

Metro train to roll into island city 6 yrs after work started

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Mumbai: Six and a half years after tunnelling for the Cuffe Parade-BKC-Aarey Metro 3 corridor started, a Metro train is finally slated to run on a short stretch in the island city. Metro authorities plan to run the train till Siddhivinayak or Dadar station to lay the groundwork for trial runs.

"While not a trial run in itself, this step is crucial for the project's progress," said a senior official from Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL). "Overhead electrification (OHE) and track-laying work have been completed till Dadar. The preliminary run will provide valuable insights for the upcoming trial runs, which are to be conducted till Acharya Atre Chowk in Worli." MMRCL has opted for a phased approach to open the 33.5km Metro 3 corridor (Cuffe Parade-BKC-Aarey), with Phase I covering BKC-Aarey, Phase II extending to Worli, and the final phase reaching Cuffe Parade. The official clarified that the train will continue to advance to cover more stations even as work concludes before the official trial runs.

Loaded trials on rakes are currently underway, with gunny bags filled with debris simulating passenger loads during train motion between BKC and Aarey. Previously, trials were conducted with empty rakes at speeds of up to 95 kmph. "With 19 rakes in

PHASE 1 SERVICES MAY START IN JUNE-JULY

Cuffe Parade-BKC-Aarey
32.5km
Underground

TO BE OPENED IN 3 PHASES

PHASE I | AAREY-BKC

10 stations | Aarey Colony, Seepz, MIDC, Marol Naka, CSIA Terminal 2 (international airport), Sahar Road, CSIA Terminal 1 (domestic airport), Santacruz, Vidyanagar, BKC
Was expected to open by April-end. No new deadline announced, but sources say it will open anytime this month



PHASE II | BKC-WORLI

6 stations | Dharavi, Shitaladevi temple, Dadar, Siddhivinayak temple, Worli, Acharya Atre Chowk

PHASE III | SCIENCE MUSEUM-CUFFE PARADE

11 stations | Science Museum, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai Central, Grant Road, Girgaum, Kalbadevi, CSMT, Hutatma Chowk, Churchgate, Vidhan Bhavan, Cuffe Parade



PHASE I OPERATIONAL PLAN

Trains
9

1 train will be kept on standby

2 trains will be in maintenance

7 trains will run for passenger services

FREQUENCY
6 minutes
40 seconds



OPERATIONAL TIME
6am to 11pm
(To be modified based on passenger response)

260 ROUND TRIPS
130 Aarey to BKC
130 BKC to Aarey

MMRCL had earlier announced that Phase I was to be opened in May, Phase II in July and Phase III by October. But the progress of trial runs show that the deadlines are likely to be missed — An official

possession, MMRCL is well-equipped to run over 260 services in Phase I operations between BKC and Aarey," the of-

ficial said.

Upon obtaining safety certifications and approvals from the Independent Safety

Assessor and the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety, commercial operations will commence, the official said.