

# Wimco Nagar stretch trial in Feb.

## CMRL likely to run a shunting loco on underground section

SUNITHA SEKAR  
CHENNAI

As the first step to running full-fledged operations, Chennai Metro will carry out an initial trial of the phase I extension project, from Washermanpet to Wimco Nagar, covering nearly 9 km of north Chennai, in the last week of February.

According to officials of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), they are likely to run a shunting loco on the underground stretch, from Washermanpet to Korukkupet, initially, and check how it works. "The tracks are

now being laid on this 9-km stretch. In the underground section, the track has already been laid, but work is still on for the elevated section. We are hoping to finish it in another month. If it gets completed, we will do a trial run for the whole stretch; if not, we will certainly run the shunting loco for the underground section alone. During this trial, we will know if there are any problems, and what areas need correction," an official said.

In this 9-km stretch, a small section from Washermanpet to Korukkupet alone

is underground, and after that, the track runs above the ground till Wimco Nagar. Currently, the construction of stations and installation of some systems are on.

After trials with the shunting loco, CMRL will conduct a trial with the trains. This is likely to happen by April, said officials.

As Chennai Metro plans to open the stretch by June, the beginning of such trials is crucial as only after the tracks are proved safe and the hitches corrected can the section become operational.