

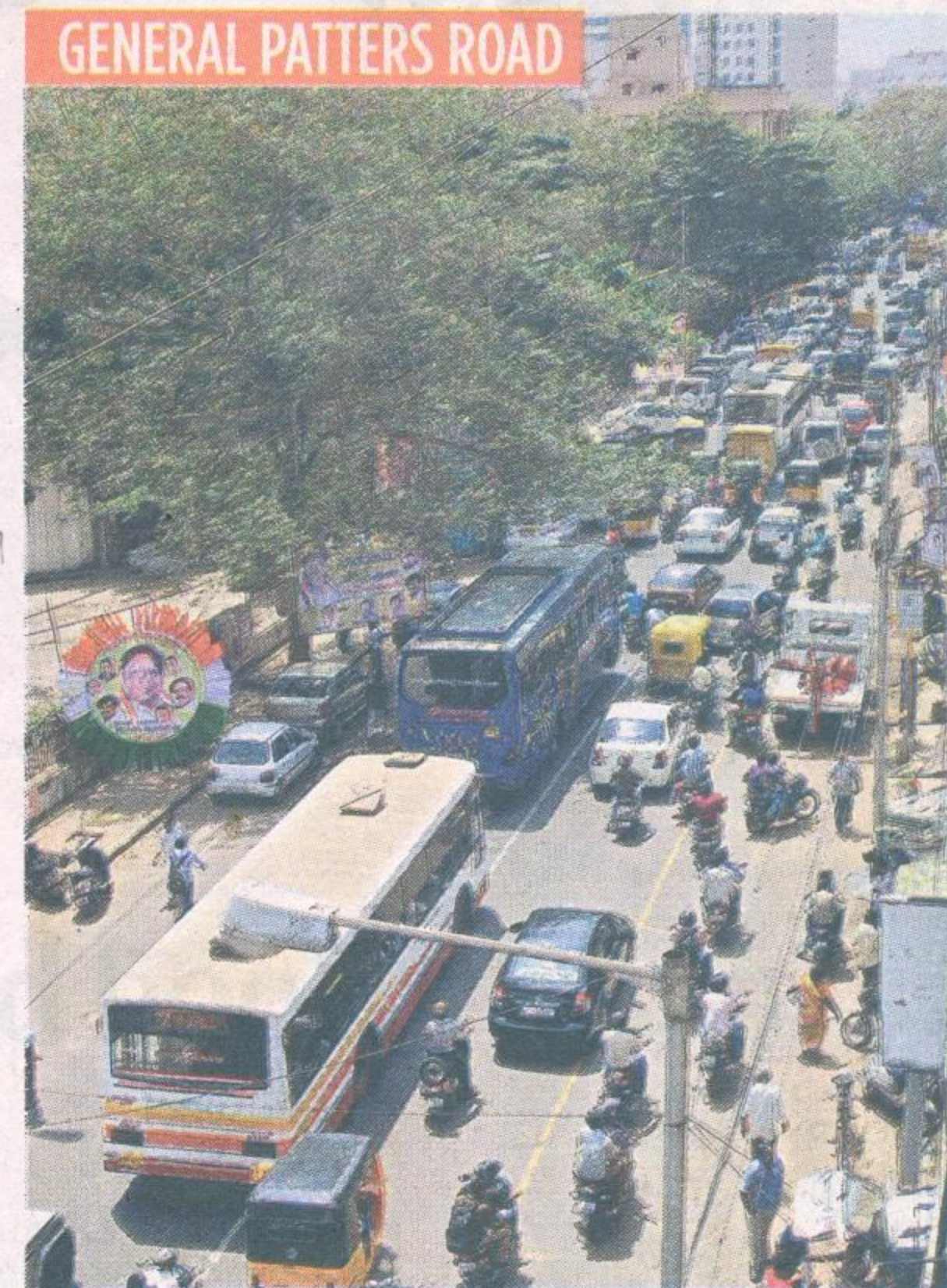
KOYAMBEDU



The almost finished elevated metro rail track near Koyambedu market is a pointer to the speed at which the work is progressing.

—DC

GENERAL PATTERS ROAD



Traffic woes continue to haunt General Patters Road and local shoppers want the metro rail work to be finished at the earliest.

—DC

Metro rail work on fast track

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Chennaiites would be 'unjustified' if they complained about the 'reasonable' traffic bottlenecks caused by the ongoing metro rail project — such is the pace and precision at which the project is progressing, without a single major accident or incident being reported at the project site thus far.

With most of the civil works of the overhead sections nearing completion and the machines arriving gradually for the tunnelling works, authorities of CMRL (Chennai Metro Rail Limited) are confident that they would commission the project ahead of its schedule.

Though the entire project is scheduled for com-

pletion in December 2015, rolling stocks might be crisscrossing on the elevated stretch between Koyambedu and St Thomas Mount by December 2013 and the airport-Mount stretch, a year later. The underground section, that accounts for most of the city's 45-km-long metro rail network, is scheduled for completion by December 2015. Attributing the frequent traffic diversions to the brisk pace of the work, CMRL officials said some of the roads have become easier to commute after the completion of the civil works on the overhead section.

Subscribing to the view, motorists like bank officer Vipin Kumar of Ekattuthangal said the hassles witnessed initially due to CMRL civil

works on the road linking Kathipara with Ashok pillar, have vanished now.

"Trains cannot be operated overnight. These are reasonable hassles. People will benefit a great deal once the trains start running. We ought to put up with it," opines Mr Murugesan, a secretariat staff.

"A minor drainage work claimed a life in T. Nagar recently, but CMRL work sites are thoroughly fenced and not one incident has been reported and no commuter has met with an accident because of it so far," remarked a PWD engineer.

CMRL officials say "safety is our optimum priority" and agencies executing the work have been instructed to adhere to it.

project precise

■ Not a single major accident or incident reported at the project site thus far

■ most of the civil works of the overhead sections nearing completion

■ CMRL authorities are confident that they would commission the project ahead of its schedule

■ Rolling stocks might be crisscrossing on the elevated stretch between Koyambedu and St Thomas Mount by December 2013, say sources

ANNA SALAI



The arterial Anna Salai is free from traffic chaos after the recent traffic diversions. However, there are a few complaints from local residents due to one way traffic. —DC