

Trial runs on extended corridor by next April

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

By April 2020, metro trains will be operated for the first time between Washermenpet and Wimco Nagar before they are thrown open to the public. The 9km line is likely to be ready by mid next year.

A metro rail official said trains



will be operated in manual mode before trial runs and inspections by commissioner of metro rail safety (CMRS). "We may operate trains by April or May next year. Much of the work would be complete by then. We will be ready for a June opening," the official said.

Locomotives followed by metro trains in manual mode will be operated on the 9km stretch to check track alignment. It will be followed by trial runs when trains will be operated on manual and automatic modes to test the inte-

gration of the cars with signalling and communication systems. Syncing of platform screen doors, information display boards on platforms and the automatic fare collection gates in the ticketing area will be checked. It will be followed by formal inspections by CMRS to get approvals for commercial operations.

When the line opens, commuters can board a train from Wimco Nagar near Thiruvottiyur and reach the airport via Anna Salai. They can also shift corridors to reach Koyambedu or Egmore.

At present, construction of the elevated corridor and stations, underground and elevated is on. Workers are busy laying tracks on a portion of the elevated corridor. "About 40% of the track work in the elevated section is done," an official said.

Once the track work is complete, overhead equipment and the mast will be erected before the signalling and communication systems are installed. A two-kilometre twin tunnel between Washermenpet and Korukkupet was completed more than a year ago. Officials said the underground tunnels are now ready with tracks and electricals.