

Metro trials on Anna Salai from Nov, operations may begin by year end

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Trial runs of metro trains on arterial Anna Salai will begin in November as work on the 10km underground line from Washermenpet to AG-DMS is in the final stages. The line is expected to open to the public by December, completing the 45km Phase 1.

In August 2018, Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) ran a locomotive from Washermenpet to AG-DMS. "Installation of various systems, platform screen doors and other finishing work in the stations and the tunnels are underway," said an official.

CMRL is yet to get, from a German company, the signal software vital for the automatic operation of the network. It links signals and platform screen doors in the stations while also controlling the operation of trains. CMRL will conduct trials before and after installation of the signal systems.

Once the line becomes operational, commuters will be able to reach the airport, a distance of 25km from Washermenpet in less than 60 minutes via Anna Salai. At present, commuters can take metro from Central to the airport through the underground line on Poo-

namallee High Road and the elevated section between Koyambedu and Alandur, which takes about 60 minutes.

The trial run will go through Washermenpet, Mannadi, High Court, Central Metro, Government Estate, LIC, Thousand Lights and AG-DMS. Central Metro will be an underground transit hub where commuters can switch to the other corridor that is operated to St Thomas Mount.

The tunnels on this stretch have been built under Anna Salai, Cooum river near Central Metro and Chintadripet and suburban railway tracks.