

FIRST SERVICE

METRO RAIL TO CHUG ALONG IN OCT.



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The long wait for a cosy metro rail ride in the city might perhaps end soon for Chennaiites. The city's dream commuter train could be up and running commercially as early as in a month and a half, if the confidence exuded by CMRL (Chennai metro rail limited) officials is something to go by. The trip from Koyambedu to Alandur in a plush metro might become possible before October ends.

"We are confident of commencing the commercial run from Koyambedu to Alandur late October. Even in a worst-case scenario, the commissioning might get delayed maximum by a month," a senior CMRL officer, who confirmed the deadline, told DC on

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condition of anonymity. "CMRL has informed us that they will be ready by then. Once they get all necessary clearances from railway department and intimate the government, the Chief Minister's office will finalise the date of the launch," a senior bureaucrat said.

However, the initial operation would not be in full even on the first corridor. Commuters would only have restricted access at the stations. "The stations will be opened partially with one entry and exit and ticketing system among other minimum mandat-

ed requirements to operate the train," another CMRL senior officer revealed. He added that the trains are currently undergoing rigorous tests at the Koyambedu depot and on the 10km-long elevated stretch.

Ten of the 14 trains, including the nine shipped from Sao Paulo in Brazil, are undergoing various tests mandated by CMRS (commissioner of metro railway safety and RDSO (the R&D wing of Indian Railways) and will be kept ready for CMRS inspection by the month end and the rest would be ready in a week from then.

CMRL is awaiting a report of the oscillation and emergency braking distance (EBD) trial done on the first four-car metro train by RDSO earlier. "We are expecting a

positive RDSO report anytime soon. From there, it is just a matter of a few days before inviting the CRS for the final inspection," another CMRL technical head in the know of things said.

"Our general consultants are supervising the synchronisation of various systems, which comprises rolling stock, communication, signaling and electronic operations and networking with the operation control center (OCC) in Koyambedu," the technical head pointed out. He said that most of the scaffoldings would vanish and the seven metro stations on the stretch would be painted in a month from now. Similarly, work is apace to complete the installation of the lifts and escalators at the seven stations.

PROGRESS OF SEVEN ELEVATED STATION WORKS AS ON JULY 31

KOYAMBEDU, CMBT & ARUMBAKKAM:

All structural works, block work, street level, concourse level rooms roof rafter, roof sheeting and vault erection completed and handed over to other system contractors.

COMPLETED

ASHOK NAGAR:

Rafter erection completed. Roof sheeting work in progress.

VADAPALANI: Pile, pile cap, stub column, plinth beam at street level, column up to concourse level (1st lift), column up to concourse level (2nd lift),

concourse floor slab, girder erection, deck slab, rafter erection, platform level, column, column up to link bridge, link bridge level slab and portal beam:

COMPLETED

EKKATTUTHANGAL AND ALANDUR:

Pile, pile cap, stub column, plinth beam at street level, column up to concourse level (1st lift), column up to concourse level (2nd lift),

concourse floor slab, girder erection, deck slab, rafter erection, platform level, column, column up to link bridge, link bridge level slab and portal beam: **COMPLETED**

STATUS CHECK

Latest updates on Trains (comprising 4 cars each): (As posted on August 11 on CMRL's official FB page)



TRAIN 1: Subjected to oscillation and emergency breaking distance (EBD) trials by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) on CMRL tracks. The reports are awaited from RDSO. Static and dynamic type testing in depot and viaduct is nearing completion.

TRAINS 2, 3, 4 AND 5: Completed all static and dynamic routine tests in depot and viaduct and is ready for integration testing.

TRAIN 6: Completed static routine test and ready for dynamic routine test in viaduct.

TRAIN 7: Currently undergoing static routine test to be performed in depot.

TRAIN 8 AND 9: Completed visual inspection and is ready for static depot testing.

TRAIN 10: Completed all type tests to be performed in depot and viaduct.

TRAIN 11: Completed static routine test and is ready for dynamic routine test at viaduct.

TRAIN 12: Has completed all static and dynamic routine testing.

TRAIN 13: Completed static routine test and dynamic routine testing under progress.

TRAIN 14: Stabled at workshop and static testing is in progress.