metro officials, the total compensation package is expected to reach approximately ₹1,000 crore, covering 1,100 properties along the expansion route.

Special attention is being paid to protecting heritage

structures in the Old City, with the metro alignment carefully planned to minimise impact on historical buildings.

However, residents expressed mixed feelings, saying, "While the demolition of our properties is difficult to

accept, we understand the necessity for development."

HAML officials expect the expansion to reduce travel time between the Old City and other parts of Hyderabad, benefiting thousands of daily commuters, and offer seamless access to the airport.

Locals teeter between hope & worry

Hyderabad: The landscape of the Old City is about to change dramatically as demolition work has begun to make way for the Metro rail extension. Several properties along Mir Alam Mandi Road have already been demolished.

Property owners who received compensation from the govt have begun the demolition, with some opting to carry out the work themselves.

"The streets that have been here for generations will disappear," said Mohd Ibrahim, who runs a tea and newspaper stall in the area. "This area will never look the same as it did when I was a child. I hope the development will bring happiness to future generations."

Mohsin, who owns a clothing store on Mir Alam Mandi Road, said four properties in the outer area have already been demolished.

However, some are resistant to the changes. Rajesh Sharma, owner of an attar shop in Shalibanda, expressed concern about the rapid pace of development. "We feel pressured to give up our properties at such short notice. The compensation could be more generous. Many property owners are trying to secure stay orders from the court."

The impact goes beyond property ownership. "Thousands of people will lose their jobs. Each shop usually employs between two and 10 people. We hope the govt will provide alternative employment opportunities for those affected," Sharma added. TNN

