

## Metro 3 depot to be done by April

Metro 3's car shed in Aarey will be completed by April 2023, and commercial operations of phase I is scheduled to commence in December next year. It will also be connected to both the domestic and international terminals of the airport. The entire corridor is expected to open by June 2024, said MMRCL managing director, Ashwini Bhida. **P3**

# Metro 3 Phase I, with airport connect, to run in 16 months

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Commercial operations for Metro 3's Phase I stretch (Aarey-BKC) is scheduled to commence in December next year. Before that, the Aarey car shed will be ready in April 2023. The entire corridor (Colaba-Bandra-Seepez) is expected to open by June 2024.

"We are going to begin Phase I operations with nine rakes, for which facilities will be made ready by April 2023. In July, the Aarey depot will be able to handle operations for the entire corridor, even though some other works may continue," said Ashwini Bhida, managing director, Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL), on Thursday. The corporation claims that 29%

Trial runs of the prototype Metro 3 rake that arrived recently from Alstom's facility in Andhra Pradesh will begin this month, MMRCL's managing director said on Thursday

of work on the depot stands completed, and the remaining work is expected to go smoothly now that political hurdles have been cleared.

Bhida said that for Phase I, almost all facilities will be ready except the operational control centre (OCC) at the Aarey car shed site. She said this will not be a hurdle as there is a provision to have a back-up control centre (BCC) at the BKC Metro station. Expressing confidence that almost all project-related work for the Phase I segment of the corridor will be completed by June 2023, she said, "We will invite the commissioner of metro rail safety (CMRS) three months before December 2023, which is the deadline for commissioning commercial services."

## SIX-FOLD REDUCTION IN TRAVEL TIME



### WORK DEADLINES

Phase I:  
**April 2023**  
Phase II:  
**July 2023**

### COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

Phase I:  
**Dec 2023**  
Phase II:  
**June 2024**

### METRO 3 PHASE I

Aarey to BKC\*

Length:  
**12 km**

**STATIONS:** Aarey, Seepez, MIDC, Marol Naka, CSIA International Terminal, Sahar Road, CSIA Domestic Terminal, Santacruz, Vidya Nagari, BKC

### WORK STATUS (%)

Civil work	86
Stations	84
Tunneling	100
Systems	40
Track-laying	40
Car shed	29



### THE COACHES

**Facilities include:**  
● AC coaches with humidity control  
● LCD screens for information, ads and entertainment  
● Programmable digital route map indicator  
● Passenger announcement system  
● Longitudinal seating arrangement with lumbar support; grab-poles and rails for standees

### REACHING AIRPORT

● The first phase of Metro 3 provides direct connectivity with the airport's domestic and international terminals through two Metro 3 stations along the alignment (underground)

● Each terminal will have pedestrian access via underground passages connected to the stations

### Saving time:



### EXPENDITURE

(₹ cr)  
Initial estimate: **23,136**  
Revised: **33,405**  
Allocated: **21,890**  
Spent: **21,520**



Defending the increase in cost for the Metro 3 project from Rs 23,136 crore to Rs 33,405 crore, MMRCL's MD said, "The original estimate was based on the project cost for Phase III of Delhi Metro, with 10% escalation accounted for Mumbai. The cost has increased because of various reasons, including soil strata being dif-

ferent in Delhi and Mumbai. Also Delhi has six-car rakes, while Mumbai will have eight-car rakes."

She said 30 hectares of land was allotted to MMRCL at Aarey in 2014, of which 25 hectares will be used for the depot and the balance left untouched. Even though 31 rakes have been planned for this project, the depot will

have a capacity to handle 42 rakes. It is also projected that there will be a need to accommodate 55 rakes in the future, but work towards this increase will be done in phases till 2050.

Activists had alleged that the Aarey car shed site would need to be expanded in the future to accommodate more coaches.