

Metro phase-2 soil tests to be done at more locations

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Soil tests will be conducted at more spots covering 66km of phase 2 network of Chennai metro rail project in the city. This is part of the 118.9km phase 2 network as three corridors.

CMRL has floated six tenders to conduct soil investigations between CMBT and Sholinganallur; Sholinganallur and SIPCOT and from Power House to Poonamallee.

This is in addition to the soil tests already underway in several localities in the 52km priority corridor from CMBT to Madhavaram and Madhavaram to Sholinganallur which will be built first.

"Construction along the 52km is likely to begin before the end of this year. Soil tests are going to be done at these new spots as we are planning to start construction in the remaining portion simultaneously," a metro rail official said. "Our target is to complete the priority corridor in six years. The remaining

will also be completed within the same period."

The three-corridor phase-2 is planned to link suburban areas with the core areas of the city. The project estimated to cost ₹69,000 crore will have 116 stations.

A 150mm sized borehole will be drilled 15-18m deep for every 25m to 30m distance to collect soil samples. The samples will then be sent to laboratories for analysis and a report will be prepared.

Soil investigations play a key role in deciding the type of equipment and method of construction to be adopted.

In phase-1, outcome of soil tests was cited as a reason for the project getting stalled on the Anna Salai stretch.

For the priority corridor, CMRL has already received funding from JICA and from the state government for 52km. Officials said talks are underway with four international banks to fund the remaining 66km. Recently, the state government requested the Centre to enter into a 50:50 joint venture and fund the project.