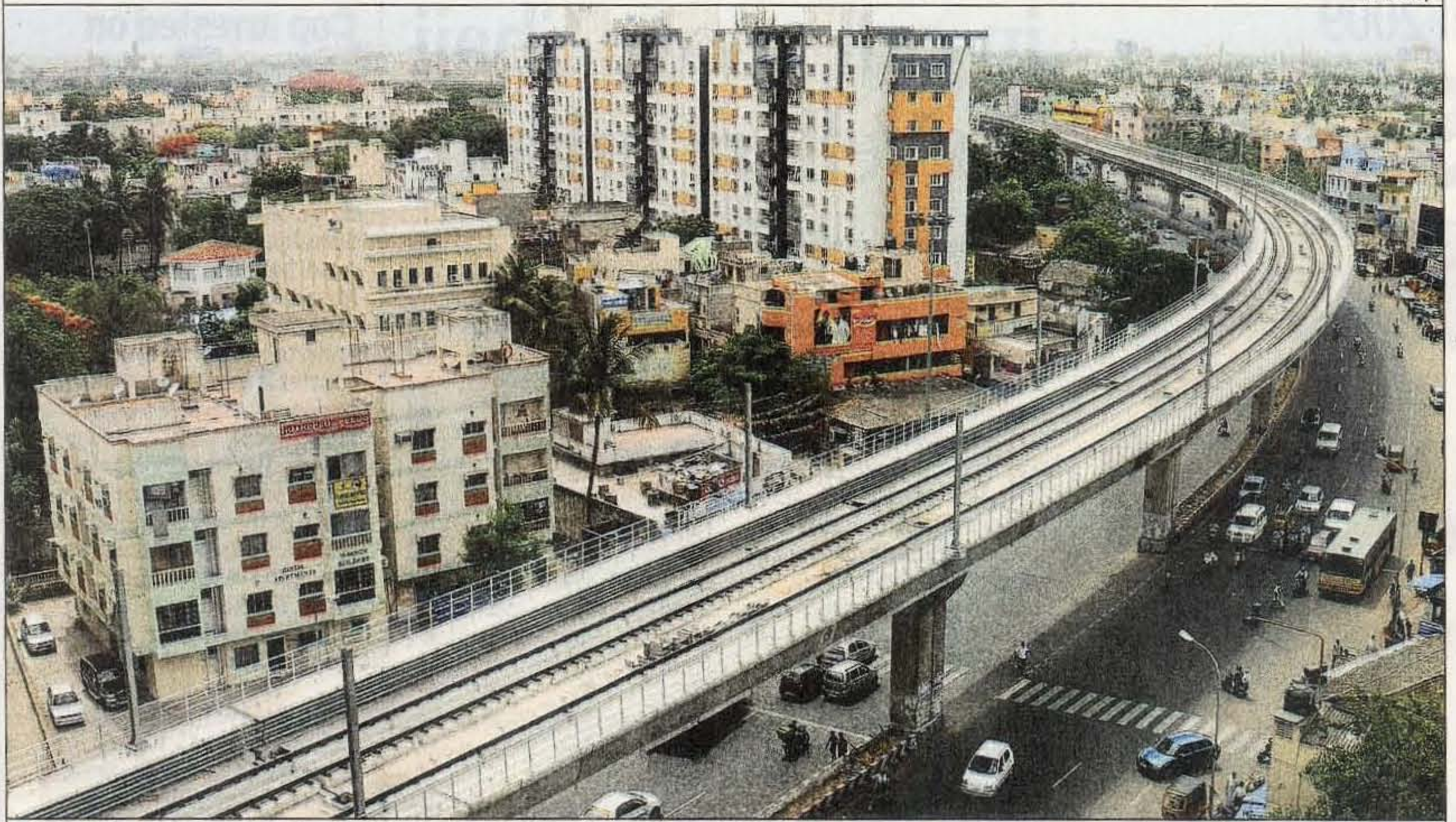


THROUGH THE CITY'S HEART

A Prathap



TRACK RECORD: Metro rail's elevated line on 100 Feet Road between Vadapalani to Koyambedu is almost ready. Metro rail is planning to complete work by end of this year so that trains can be operated by mid-next year

Metro gathers pace, lays three-fourths of Mount line

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: About 9.5km of tracks have been laid for metro rail's elevated line on the Koyambedu-St Thomas Mount stretch. The deadline to finish the 12km-line is the end of this year.

Work is on to lay the test track at the depot in Koyambedu, where the trains will be tested before they are moved to the elevated line over 100 Feet Road.

"Painting of the rail and welding of the rail joints are in progress. Nearly 2.5km of tracks have been painted," said a senior official of metro rail. Metro rail is aiming for a year-end finish as the state government has announced that services will begin by the middle of next year.

Around 87% of the spans have been installed between Koyambedu and St Thomas Mount. Of the 323 spans required, metro rail installed

ON COURSE

284 spans by end of last month. Work is going on to install the rest as and when piers are completed.

Metro rail recently started building a span over Kathipara flyover to connect the elevated line from Sidco to the proposed Alandur station. This section is expected to take time as a unique engineering method called balanced cantilever is being

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Metro rail recently started building a span over Kathipara flyover to connect the elevated line from Sidco to the proposed Alandur station. This section is expected to take time as a unique engineering method called balanced cantilever is being used to build a long span over a busy flyover without stopping traffic.

This time-consuming method allows construction of lengthy spans between pillars because it does not require the use of heavy equipment underneath the construction site.

As stock has started to come in, metro rail has started to speed up work along the stretch so that the coaches can be tested on the line. Station work is also progressing rapidly at Koyambedu, Vadapalani, Ashok Nagar, Alandur and St Thomas Mount.