

Pre-construction work begins for Metro Rail

Trial pile load tests on Inner Ring road under way

A. Srivathsan

CHENNAI: Pre-construction activities have begun on the second Chennai Metro rail corridor.

The Hyderabad-based Soma Enterprise Ltd has commenced trial pile load tests on the 100-foot Inner Ring road between Koyambedu and Ashok Nagar.

Based on the tests and soil condition report, the elevated viaduct will be designed and construction will begin.

The 4.5-km stretch between Koyambedu and Ashok Nagar has been chosen for the first phase of construction since it forms the beginning of the elevated portion of the second corridor that connects Chennai Central and St. Thomas Mount.

The second corridor is 22-km long and portions along

- **Estimated cost of project is Rs.14,600 crore**

- **It is expected to be completed by 2015**

Periyar EVR Salai and Anna Nagar 2nd Avenue will be underground.

The first corridor that connects Washermanpet and the airport along Anna Salai is 23.1-km long. This corridor will be underground till Saidapet and elevated after that.

In February, the Chennai Metro Rail Limited awarded the tender for the construction of the elevated viaduct from Koyambedu to Ashok Nagar to Soma Enterprises Ltd. The tender value is Rs.199.20 crore and does not

include construction of stations. Station points have been identified but the actual station designs are awaited.

The Chennai Metro appointed a five-member consortium, led by Egis Rail S.A., France, as "General Consultants" in February to help them in design, supervision, quality control, safety and contract management of the project.

The estimated cost of the Metro Rail project is Rs.14,600 crore and is expected to be completed by 2015.

The trial pile load test will be conducted in 100-ft road at Ashok Nagar (Opp to Hotel Karaikudi) from May 27.

According to a Chennai Metro Rail company press release, five metres on either side of the median of the road (approximately one lane) for a length of 80 metres will be used in each location for the trial pile load test.



CRUCIAL CHECK: Soil testing for the Metro Rail project under progress on 100 Feet Road near Koyambedu on Monday. - PHOTO : K. PICHUMANI