

# IIT-M experts to check elevated metro corridor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Experts from Indian Institute of Technology Madras will soon inspect the stability of elevated metro rail corridors running across two arterial roads and submit a report. Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) operates a 21km elevated corridor from Thirumangalam ramp to St Thomas Mount and from Saidapet ramp to the airport.

A CMRL official said they had captured images of critical spots on the concrete structures including the columns and viaduct that require further examination. "We will invite an expert te-



am from IIT-M, who will see our photographs, conduct field inspections and give us a report. We will decide further course of action based on the report," an official said.

Several parameters like strength, stability, develop-

**A CMRL official said they had captured images of critical spots on the concrete structures including the columns and viaduct that require further examination**

ment of crack among others will be checked. The 21km elevated line is connected by more than 500 columns holding the viaducts.

The decision to conduct an inspection comes at a time when metro services in Bengaluru were affected

earlier this week after a honeycomb concreting defect on an elevated line led to the shifting of track from its alignment.

Honeycombs are cavities found inside or on the surface of a concrete mass formed due to various reasons including use of stiff concrete or improper vibration during concreting.

"Apart from the strength of the pillars and columns, the most important component we inspect is the rubber bush between the columns and the deck on which tracks are laid. We periodically check its condition and position to ensure there is no disturbance due to the move-

ment of trains above," an official said. The inspection is critical for the safety of metro rail passengers as well as motorists and pedestrians on the road.

In August, a piece of concrete from a pillar of elevated corridor in Kochi fell on an autorickshaw whose passengers luckily escaped unhurt.

This will be the second inspection on the elevated corridor since the first line between Koyambedu and Alandur was opened in June 2015. In September this year, CMRL floated a tender to look for a firm with the expertise to inspect the structural stability of the corridor.