

Track-laying in progress on showpiece metro stretch

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Tracks have been laid for 1.5km on the Koyambedu-Vadapalani elevated stretch, a part of the Koyambedu-St Thomas Mount line on which Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) plans to operate trains by end of 2013.

Preliminary works to electrify the stretch will kick off soon. "As tracks are in place, the stretch is ready for electrification. We plan to complete installing posts and cantilever and build stations when civil engineering works are completed on elevated corridors," said a senior CMRL official. Works are progressing fast to hoist, place and weld tracks on another 300 metres where viaduct and a concrete plinth to fix tracks are ready. The works are expected to be over in a couple of months.

The stretch, where tracks are expected to be laid by July next year, will serve as a

1.5KM LINE READY FOR ELECTRIFICATION

showpiece. After viaducts are placed on pillars, a concrete plinth is laid over it. Tracks are laid over the plinth using track fasteners. Flash butt welding process is adopted to weld 18-metre-long rails.

A joint Larson & Toubro-Alstom Projects venture bagged the ₹449.22 crore contract to design and lay tracks for the 45km network. The track work comprises 109 route km, including 15 route km inside the Koyambedu depot. The tracks will be of standard gauge — the width between two rails will be 143.5cm.

Construction works are at different stages on the rest of the stretch. Stations are taking shape at Koyambedu, Vadapalani and Alandur while viaduct pillars have been raised and works on building the KK Nagar station are on.

On the Koyambedu-Ashok Nagar stretch, 140 of the 185 spans or viaducts have been installed; on the Ashok Nagar-St Thomas Mount stretch 62 of the 131 spans have been installed, the official added.

LIFE IN A METRO

A Prathap



CHANGING CITYSCAPE: Metro rail's elevated corridor snakes over the bustling 100 Feet Road at Ekkattuthangal. The stretch is part of the Koyambedu-St Thomas Mount corridor which is likely to be ready by the end of next year