



GREEN INITIATIVE

Students of BITS Pilani, Hyderabad campus, plant saplings on their campus during a mass tree plantation programme launched by the Hyderabad Metro Rail on Thursday. Five saplings are planted for every tree cut by the HMR to construct the Metro Rail. — S. Surender Reddy

■ Plan to finish 71-km project in 5 years

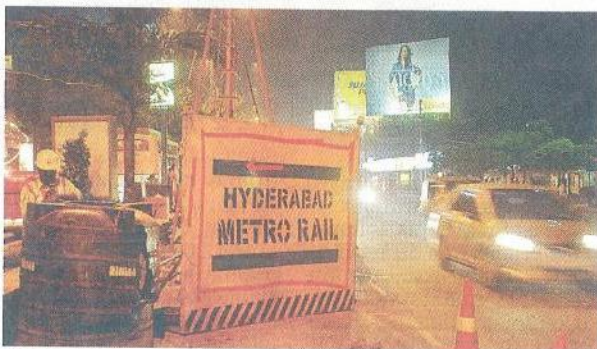
Metro pillars to come up soon

DC CORRESPONDENT
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Work on Hyderabad Metro Rail at various locations in the city is on in full swing. Having achieved 90 per cent "right of way," pillars will soon be constructed on the Nagole-Mettuguda and Miyapur-Ameerpet stretches to enable construction of the elevated metro tracks. The metro rail casting yard, spread over 100 acres at Uppal, is being developed at a cost of ₹1,000 crore, of which ₹300 crore will be spent on Uppal depot alone.

Steps have been initiated to acquire another 104 acres within two months, to build a depot at Miyapur. The metro rail stretches between Nagole and Mettuguda (8 km) and between Miyapur and Ameerpet (12 km) will be operational by December 2014.

The HMR authorities aim



A file picture of metro work in progress

to finish the entire 71-km project in five years.

Meanwhile, the HMR, on Thursday, formally launched the mass tree plantation programme at BITS-Pilani's Hyderabad campus. They will plant 1 lakh saplings within two years to improve the greenery and beautify the city.

"The Metro Rail project requires 269 acres. Of this, 208 acres is private land. We

have handed over 100 acres in Uppal to the concessionaire, L&T. Another 104 acres in Miyapur will be acquired within two months, for which we have recently issued a fresh notification. The government has allotted another 21 acres in Falaknuma. Three metro rail depots will come up in these locations," said Mr N.V.S. Reddy, managing director, HMR.