



**TESTING  
THE TRACK**

A Metro train on a trial run on the elevated stretch between Koyambedu and Ashok Nagar on Friday. The trial runs are likely to be a regular feature for the next six months | A RAJA GHIDAMBARAM

# Metro Rail Rolls Out a Surprise with Koyambedu-Pillar trial Run

**Express News Service**

**Chennai:** It was a pleasant surprise for residents in the city on Friday as the Metro Rail rolled out on its maiden trial run between the Koyambedu and Ashok Nagar stations.

Unaware of such a trial run taking place, residents hardly had time to watch the train chugging on the 5.7 km stretch at a snail's pace. Even its hooting went unnoticed in the busy Koyambedu bus terminus as well as on the 100-foot road between Koy-

ambedu and Vadapalani. It was only after an alert by some curious bystanders that people climbed the stairs to have the glimpse of the Metro.

Metro Rail officials said they wanted to keep everything under wraps so as to ensure all the mechanism was in place. Interestingly, the train had three trial runs in the same stretch which has five stations. These stations include Koyambedu, CMBT, Arumbakkam, Vadapalani and Ashok Nagar.

In the next six months, it would

be a regular feature on the elevated stretch.

"Initially, the train ran at a speed of 5 km per hour and soon we increased the speed to 25 kmph. It would be further increased up to 90 kmph," said an official.

"We will be doing the software test, signal test, telecom test and train test after which an integration trial will be conducted. Then we will have to wait for rail safety clearance after which the stretch would be inaugurated," the official added.

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