

# Trial of metro line on Anna Salai to begin next month

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Trial runs with metro trains on the 4-km underground stretch between Saidapet and AG-DMS may begin by the end of September or October, as Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has plans to open the line before the rest of the stretch in arterial Anna Salai is ready.

Several critical systems including signals and platform screen doors will be tested during the trials. The line is likely to undergo a series of inspections to get approval for commercial operations early next year.

Metro rail officials began testing track alignment and dimensions by running a locomotive between Saidapet and AG-DMS in July.

"A full-fledged trial run with metro trains will begin by September-end or early October. It will be our internal inspection before we invite officials for inspections to get necessary approval to open the line," an official said.

During trial runs, several other systems needed to operate the service including electrical, electronic, signals, communication, platform screen doors will be tested along with the trains. "We will need at least five to six months to test these systems by continuously operating metro trains up and down the line before we seek approvals," an official said.

Main systems like tunnel ventilation, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC), signalling, platform



Metro rail officials began testing track alignment and dimensions by running a locomotive between Saidapet and AG-DMS in July (in pic)

screen doors, automatic fare collection (AFC) gates have been installed. Finishing touches are being given to the tunnels and the stations.

Initially, the plan was to open the 4-km line along with the rest of the Anna Salai stretch from May Day Park to AG-DMS covering a distance of 8km. However, since tunneling work is still underway in the 8-km line, and almost all systems have been installed in the four stations between Saidapet and AG-DMS, officials have planned to get it operational first.

Four metro stations — AG-DMS, Teynampet, Nandanam and Saidapet will connect the 4-km line while a ramp across the Adyar river will link the underground stations with the elevated Little Mount station that is already operational.

"The plan is to get the entire phase-1 of the metro rail project operational before the end of 2018," an official said.