

Metro set for DMS-Washermentpet line inspection

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Carrying out trial runs on the last leg of phase-1 between AG-DMS and Washermentpet covering 10km are underway, Chennai Metro Rail Limited is all set to invite the commissioner of metro rail safety (CMRS) for a final inspection required for commercial operation of the line.

CMRL officials said they will submit documents related to the line to the commission of railway safety in Bengaluru before the end of the week, and invite the officials concerned for inspection. Top metro rail officials on Monday discussed the status of the line with state industries minister M C Sampath at a review meeting.

“The inspection is likely to take place in the first half of January 2019. We hope to open the line

before the end of that month,” a metro rail official said.

At the meeting, the minister inquired about the progress of work at the stations and tunnels. Metro rail officials also discussed the status of the 9km phase-1 extension line between Washermentpet and Wimco Nagar, which is under construction. Installation of ballastless tracks will begin soon in the line that cuts across a part of North Chennai through a 2km underground section and a 7km elevated corridor.

At present, four-car metro trains are being operated and tested in the two tunnels linking AG-DMS and Washermentpet via Anna Salai during non-operational hours, from 11pm to 4am. Several systems required for the daily operations including signals, communication gadgets, overhead equipment that supplies power to the trains, platform



Industries minister M C Sampath conducts a review meeting with CMRL

screen doors, air-conditioning and ventilation are being tested.

When the pending line on phase-1 opens to the public, commuters can travel from Chennai Central to airport in less than 60 minutes via Anna Salai. In addition, the line will also connect a

part of north Chennai with the rest of the network through three underground stations at Washermentpet, Mannadi and High Court.

The extension line under construction in North Chennai is expected to be ready by March

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2020. When opened, commuters can take a single train from Wimco Nagar near Tiruvottiyur in the north to airport, which is 32km away in the south.