

**CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**

PRESS RELEASE

22nd January, 2016

Chief Minister Sri K. Chandrashekar Rao in a letter to Union Minister for Railways Sri Suresh Prabhu requested to include extension of MMTS services from Ghatkesar to Raigir (Yadadri) on a cost sharing basis (2/3rd by Government of Telangana and 1/3rd by Indian Railways) in the coming Railway Budget for the year 2016-17.

Hon'ble CM informed the Union Minister that Government of Telangana has prepared elaborate plans to develop Yadadri, a holy hill Shrine located at about 60 km from Hyderabad, into a mega pilgrimage and spiritual hub. The Chief Minister mentioned that the Government has acquired more than 2,000 acres of land for developing the whole area on the lines of Tirupati with very good amenities for the devotees.

Explaining the need for extension of MMTS, the CM wrote that, Yadadri temple has a railway line passing nearby with a halt station called Raigir on Secunderabad - Kazipet Section. The CM said that the MMTS services in and around Hyderabad city have become very popular and currently Phase-II of MMTS is under implementation. One of the stretches of MMTS Phase-II is between Secunderabad station and Ghatkesar (21 km) and this is expected to be completed in FY 2016-17. Sri Chandrashekar Rao urged that MMTS Phase-II be further extended from Ghatkesar to Raigir (32 km) by laying a 3rd Railway line with attendant signaling works etc., and Raigir station be renamed and developed as 'Yadadri' station.

Currently, while the implementation of Yadadri Temple Development Authority's (YTDA) Master Plan is in its initial stages, about 20,000 people visit the temple town from Hyderabad during weekdays and between 40,000 and 50,000 during weekends. Hon'ble CM further added that, once the Master Plan is fully put in place the pilgrims visiting Yadadri from Hyderabad are expected to cross over a lakh per day. Since severe congestion is already being experienced on the roadway between Hyderabad and Yadadri, CM stated that there is a felt need for extension of MMTS services to Yadadri to cater to the travel needs of pilgrims and to bring down pollution levels.

Accordingly, wrote CM, an estimate has been prepared for extension of MMTS services for about 32 km from Ghatkesar to Raigir (Yadadri) at a cost of Rs. 330 crore. As per the agreed upon cost sharing pattern for MMTS, the State government is ready to bear 2/3rd of the cost of this stage of MMTS too, CM stated in the letter. The proposed extension will also be beneficial for Indian Railways as laying of an additional rail line will substantially augment the line capacity

and help the Railways to run more passenger and goods trains on the vital Secunderabad-Kazipet section of Secunderabad-New Delhi corridor.

CPRO to CM