

# Demolition for Metro Rail picks up pace in Old City

**DC CORRESPONDENT**

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The demolition of some well-known places in the Old City, including Meena Plaza at Pathargatti and Pista House on Charninar road has started on Sunday, to make way for the Metro Rail.

Hyderabad Airport Metro Ltd (HAML) announced on Sunday that Lahoti Building and Akbar Function Hall had been demolished, and buildings like Shabbar Cafe, Swagat Hotel, Lily Rose School, an aquapurifier shop and Akbar mechanic shop, will be dismantled shortly.

"So far, compensation cheques worth ₹212 crores had been distributed for 205 affected properties," said HAML managing director N.V.S. Reddy. A total of 1,100 properties will be affected on this stretch.

"The acquisition of affected-properties on the 7.5-km stretch from Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) to Chandrayangutta is progressing rapidly," he said.



HAML workers demolish a building as part of the Metro Rail extension project in Old City on Sunday. — DC

Reddy said some highly entangled electric, telephone and other cables on both sides of the route, which were acting as bottlenecks, were being removed by engineering teams to facilitate the demolition of affected properties.

He added that the expansion works were being carried out under the supervision of HAML engineers along with revenue and police wings.

He appreciated the property owners for "voluntarily accepting the compensation offered by the government, and handing over their properties."

"All precautions are being taken to ensure that sensitive structures are not affected in any way," Reddy said.

Though the pace of work slowed down slightly during Ramzan, it has picked up momentum and is progressing smoothly.

Reddy said Metro Rail construction would begin as soon as approval from the Centre was received.

"Several videos indicate the complexity of property demolition in the Old City," he said, adding that HAML teams were carrying out demolition of properties without affecting the nearby structures.