

HMR to make the most of stations

Staff Reporter

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Metro Rail Managing Director N.V.S Reddy on Monday said space at Metro stations would be commercially utilised to generate more revenue.

Mr. Reddy said only four of the world's 200 mass transit systems were self-sustaining; others received subsidies from local governments.

This was mainly because the projects depended more on passenger fare for income, sidelining the importance of commercial exploitation of space at stations and other places, he explained while delivering a lecture on *Global Competitiveness through Industrial Engineering - Hyderabad Metro Rail, an Example*, organised at Fapcci.

Challenges

Underlining the importance for thinking out-of-the-box, Mr. Reddy said a project of HMR's magnitude entailed several challenges - 35 per cent of them engineering and

65 per cent non-engineering - and all these were addressed with sheer innovations.

Small farmers

For instance, HMR required 260 acres of land. Obtaining 100 acres in Uppal and the rest in Miyapur was always a challenge with the presence of small and marginal farmers in the area. These farmers would earn a mere Rs. 20,000 a year and were on the verge of suicide. HMR approached them and for each acre of land development, 1000 square yards of plot was developed.

This boosted land value and now the farmers were happy, said Mr. Reddy.

Likewise, the use of pre-cast concrete structure reduced enormous load on roads and helped in the smooth flow of traffic, he explained. Indian Institution of Industrial Engineering Hyderabad chapter president R. Jayaraman also spoke on the occasion.