

Over 95 per cent work at Aarey depot on Mumbai Metro Line 3 completed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, JANUARY 18

THE WORK on the carshed at Aarey, that would serve as the base for maintaining Metro coaches for Mumbai Metro Line 3, is nearing its end with 95 per cent work completed. The 33.5-km long Metro 3 that connects Colaba with Seepz via Bandra Kurla Complex is fully underground.

The Aarey depot is coming up on a 25-hectare land parcel. The main depot will have the capacity to stable 30 rakes of eight cars. The work on the depot began in September 2017, but on November 29, 2019, the then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had stayed the work. After he resigned, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's government on July 1, 2022 commenced the work in Aarey once again.

The depot, the work for which has cost Rs 328 crore, has stabling lines, workshop and mainte-

nance building, operational control centre (OCC), access control building, auxiliary substation building, underground water tank, among others.

Ashwini Bhide, managing director of Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRC), the executing agency which is carrying out Metro project, took a review of the work on Thursday along with other officials.

Phase 1 (BKC to Aarey) operations will be taken care of from Aarey's main monitoring centre along with the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) back up control centre (BCC). A source said earlier there was a plan to do the Phase 1 commercial operation from BCC at BKC until the Aarey depot is fully ready.

However, as substantial work of depot in Aarey has been completed, the Phase 1 operation will be taken care of from both centres. The initial proposed deadline of BKC-Aarey Phase 1 was December 2023 which has now been postponed to April 2024.