

Little Mount to DMS: Metro rail begins first trial on Anna Salai

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The first trial run between Little Mount and AG-DMS underground on Anna Salai began on Thursday, as Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is gearing up to run metro trains along the city's arterial road.

The work on the stretch between AG-DMS and Saidapet is nearing completion. It is part of the airport-Central-Washermentpet line of which Little Mount-Washermentpet stretch is yet to be opened.

While officials earlier planned to open the entire Anna Salai stretch at one go by mid-2018, the beginning of trial runs indicates that it may be opened much before the deadline. Officials said a locomotive was operated on the 4km line from Little Mount and AG-DMS. Round the clock work is underway on the up-line. While the line between AG-DMS and Saidapet is underground, Saidapet connects to Little Mount elevated station through a ramp built across the Adyar river. "Subsequent trial runs with metro trains on the stretch will start after the completion of system works," a release from CMRL said.

Installation of various critical systems like tunnel ventilation, heating-ventilation and airconditioning system (HVAC), signaling, platform screen doors, automatic fare collection (AFC) gates are complete. Last leg of work is underway at the AG-DMS, Tey-



Officials during the 4-km trial run at Little Mount metro station on Thursday

nampet, Nandanam and Saidapet stations.

The 4km line was part of the stretch on Anna Salai where work was stalled for more than a year after a Russian contractor abandoned construction midway citing a financial crisis.

Now, while the line between AG-DMS and Saidapet is ready, tunneling is still underway between May Day Park and AG-DMS. Tunnel boring machines are excavating soil and building tunnels near the Anna flyover close to AG-DMS station. Officials are expecting to complete tunneling in the next couple of months.

Once the entire stretch is open, metro trains are expected to decongest the arterial Anna Salai.

Part of metro tunnel for phase 1 extension to Wimco Ngr ready

Chennai: Nearly a year after construction for the 9km line to connect North Chennai through metro rail was initiated, CMRL engineers have completed building tunnels for a 1km stretch between Washermentpet and Theagaraya College stations.

Within the next two months, CMRL is likely to complete underground tunneling work in north Chennai. The tunnels are being built as part of the 9km phase-1 extension line between Washermentpet and Wimco Nagar, which is planned to be opened for public by mid-2019.

Metro rail officials said they have completed tunneling between Washermentpet and Theagaraya College stations - a distance of one kilometer with upline and downline put together. Tunneling work began in February 2017, after the station box was built.

"We hope to complete the rest of the one kilometer line between Theagaraya college and Korukkupet by September," an official said.

The cornerstone for the construction of the underground stretch was laid in July 2016 by former chief minister J Jayalithaa TNN.