

Maharashtra CM and Deputy CM flag off Metro 3 trial run at Aarey

‘Opposition to the project more political than environmental’

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Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis flagged off Mumbai's Metro 3 line's trials at Sariput Nagar in Aarey Colony on Tuesday. "We are committed towards completing the first phase by December 2023," Mr. Shinde said.

Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) officials said the trains would be tested for speed, oscillation and emergency break distance.

The total distance of test runs is estimated to be over 10,000 km and will be tested for almost six months.

On August 10, the Maharashtra government approved a 44% rise in the project cost of Mumbai Metro 3 at an estimate of ₹33,405.82 crore from ₹23,136 crore. So far, 98.6% the construction of the twin tunnels and 82.6% of the underground



CM Shinde and Deputy CM Fadnavis at the launch of trial run of Mumbai Metro at Aarey Colony in Mumbai on Tuesday. ■PTI

stations have been completed. The acquisition of 73.14 hectare of government land and 2.56 hectare of private land has been completed for this project.

Mr. Fadnavis said, "In my opinion, the ongoing opposition to the Metro 3 project is more political than for environmental reasons." "Nearly 17 lakh people will travel daily on this line once it is operational. With the commencement of this line, nearly seven lakh vehicles will go off road. It will definitely sup-

port the environmental cause," he said.

Mr. Fadnavis had started the project of the 33.5 km underground Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Metro at Aarey Milk Colony, a 1,800-acre urban forest in suburban Goregaon in 2014. However, after coming to power and due to massive public outcry to Save Aarey, the Maha Vikas Aghadi government took the first Cabinet decision of moving the car shed depot out of Aarey (western suburb) to Kanjurmarg (east central).