

Trial run for Metro's last stretch from next month

AG-DMS line to Chennai Central to be operational from December

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With trial runs beginning next month, Chennai Metro Rail operations from AG-DMS to Chennai Central are likely to be opened for public in December.

With the completion of this last stretch, the phase I project of the Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) will conclude, 10 years after the then DMK government made an announcement in the Assembly.

According to CMRL officials, the preparatory work for the trial runs has begun. "The trial runs are important because they help us track the issues that need to be resolved before starting operations. It will go on for a few months, till we open this stretch for the public," an official said.

The track work in the 4.1-km-long stretch has almost been completed. This

Key dates of Phase 1

June 29, 2015: Koyambedu - Alandur - 10 km

Sept. 21, 2016: Airport - Little Mount - 8.6 km

Oct. 14, 2016: Alandur - St. Thomas Mount - 1.3 km

May 14, 2017: Koyambedu - Nehru Park - 8 km

May 25, 2018: Nehru Park - Central - 2.6 km

May 25, 2018: Little Mount - AG-DMS - 4.8 km



stretch will run entirely underground, with three stations - Thousand Lights, LIC and Government Estate - in between the AG-DMS and the Central station.

The running time between Central and the airport will come down compared

to the circuitous route through Koyambedu, officials said.

The stretch will also open up a sophisticated public transport system for those working in companies along the arterial Anna Salai. Reaching the Central railway

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station too will become easier for residents on both sides of Anna Salai. The expansion will also connect the Madras High Court.

The CMRL will soon begin installing platform screen doors in this stretch, to help in better crowd management.

"The Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety will inspect and give his final approval only after the doors are in place," an official said.

Currently, the phase I project of the Metro Rail runs across 35 km of the city and has 26 stations. CMRL officials said they were confident about opening this last stretch of phase I by this year-end.