

# Stop one—MG Road to Byappanahalli

After waiting for 5 years and spending around Rs. 1,500 crore, Bangalore inaugurates the Namma Metro QUOTE UNQUOTE



Rishabh Chakravorty

By Rupsa Chakraborty

It was Oct. 20 and the clock struck 4 p.m. as the train chugged in slowly. The Metro was inaugurated by Union Minister for Urban Development, Kamal Nath, in front of a 23,000 strong crowd at Manekshaw Parade Grounds.

Several state and union ministers, including Chief Minister D. V. Sadananda Gowda, Minister of Corporate Affairs Veerappa Moily and Railway Minister of State K.H. Muniyappa were present at the inauguration.

“This Deepavali, Bangaloreans who spend hours travelling a few kilometers on the narrow roads can enjoy the Metro ride from Byappanahalli to MG Road,” said Gowda.

He attributed the success of the project to the ex-Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa.

In an exclusive interview with The Observer, Shobha Karandlaje, the state power minister said, “Namma Metro will not only make the transport easy, but will also save our environment.”

“For development we don’t need to cut across the number of people but the number of vehicles. I think Metro is the best option for the Bangaloreans.”

#### Room for 1,200

As for the train timings, Sudhir Krishna, chairperson of BMRCL said, “We will operate four trains with a frequency of 10-15 minutes from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and make 44 trips.”

Each trip ferries up to 1,200 passengers.

He added that Rs. 4,000 crore was invested in this project till date. The deadline for the completion of Phase I is December 2013.

After the inauguration, the

dignitaries, along with 300 others boarded the Metro train at 11 a.m. from MG Road to Byappanahalli with VIP passes.

#### Security but no checks

Around 5,000 security personnel were deployed to monitor the areas around MG Road for the occasion, said Sudhir Nagappa, the security head for the occasion.

Despite the presence of several policemen at the station, when the service was open, The Observer noted that none of the passengers were checked before boarding the train.

#### Bangalore goes green

“The Namma Metro project will increase the collaboration between Indian government and JICA. This project will also decrease the pollution level in Bangalore, one of the fastest growing cities in the world,” said Akitaka Saiki, the Japanese ambassador.

“In Bangalore, the urban transport system is taking a new stride. It is cooperative-federalism in action...An action for the development of the country,” Arun Jaitley, Rajya Sabha Opposition leader.

While the invitees, national and international alike, couldn’t stop raving about Namma Metro. But not every remark was positive.

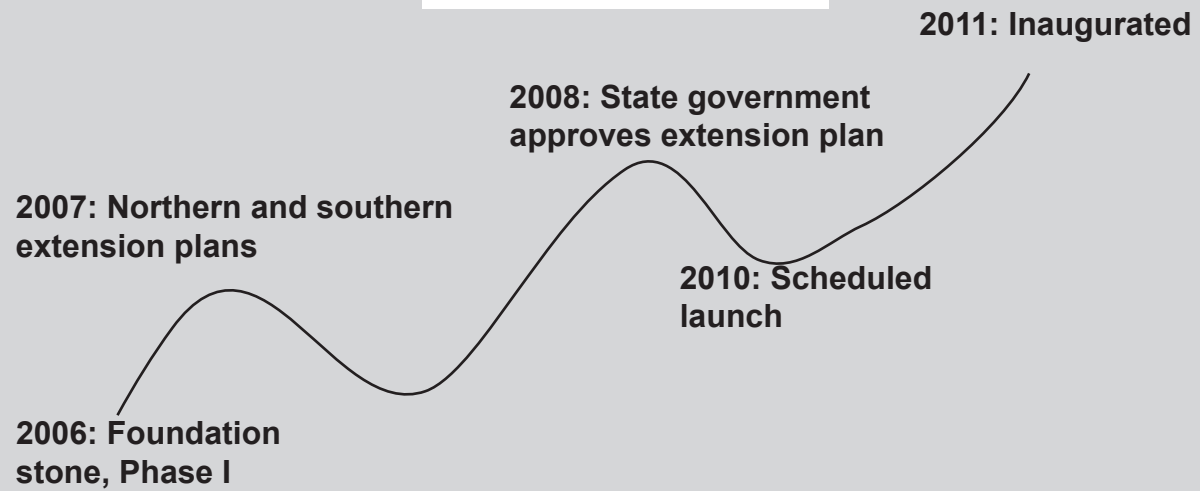
M.N.Chandrashekar, an activist and supporter of Anna Hazare, highlighted the thousands of trees that were felled down for this cause.

“We need development in the country,” he said. “Before that our state government had postponed the inauguration for four times owing to economic problems. I hope all the sufferings of the people are worth it.”

## Hop in, hop off

- MG Road
- Indiranagar
- Trinity Circle
- Swami Vivekananda Road
- Halasuru
- Byappanahalli

## TIMELINE



Rishabh Chakravorty

Namma Metro station at MG Road. More than 300 riders traveled 6.7 kilometers.



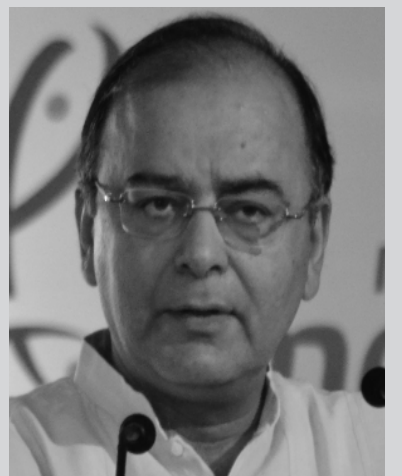
Christopher Isaac

The Namma Metro hopes to ease traffic congestion in the city.



D. V. Sadananda Gowda, Chief Minister

“It is a historic day for Karnataka. I congratulate the Bangalore Metro team for the completion of Phase I project of 7 kms from Byappanahalli and MG Road. In terms of technology, Bangalore Metro is on par with other metros of the world.”



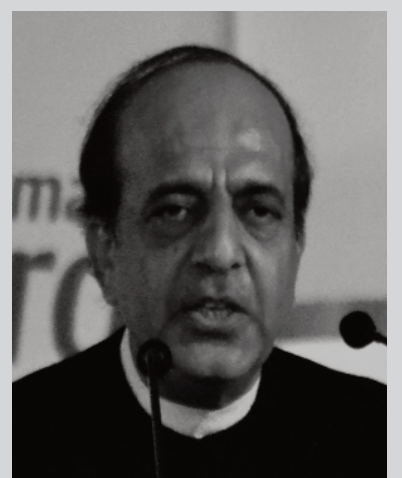
Arun Jaitley, Leader of Oppn., Rajya Sabha

“In Bangalore city, the urban transport system is taking a new stride. It is cooperative federalism in action for the development of the country.”



Veerappa Moily, Corporate Affairs Minister

“Deepavali has already started here. We are all very proud. Our 24 years of dream has come true. With the help of Japan and our government, this amazing project has opened. I would like to congratulate all the ministers on this project.”



“This time Diwali has come earlier to the city. Today, the Bangaloreans will celebrate Diwali.”

Dinesh Trivedi, Union Railway Minister