

BRIDGING GAPS

DEMOLITIONS MAY HAVE MADE HMR UNPOPULAR, BUT THE METRO RAIL HAS ALSO COME TO THE RESCUE OF SEVERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

# Other side of the Metro story

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**I**t's little more than two years since the Hyderabad Metro Rail project piers (pillars) surfaced followed by road widening in different places, demolition of properties, shifting of utility pipelines - water, sewer, storm water, power, telephone and others.

Properties demolished to make way for metro rail or heritage structures that came 'under threat' due to the overhead viaduct and so on led to several protests and criticism. While this is one side of the story, metro rail authorities have also been onto something 'constructive'.

They have been and are giving a fresh lease of life to several government buildings, including primary schools, revenue offices, police stations, barracks, etc., in the last couple of years. In the place of the dilapidated, crumbling and cramped edifices - new swanky buildings with modern amenities have come up and will come up in future as well. While some old buildings had to be removed as they were too close to the metro rail viaduct or the overhead stations, a few volunteered to surrender

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N.V.S. REDDY,  
HMR MANAGING DIRECTOR



(From left to right) A new building built to house a school at Kukatpally. Construction of police barracks behind Shahinayatgunj police station complex under way. The commercial complex ready for opening at Putlibowli.

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the land on being assured of new structures. Revenue Division Office in Nampally was the first beneficiary, and much to the envy of other government officials, the new building got ready last year and had begun to function from then. The second RDO office in the remaking is at Secunderabad. "Across the 73-km metro rail corridors in three lines, we have had quite a few government buildings and when we made an offer to construct them afresh, some departments accepted our proposal," explains Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) managing director N.V.S. Reddy.

Construction of four police barracks has been taken up behind Shahinayatgunj police station complex at a cost of Rs. 8.64 crore and yet another barrack is under construction at City College, opposite Ghansibazar, at a cost of Rs. 7.92 crore. Both these buildings and another one at Rasoolpura are five-storied

ones. Gopalapuram police station too is brand new.

A 'Sanik Aramgarh' is being built on the old Gandhi Hospital land, another four-storied building for the benefit of the armed forces personnel with an easy access to Secunderabad railway station, explain metro rail officials. Besides, at least eight government schools at Chaderghat and Kukatpally got new buildings. While the first school complex has 40,000 sq.ft. built up space (Rs. 5.5 crore), the second one at Kukatpally has 25,125 sq.ft space (Rs. 4 crore) - four floors each. "Both these schools were in a bad shape earlier and we demolished the old buildings because of road widening," said a senior metro rail engineer.

A novel commercial complex is also ready for opening at Putlibowli. It has two cellars and seven floors and a 'replica of Sultan Bazaar vertically', as an official put it.

## Transport hub at old Gandhi Hospital area

**HYDERABAD:** Metro rail authorities are planning to develop the old Gandhi Hospital area into a major transport hub connecting Secunderabad West Metro station corridor-II (JBS-Falaknuma) to the main Secunderabad railway station with a 200-metre skywalk providing landing facility to all the platforms.

Another skywalk is also proposed to be built on the road in front of the railway station, connecting Secunderabad East Metro station corridor-III (Nagole-Shilparamam-Raidurg), between Lekha Bhavan and Oliphanta Bridge.

The Secunderabad East Metro station will also be linked to the main railway station through a skywalk with landing on all the platforms, according to HMR MD N.V.S. Reddy on Thursday. He

shared these details during a tour taken up by the Commercial Taxes Minister T. Srinivas Yadav. All the bus stations scattered around the railway station too will be integrated in the old Gandhi Hospital area providing inter-modal connectivity between the two Metro rail stations, MMTS, Secunderabad main railway station and TSRTC bus services. They also visited the construction site of 'Sainik Aaram Ghar'. It was also decided to spare a small portion of land to Samba Murthy Nagar slum to offer prayers to the deities under a neem tree here. Mr. Reddy inspected the works from Bhoiguda to Kachiguda, called for speedy removal of obstructions and sanctioned works related to roads damaged due to the overflowing sewer lines.