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Trial runs on second phase of metro project begin

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation (GMRC) on Friday began trial runs for Phase II operations of the metro rail between Gandhinagar and Motera. On Thursday, the first trains and engines were rolled out. The authorities plan to open the route for passenger traffic by the end of May or early June.

Earlier this month, they had announced a track from Motera to Sector I, connecting Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). The authorities are hoping to con-

nect Motera with Gandhinagar soon after the Lok Sabha election.

Officials said the entire stretch up to Mahatma Mandir is likely to be completed by

the end of the year. S S Rathore, the managing director, said, "The pre-trial run has begun on the stretch connecting Motera and Gandhinagar".

A senior GMRC official sa-



A test rake on the track in the GNLU Nagar area on Friday

Ancela Jamindar

id work will simultaneously go on but putting the metro on the track before the election was a priority. "Now that the trial has begun, the authorities can go in for an inspection by the Chief Metro Rail Safety officials. This can be done even when the code of conduct is in place," he said.

The cable-stayed bridge across the Narmada main canal on the section between Narendra Modi Stadium and Gandhinagar is nearing its completion. The 28-km stretch from Motera to Mahatma Mandir will have 22 stations.

However, the 21-km stretch from Motera to Sector-I will be the first to be completed and will cover Motera, Koteshwar, Vishwakarma College, Tapovan, Koba Circle, GNLU, PDPU, Rayasan, Infocity and Sector-I stations. The remaining 7-km stretch, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year, will cover Sector 10-A, Sachivalaya, Akshardham, old Sachivalaya, Sector 16, Sector 24 and Mahatma Mandir. The official said they have begun preparing the report for another stretch connecting GIFT City and Ahmedabad airport.