

Hyderabad Metro phase I trial runs to begin by July

Our Bureau

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L&T Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd expects to commence trial run for the first phase of the elevated metro project in Hyderabad by July.

The rail coaches from the Hyundai Rotem consortium are expected to arrive in Hyderabad by May and the trial runs for the first phase of the 8-km stretch of the 72-km metro project will be taken up by July. While the trials will go on for few months, the first phase will be ready for commercial operations by March 2015, said N. V. S. Reddy, Managing Director, Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd.

Speaking to reporters Reddy said the concessionaire L&T and Hyderabad Metro have invested about Rs 4,000 crore so far. This includes Rs 3,100 crore by L&T and Rs 900 crore by Hyderabad Metro.

Referring to the land acquisition for the project, he said, of the 269 acres assured, 267 acres have been handed over till now. The remaining two acres have yet to be handed over as it is under litigation, he said.

"So far more than 1,800 trees have been translocated, with 98 per cent survival rate. We have also taken up massive tree plantation drive involving colleges and students. All these will ensure that there is good greenery for the project," he said.

Referring to the possibility of issuing smart cards to passengers, which will potentially double up as multipurpose cards, Reddy said several banks have evinced interest in partnering this initiative. At least two banks will be chosen at the appropriate time, he indicated.