

Metro prototype coach to go on display

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Chennai: More than a year after it arrived in the city from Brazil, and after Chennai Metro Rail Ltd conducted test runs with a full four-coach rake, a prototype of the coaches that will be used in the transit system, will go on public display at Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus.

The prototype, which is smaller than the actual coaches, was brought from Alstom's factory in Brazil at the end of 2012 but CMRL changed its plans abruptly. The company kept the mock-up coach under wraps at Alstom's facility in Sri City in Andhra Pradesh and asked the government for permission to put it on display the same year. But there was no word from the company on the display after that.

"The prototype was sent by the manufacturer so en-



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gineers could check if it contained all facilities according to the contract," a CMRL official said, adding that it was meant to go on display after the inspection.

People in Bangalore had better luck than Chennaiites, getting a glimpse of a

prototype before the actual coaches arrived for the metro in Karnataka's capital. Bangalore Metro Rail Ltd allowed people to enter the coach and see what it was like. This will not be the case with the CMRL prototype, as the company has decided

The coach will now be installed on a pedestal at Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus. It has been brought to the bus terminus and will be unveiled in a day or two after the pedestal is completed

A CMRL OFFICIAL

not to allow people inside.

Officials of CMRL originally planned a public awareness campaign in which the company would install the prototype at a popular spot like Island Grounds so people would be able to touch and feel the coach in a preview of what they could expect when met-

ro rail services start.

"The coach will now be installed on a pedestal at CMBT. It has been brought to the bus terminus and will be unveiled in a day or two after the pedestal is completed," a CMRL official said.

Alstom built the prototype to scale and with all the features of the coaches that will be put in service, the official said. A metro rail coach will be 21.85 metres long, 2.94 metres wide and 4.05 metres high. The prototype is 8.33m x 2.74m x 3.80m.

Residents along the stretch of the first corridor between Koyambedu and Alandur say there's little need for a public awareness campaign now that the coaches are at the metro rail yard and CMRL runs tests regularly between Koyambedu and Ashok Nagar.

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