

Commissioning of Metro 3 only by July: MMRCL

**BHALCHANDRA CHORGHAE/
MUMBAI**

Even though Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL) is conducting trials on Metro 3 or Aqua Line, it will not be before July, when the commissioning of phase 1 of the metro between Aarey Colony and BKC will be possible. Metro 3 is a 33.5-km-long underground corridor running along Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ. The length of the corridor is marked with 27 key stations out of which 26 will be underground and one at grade.

“Currently, testing and trials for Phase 1 are underway. There are multiple layers of clearance such as research design and standards organisation (RDSO), independent safety assessor (ISA), and commissioner of metro rail safety (CMRS) in sequence. RDSO is expected to visit and inspect the metro route from June 3. As we go ahead there will be more clarity,” Managing Director of MMRCL, Ashwini Bhide said.

“We expect CMRS to inspect the route in July. Commissioning of the route would be possible only after their certification,” Bhide added. When asked whether construction of Aarey depot is complete, she replied in the affirmative and said, “Everything needed for the commissioning of phase 1 is almost ready.”

The Aarey depot spans 30 hectares with 5 hectares preserved in their natural state. The remaining 25 hectares accommodate a station alongside the depot, which includes facilities for maintenance, operations, administration, and training.