

# Work on metro phase-2 likely to begin by mid-2020

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**Chennai:** The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is likely to begin construction for the remaining 66.8km portion of the total 118.9km phase-2 corridor by mid-2020, with talks on for funding from international banks. Construction for the 52.01km priority corridor will be taken up first, and is expected to begin by the end of 2019.

A metro rail official said soil tests are being conducted in several localities in the 66.8km stretch, including Lighthouse, T Nagar and Poonamallee. It is likely to be completed by end of this year.

"We have floated tenders in small packages for soil tests. The test reports will help us flo-



B A Raju

**GETTING READY FOR SECOND PHASE:** Soil tests being conducted at Venkatnarayana Road in T Nagar

at construction tenders faster," an official said. Officials said construction tenders for the 52.01km priority corridor will

be floated in June 2019. The 118.9-km phase-2 has been planned with three corridors linked by 128 stations, to be built at

an estimated cost of ₹69,000 crore. The remaining 66.8km stretch of the phase will be linked to 71 stations. It will cover stretches from Sholinganallur to Siruseri Sipcot, along the OMR, covering around 10km, and a 26.1km line from Lighthouse to Poonamallee linking several localities, including core areas like Mylapore, T Nagar, Kodambakkam and Vadapalani. It will also link Porur, Karayanchavadi, Iyyapanthangal and Poonamallee, which are poorly connected by public transportation. The third 30.7km stretch is from CMBT to Sholinganallur, linking the western fringes of the city.

The CMRL has been in talks with four international banks - World Bank, Asia Deve-

lopment Bank, New Development Bank and European Investment Bank - to get loans for the construction of the 66km corridor. The construction cost is estimated to be around ₹28,000 crore, which would come as loans from banks and funding from the state and the central governments.

For the construction of the 52.01km priority corridor, the CMRL has signed an agreement with JICA in December 2018 to get ₹20,196 crore, which is nearly 50% of the total ₹40,941 crore. JICA also sanctioned the first tranche of ₹4,760.67 crore. The 52.01km priority corridor comprises 57 stations from CMBT to Madhavaram and Madhavaram to Sholinganallur.