

Chennai Metro starts trial run from Saidapet to AG-DMS

The exercise will continue till the operations begin on this stretch in May

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The Chennai Metro Rail began trial run in the underground line from Saidapet to AG-DMS stations on Monday, a mandatory exercise that has to be carried out before the opening of this stretch in May. During trial run, trains are operated back and forth to test the working of various systems. Once Chennai Metro Rail starts services on this stretch, commuters can take a direct ride from AG-DMS station to the Chennai airport.

This 4-km stretch from Saidapet station (located near Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services, Teynampet) to AG-DMS station (located near Panagal Maaligai) covers four stations – Saidapet, Nandanam, Teynampet and AG-DMS.

“Around 1 p.m., the train that departed from Little Mount station (which is already operational) went underground through a ramp to the Saidapet station. It moved at a speed of 35 km per hour and reached AG-DMS in half an hour, officials said. “It will take less than half hour when the services start in May. Today, it took half hour since we stopped at every station to check for any possible issues,” an official said.

According to sources, the trial run was carried out only

Another milestone for CMRL

Once this stretch is fully operational, commuters can have direct link from AG-DMS to Chennai airport



- In the trial run, the train is operated on tracks for the first time and electrical and signalling facilities will be checked
- This stretch is part of Anna Salai

- It will take less than half an hour from the airport to AG-DMS when the services begin
- When it becomes operational, this will be the 5th stretch to be open for service

List of Metro Rail stretches operational:

June 2015:
Koyambedu-Alandur

Sept. 2016:
Little Mount to Chennai airport

May 2017:
Thirumangalam to Nehru Park

- Eight months ago, Metro Rail tested a locomotive in this stretch

Phase 1



- No of stations: 4 (Saidapet, Nandanam, Teynampet and AG-DMS)

To be opened in April 2018: Nehru Park to Chennai Central

To be opened in May 2018: Saidapet to AG-DMS

on downward track. While officials claim the other track (upward track) is also ready, it is not clear why the trial run was not carried out. Various systems including, tunnel ventilation, signalling, platform screen doors and automatic fare collection have been installed.

Last inspection

Eight months ago, for the first time, Chennai Metro Rail tested a locomotive on this stretch. After comple-

tion of electrical and signalling work and integration of these systems, trial run with a train began on Monday. This exercise will continue till the operations begin on this stretch in May.

Before this stretch is thrown open to public, one last inspection by Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety will be done in late April or early May and after they give their approval, the operations will start.

Construction of stations is

nearly completed, officials said.

Work on this stretch faced a severe disruption three years ago. Gammon India and Russian firm Mosmetrostroy got a joint contract to carry out the work but the Russian firm walked out of the project owing to funds crunch and later Gammon India's contract was terminated.

Another contractor Afcons Infrastructure Limited took up this work.