

SCR seeks land for railway corridor

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HYDERABAD: After it had secured permission for taking up the fourth passenger terminal near Hi-Tec City, the South Central Railway (SCR) has approached the government to "reserve" about 3,000 acres for construction of a Ring Railway Corridor (RRC).

This RRC proposed along the alignment of the Outer Ring Road will be connecting three new passenger and three freight terminals being planned around the twin cities. Passenger terminals other than the Hi-Tec City are being planned at Moula Ali station on the Secunderabad-Kazipet section, 8 km from Secunderabad station; Medchal, about 30 km from Secunderabad station towards Manmad and at Shamshabad (Umdanagar railway station) at a distance of 28 km on the Secunderabad-Dhone section which will provide access to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport.

Freight terminals

Freight terminals are being planned at Timmapur, about 44 km from Secunderabad towards Bangalore; between Nagulapalli and

Vikarabad stations towards Mumbai and between Bibinagar and Bhongir sections towards Kazipet. The Railways has accorded 'in principal' approval to the plan.

SCR's Chief General Manager Anil Kumar has communicated the plan to the HMDA and GHMC together with a map seeking permission to take up land acquisition. The Railways said it wants to develop these projects in phases. Each passenger terminal requires around 300 acres of land to develop related infrastructure like platforms, ticketing, station buildings, circulating areas, waiting space, parking, maintenance facilities for coaches and locomotives, etc.

Mr. Kumar has requested the government to earmark the proposed land in continuation to the existing railway lines and parallel to it.

Interestingly, while there is no love lost between the government and the railways over pending projects or delayed approvals from the latter for improving road network in the capital, officials concerned feel the demand should be given a serious thought considering future transport requirements.