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## Travel in Metro Rail with ATM card

K CHANDRASHEKAR/HYDERABAD

Your Metro Rail smart card can double up as your ATM card as well with the Hyderabad Metro Rail authorities contemplating bringing in a multipurpose 'smart card'. It can be used for metro rail ticketing, petroleum card and also as ATM card.

The Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) authorities are integrating certain unique features, which are not there in the other metros like Delhi and Bengaluru. Talking to Metro India on the special features, HMR Managing Director NVS Reddy said they were in talks with some banks for a tie up for multi-purpose smart card.

Reddy said that the Hyderabad Metro would have Communication Based Train Control (CBTC), where trains would talk to each other on their way. It is radio based communication system, where the location of the train would be known at every fraction of a second. Every train will

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have the information system and the main server would be at Uppal operation control. This service was provided by the Thales, a French company, which would also look after signaling and train control, he said. The operation and maintenance (O&M operator) was Keolis from France. The automatic fare collection (AFC) was being done by Samsung from South Korea, he added.

"The HMR is designed in such a way that for every 90 seconds a train can be run," said Reddy. Around 60,000 passen-

gers can travel in one corridor in an hour, he said. "There are 200 metros around the world and we have seen the positives and drawbacks in many of the metros and selected the best technologies and facilities," the official said.

"The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for HMR was prepared by the Delhi Metro and it was for medium metro but we wanted it to be a heavy metro as we are planning for the next 60 years. The pillars in Delhi metro rails are round in shape where as we wanted it to be in Y shapes and

also wanted to have aesthetic beauty, which will be very attractive," Reddy said.

The MD said, "We are not just building a metro but a quality way of life for the citizens of Hyderabad. There would be open spaces at stations. It would be a hub of social activity having open air restaurants. There would be sky walks, side-walks, a place for urban rejuvenation."