



140
litres of water are
used to wash a train



A special plant
has been built to
recycle water for
washing trains



Of the **42** trains that will be operated by the Chennai Metro Rail, **36** have arrived at the depot and are housed at the stabling shed in Koyambedu. **9** trains came from Sao Paulo in Brazil

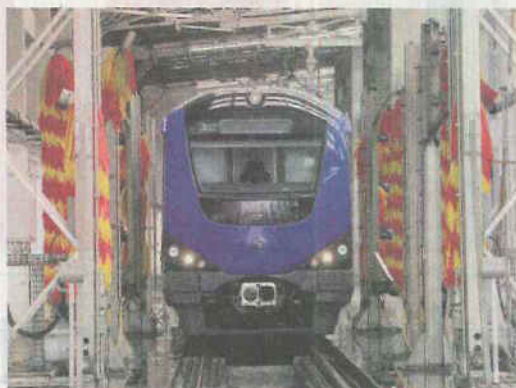


Each train can accommodate **1,200** people



Length of train: **90 metres**;
Length of each car: **22.5 metres**

The Chennai Metro system will stand out among all the public transport facilities in the city for its cleanliness, officials promise. Thorough cleaning every three days at the Koyambedu depot will keep the trains shiny and spotless, they say



1 After every three days of operations, each Metro train is brought to the depot. Special sensors alert the automatic washing system, brought in from Spain, when the train approaches. Giant vertical brushes spin in both directions. First, water is sprinkled, then water mixed in equal proportion with detergent is used, and finally, a full-fledged washing of the train is done



2 Then, the trains are again sprayed with RO water. Officials say this is done so that the trains don't bear the stains of washing after they dry. Also, since the weather is hot almost throughout the year, no special drying is done



3 The wheels of the trains are constantly maintained using an underfloor wheel lathe, as they suffer a lot of wear and tear. Officials say this process is crucial and if not done properly, may lead to the derailing of trains

Where trains come alive with freshness

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Two years ago, when the first service of the Chennai Metro Rail was operated between Koyambedu and Alandur, the trains drew much admiration for looking impeccably clean. But there was apprehension and talk that just like the MRTS and suburban rail, the trains on this system too might turn unkempt and dirty due to lack of maintenance. Much to everyone's surprise, the trains, today, appear just as they did on day one. The MRTS and suburban rail services undoubtedly carry far more people than the Metro trains, which transport about 24,000 people on a daily basis. Still, on the hygiene front, the latter's standards are worth emulating. At its 26-acre depot at Koyambedu, where 36 trains have been stationed, a testing track for trains can be found along with washing plants and stabling sheds to house trains and maintenance workshops. In this mammoth space, a comprehensive process of cleaning is executed regularly



4 Apart from all the above, a set of workers manually clean the interiors of the trains with a special solution to remove dirt and graffiti. The trains are also cleaned during their daily run while they halt at terminal stations such as Nehru Park



5 It takes about 140 litres to wash each train. To save water, there is a special plant with a capacity of 10,000 litres that recycles water used for washing and feeds it into the washing plant again before a new wash. This treated water is used only for the washing of trains



Spick and span: Trains at the depot of the Chennai Metro Rail Limited in Koyambedu on Thursday. ■ V. GANESAN