

Metro trial runs begin between AG-DMS and Washermenpet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: A diesel locomotive was operated across the 9.5km stretch from AG-DMS to Washermenpet via the much-anticipated Central metro and Anna Salai line on Friday, as Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) began trial runs in the last leg of the 45km Phase I.

Trial runs with metro trains are expected to begin in September, as the stretch is likely to be ready by December before official inspections begin to get approval for commercial operation.

A team of CMRL officials travelled on a locomotive that ran on the ballastless tracks across eight underground stations – AG-DMS, Thousand Lights, LIC, Government Estate, Chennai Central, High Court, Mannadi and Washermenpet. The commercial operation of this stretch will complete the metro rail network along the 45km Phase I.

“The lower track level of Central Metro will be ready by end of this year,” an official said. The other stations too are expected to be ready by December 2018. One of



ENSURING SMOOTH RUN: CMRL officials during the trial run

the entry points at AG-DMS and Government Estate stations are being integrated with the existing pedestrian subway for easy access.

Systems like overhead electrification, signalling, tunnel ventilation, HVAC, platform screen doors, automatic fare collection gates are being installed. “Once the line is completely ready with all the systems and we begin our trial, we will invite for RDSO and CMRS inspections for getting

approvals to start commercial operations,” an official said.

The stretch covers part of the Anna Salai line where work was stalled for more than a year after a Russian contractor abandoned work citing financial crisis. It was alleged that a wrong soil analysis was the reason behind the contractor leaving the site. While boring tunnels, the contractor ran into hard rocky soil, which was allegedly not mentioned in the soil test report.