



METRO RAIL: A FEW SECTIONS MAY BE THROWN OPEN IN 2016

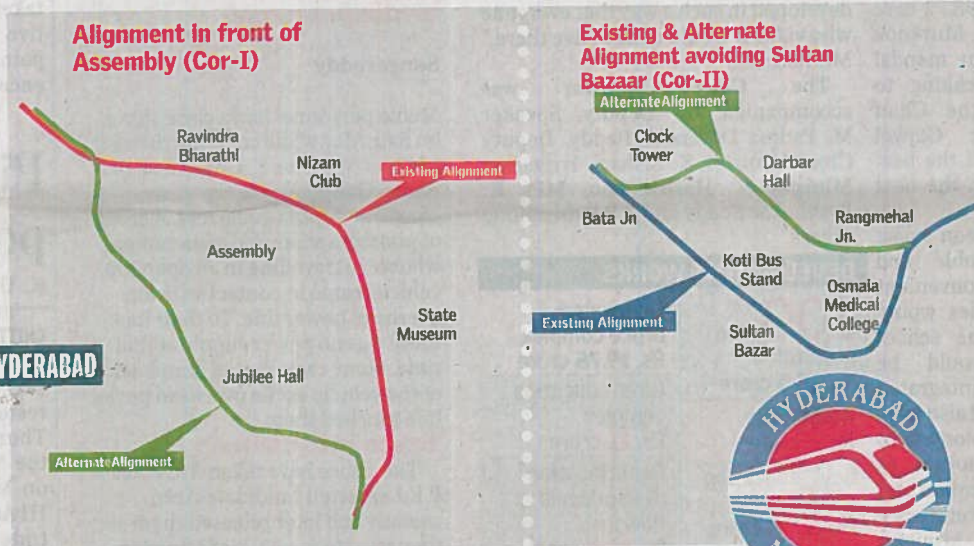
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A few sections of the Hyderabad Metro Rail across the three corridors could be opened for the public by some time next year (2016) even before construction of the entire 72-km stretch is completed, said Hyderabad Metro Rail Managing Director N.V.S. Reddy on Saturday.

Denying that the alignment changes suggested by the Telangana government could lead to any kind of delay in the project completion on the identified date of July 2017, he said that except "small sections" in two sites, the work was right on the mark on other construction fronts.

L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad (L&TMRH) has already submitted technical feasibility reports with regard to alignment changes at Sultan Bazar and near the Legislative Assembly, suggesting a couple of options. The Telangana government has sought to know the financial implication of the changes, he said, adding that the alignment change report for corridor two - Falaknuma to Jubilee Bus Station, would take more time.

"We have not left old city (where corridor two passes), we will come there soon," the MD affirmed during his interaction organised by the Hyderabad Union of Journalists (HUIJ). He also made it clear that the project construction was very much on schedule and L&T was fully behind it. The MD also asserted that "not a single heritage structure" or individual building was adversely affected due to the construction and about 1,500 properties



were taken through land acquisition with the government spending Rs.625 crore. An additional Rs.200 crore is to be spent for the acquisition of properties during road-widening along the corridors.

Metro rail authorities managed to convince groups concerned to allow shift of statues, demolish structures and relocate religious structures in about 60 sites. "A lot many government departments are coordinating with us in expediting the works. Chief Secretary Rajiv Sharma is reviewing the works every week," he said.

The project was also being built to

withstand earthquakes even though Hyderabad was in a "safe zone" of "two". Construction experts within HMR like C.V.R. Rao had insisted upon having seismic resistors atop the piers to ensure the viaduct does not break in case of a quake and L&TMRH too immediately accepted even though it involved extra cost.

All 10 platforms of the Secunderabad railway station and Nampally railway station plus those in the Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station, Imlibun, would be connected to overhead metro stations through skywalk.

Capital is in for resurgent growth even though Telangana agitation has had an effect for a while. "Post bifurcation, we have assessed that L&TMRH can break even in seven years instead of the earlier projected five years from revenue generated through fare collection (50%), real estate development (35%) and advertisements (5%)," explained Mr. Reddy.

The Metro Rail Project will help transform the city into a global one with emphasis on ground level works like greenery, street furniture, signages, lanes system, etc. BITS-Pilani (Hyderabad) and IIT-Hyderabad have been asked to come up with innovative ideas for accommodating hawkers near stations.

A metro card will be introduced to facilitate seamless travel across local trains, buses, fuel filling stations and shopping malls in L&TMRH built commercial properties.

Progress: 31 three-coach in city, 49 km of foundations, 45 km of piers and 36.5 km of viaduct