

# Safe to roll? Metro rail ready to open key lines, Anna Salai stns in 2 weeks

## Officials Begin Inspection Of Track Security

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** A year after services started on the city's first underground metro rail stretch, between Thirumangalam and Nehru Park via Poonamallee High Road started to the public, Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) is readying to open the other stations on the route including a part of Central Metro as well as stations on Anna Salai. On Monday morning, the last leg of inspections by the commissioner of metro rail safety began on these lines.

If the commissioner gives the go-ahead to operate the lines after he concludes his inspections, the metro rail stretches from Nehru Park to Central Metro and Little Mount to AG-DMS will open before the end of May, said CMRL officials.

A team of officials from the commission of railway safety (CRS), under the ministry of ci-



vil aviation, headed by the railway safety commissioner K A Manoharan, began the inspection by visiting Shenoy Nagar station. They will be inspecting the upline from Shenoy Nagar to Central (5.62km) covering six stations and the downline from Central Metro to Nehru Park (2.5km) linking three stations till Tuesday.

The CMRS said they have verified documents related to the stations and tunnels that CMRL submitted before the in-

spection. An independent safety assessment was also conducted, prior to the CMRS inspection, and CMRL has received a certificate for the line between Shenoy Nagar and Central.

The commissioner will inspect the 4.5km line between Little Mount and AG-DMS on May 18 and 19 after receiving the independent safety assessment certificate. "We will get the certificate in a couple of days," the commissioner said.

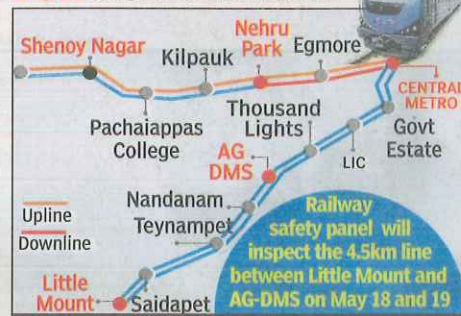
At Central Metro, the team will inspect the upper track level linking Egmore Metro and beyond on Poonamallee High Road and the concourse level. The lower track level linking Washermenpet on one side and Anna Salai via May Day Park on the other is not yet ready.

"We will be checking track parameters, tunnels and stations, calibration of the trains and firefighting systems among others," Manoharan said, adding, "We will also wit-

ness mock firefighting drills to check the efficiency of the tunnel ventilation and exhaust system."

Once the lines are opened, commuters will be able to take a direct train from Central Metro to Koyambedu and the airport via stations on Poonamallee High Road. Passengers from Anna Salai will also be able to head to the airport in 30 minutes or proceed to CMBT by shifting corridors at Alandur metro station.

### FOR SMOOTH RUN



**ON RIGHT TRACKS:** Railway safety commissioner K A Manoharan (3rd from L) with officials at Shenoy Nagar station on Monday. They will be inspecting the upline from Shenoy Nagar to Central and the downline from Central Metro to Nehru Park till Tuesday