

# Metro to have 5km trial run this week

## To Be Tested On Koyambedu-Ashok Pillar Stretch

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**Chennai:** This week you will be able to catch a glimpse of a metro rail train zipping above 100 Feet Road between Koyambedu and Ashok Pillar. Sources in Chennai Metro Rail Limited said everything was set for the 5km test run. The stretch, however, remains unfinished, as the contract between CMRL and Consolidated Construction Consortium Limited was terminated last month.

Existing contractors like L&T, URCL and Soma have been asked to pitch in to do the immediate work to ensure the test run is held this week. "We are almost set for the longest test run of the project so far," said a source in CMRL. Earlier, a metro train was taken out of the Koyambedu depot to a ramp to check the basic functions.

Work is on to install UPS and air-conditioners in the signalling room. Workers are also laying cables. The tendering process has been expedited to ensure that the new



Chennai Metro Rail's first trial was on January 30 on the ramp that links Koyambedu depot to the elevated main line

contractor is selected without delay. "We hope to find the right company by the end of this month," said the official.

While the initial deadline for trial runs on the line between Koyambedu and St Thomas Mount was January and that for commissioning the project was mid-July, at least three months have been lost due to delay. "By cancelling the contract with CCCL, we may actually gain two months, as we expect the new contractor to carry out work at a faster pace," said an official. According to officials, the consortium ran into financial losses that prevented

them from working. "At one point, the government was directly paying vendors to help them come out of the financial mess. But they had projects stuck in too many places — like the flyover in Moolakadai — for them to recover," said the official.

As the coaches used for metro rail run on pre-programmed information, extensive trial runs are needed. CCCL was awarded contracts worth ₹300 crore to design and build stations at Koyambedu, Arumbakkam, Vadapalani, Ashok Nagar, Sidco, Alandur and St Thomas Mount along the overhead corridor.

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