



(Above) The plush interiors of the first Metro Rail coach that arrived in Chennai from Brazil a few weeks ago; an outside view of the coach after it was unwrapped at the Koyambedu depot; and a differently-abled-friendly automatic door of the train | EXPRESS

## Brazilian Beauty to Hit Test Tracks by July-end

by C Shivakumar

**Chennai:** Chennai's first Metro Rail, imported from Brazil, will undergo a test run after the 800 metre test track is laid inside the depot by the end of this month, according to a Metro Rail spokesman.

Speaking to *Express* after the unveiling of three rakes of Chennai Metro Rail on Wednesday, he said the rakes are unique when compared to other Metro Rails as they

have space to keep the baggage. Besides, it is being made comfortable for physically handicapped people. "We have two slots for wheelchairs besides two seats for differently-abled and senior citizens," he said.

He said during the next three weeks, all the parts of

the imported Metro Rail will undergo tests at the depot.

The spokesman also said that work on the ₹98 crore state-of-the-art depot is likely to be completed by November.

Currently 600 metres of test track are ready and another 200 metres would be

completed by the end of this month.

"We will also be installing electric poles in the depot," he said. The work in depot is going at a fast pace and one could see workers trying to complete their daily quota of work.

The walls of the depot are being laid while the sheds are nearing completion. The Metro Rail spokesman also said that the receiving substation in the depot is nearing completion while the

work on the control room has been completed.

Metro Rail is also planning a six-rake Metro Rail. "We have designed the stations in such a way that it can accommodate six rakes in the future," he disclosed.

The spokesman said that the next instalment of train is likely to be shipped from Brazil by next month.

All the nine trains imported from Brazil are expected to reach Chennai by the end of this year.

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— METRO RAIL SPOKESMAN