

Four Acqua Line coaches finally arrive in city

SWEETY ADIMULAM / Mumbai

The four much-awaited coaches for the first prototype rake of Mumbai Metro Line 3 – named the Acqua Line – arrived in Mumbai on Tuesday. According to the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC), four more coaches will arrive soon. Meanwhile, the project implementing authority has called tenders for a detailed project report (DPR) of an extension to Metro Line 3 which will go beyond Cuffee Parade, up to Navy Nagar. The DPR will take six months after which another tender for construction of the extension will be called.

As per the MMRC, all the eight coaches will be assembled and the train will be formed at the “temporary facility of train delivery and testing track area”, set up at Sariput Nagar in Aarey.

The MMRC statement further reads that the four trailers, carrying one coach each, reached the city after traversing 1,400 km from Sri City in Andhra Pradesh after 13 days. The coaches – weighing 42 tonnes each –



were brought using special 8-axel trailers with 64 wheels.

Travel runs of the initial design prototype train will be conducted along the 3-km stretch of Mumbai Metro Line 3 tunnel, from the temporary facility to Marol Naka Metro Station.

Meanwhile, the construction work of Metro 3 is speeding up after Devendra Fadnavis took charge of deputy chief minister and Eknath Shinde became the Chief Minister. In fact, on the first day after both took oath, Fadnavis declared that the Metro 3 depot will be in Aarey and not at Kanjurmarg, considering the time

and money constraints. However, the Save Aarey conservation group expressed disappointment and also moved the Supreme Court with a contempt petition for tree cutting inside Aarey, despite having status quo. The matter is yet to be heard by the court.

According to the MMRC, the track laying work at MIDC, SEEPZ and Siddhivinayak station is 100 per cent complete. Whereas 90 per cent of the station at Cuffe Parade is ready as of today. The underground corridor is expected to see one last breakthrough at Mumbai Central.