

## Prototype trial runs of Metro-3 train start today

Trial runs of the eight-coach prototype rake for Metro-3 are scheduled to commence on a 3km stretch on Tuesday in the presence of CM Shinde and deputy CM Fadnavis. The initial design-proving trial runs for about 2,000km will be conducted in a tunnel between Sariput Nagar in Aarey to Marol Naka. It includes speed, oscillation and emergency brake distance trials besides testing of other systems. **P3**

# Metro 3 prototype rake trial runs commence on 3km stretch today

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**Mumbai:** The much-awaited trial runs of the prototype rake for Metro 3 (Colaba-Bandra-Seepz) are scheduled to commence on a 3km stretch from today. The trial run will commence in the presence of chief minister Eknath Shinde and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis at 11am from Sariput Nagar in Aarey. The prototype rake had arrived in two batches of four coaches.

The initial design-proving trial runs of the prototype train of about 2,000km will be conducted in a 3km tunnel from the temporary facility to Marol Naka station.

Speed, oscillation and emergency brake distance trials will be conducted, along with testing of some other systems.

The dispatch of the second train from Sri City will be decided later, based on the outcome of the trial runs with the first prototype train.

Even though the prototype rake was ready, its delivery was held up because of uncertainty over the issue of depot as the previous government wanted to shift it to



The trials are to begin in the presence of the CM and Dy CM at 11am

Kanjurmarg. The approvals for dispatch of first prototype rake and trials came as soon as the Eknath Shinde government came to power after Uddhav Thackeray resigned from the chief minister's post. Thackeray was opposed to the depot coming up at Aarey but the new government's first decision was lift the stay on the depot work at Aarey.

The manufacturing of 31 train sets of eight coaches for the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL) underground corridor has commenced at the Alstom factory in Sri City.

The MMRCL is going to

begin the operations for Phase I with nine rakes, for which facilities will be made ready by April. In July, the depot will be able to handle operations for the entire corridor even though some other works may continue.

For Phase I almost all the facilities will be ready except the Operational Control Centre (OCC) at the Aarey depot site. This will not be a hurdle as there is a provision for Back-up Control Centre (BCC) at the BKC station.

The MMRCL expressed confidence that nearly all works for the Phase I corridor will be completed by June.

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