

Aarey-BKC Metro

97% ready, final check next week

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Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL), which is implementing the Aarey-Cuffe Parade Metro 3 underground corridor project, is expected to invite the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) for the final inspection of Phase I (Aarey-BKC) next week.

MMRCL has announced that Phase I of the corridor is 97% complete. Inspections by the fire brigade have been finalised, and testing of electrical and other systems is nearing completion.

A senior MMRCL official said, "We are aiming for a September opening of Phase I, and we are optimistic that the CMRS final inspection will proceed smoothly."

The state govt has confirmed that the Aarey-BKC section will open before September. The entire route to Cuffe Parade is expected to become operational by December.

The BKC-Aarey stretch, featuring nine stations, is designed to alleviate traffic in high-

density areas. MMRCL plans to run 260 services daily on the route, with trains operating every 6.4 minutes. Each train will consist of eight cars and will run from 6.30 am to 11 pm. One train will be kept on stand-by.

The Research Designs and Standards Organization (RDSO), the railways' technical specification development body, has completed trials for the rolling stock. These trials, conducted at speeds up to 95 kmph with both empty and loaded trains, assessed the dynamic performance and stability of the trains.

Further trials on the stretch are essential to ensure the system's reliability and safety before commercial operations commence. Limited trials on the corridor began last October, with the first occurring on Oct 8 between MIDC and Vidyanagari stations. The trials covered a distance of 17km, including the return trip to Seepz.

With 19 rakes in its possession, MMRCL is prepared to operate over 260 services between BKC and Aarey.