



MEDIA COVERAGE

MEDIA : The Hindustan Times	TITLE: City cheers as Monorail runs on Wadala stretch
COMPANY :	MNR : <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
DATE : Thursday, 28 January 2010	<input type="checkbox"/> PC <input type="checkbox"/> INTERVIEW

Eleven months after the state government started the construction of the Monorail, residents in Mumbai on January 26 witnessed the first road run of an alternate transport medium on the city's streets.

The trial run for the Monorail took place on a 108-metre stretch at Wadala, in the presence of Chief Minister Ashok Chavan and hundreds of spectators.

MMRDA officials were earlier keen to conduct a trial run on a 1-km stretch. However, the electrification required for the running of the coach was done only on the 108-metre stretch.

The Monorail will act as a surrogate to the already over-burdened suburban railway system.

"I am sure this test will instill a lot of confidence in Mumbaiites who are backing our infrastructure projects," Chavan said.

The Monorail travelled up and down the 108-metre stretch and was driven by experts flown in from Malaysia by Scomi, which built the rakes of the Monorail.

The Rs 2,460-crore Monorail will run between Jacob Circle and Chembur and is expected to be functional by 2011.

A consortium of Larsen & Toubro with Scomi Engineering Bhd, Malaysia, is building the 19.54-km Monorail line.

When the project is functional, it will have 14 Monorail trains of four coaches each, with a capacity of a minimum of 500 commuters.

Fifteen Monorail trains will run at a frequency of 4.5 minutes. Commuters will be charged a fare between Rs 8 and Rs 20, depending upon the distance.



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MEDIA : gulfnews.com	TITLE: Mumbai takes first ride on monorail
COMPANY :	MNR : <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
DATE : Thursday, 28 January 2010	<input type="checkbox"/> PC <input type="checkbox"/> INTERVIEW

Mumbai takes first ride on monorail

Malaysia-built train test driven on 100-metre stretch from Wadala to Bhakti Park Complex

Policemen on guard during the first monorail test on Wednesday in Mumbai. Image Credit: EPA Mumbai: India's first monorail was successfully test driven on Republic Day, though it covered just a 100-metre stretch at a speed of less than 10km from Wadala to Bhakti Park Complex.

The 20km route will run from Sant Gatge Maharaj Chowk (Jacob Circle) in central Mumbai through Wadala to Chembur, a north-eastern suburb. The Rs25 billion (Dh1.97 billion) project, an initiative of the Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority, involves design, construction, installation, testing and commissioning from Wadala to Chembur via Mahul, a 9km route, in Phase I and the 11km stretch from Jacob Circle to Wadala in Phase II. Phase I is expected to be completed and commissioned by the year-end.

"The second phase is expected to be completed next year," said Chief Minister Ashok Chavan, who was present at the trial run. "It is expected to ease travel for about 300,000 commuters, mainly the city's working class, who will benefit from this air-conditioned transport system. I'm very excited about it."

The trains will run at a maximum three-minute frequency with a design speed of 80km/h and scheduled speed of 31 km/h. Journey time for section one would take 25 minutes and the next one would take 19 minutes.

Eighteen stations on its route would ensure that the monorail would benefit areas not covered by suburban trains.

Scomi Group, a leading provider of urban transit systems in Malaysia, delivered the first monorail car a fortnight back.

Scomi and its consortium partner Larsen & Toubro secured the \$545 million monorail project in November 2008 and have been given 30 months to complete the project.

MEDIA : business.rediff.com	TITLE: Mumbai boasts of the country's 1 st monorail
COMPANY :	MNR : <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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Trial run of the Mumbai Monorail



A monorail train moves past the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur



Monorail vehicles pass in front of the Merlion statue on Singapore's Sentosa Island

Engineering major Larsen & Toubro and Malaysia's Scomi Group are expected to commission the first phase of Mumbai Monorail, India's first such system, by end of this year.

The Rs 2,460-crore (Rs 24.60 billion) project, an initiative of the Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority, is a modern urban transport where cars move on a single beam in an elevated corridor. The project involves design, construction, installation, testing and commissioning from Wadala and Chembur (in suburban Mumbai) via Mahul (approximately 9 km) in Phase I and Gadge Maharaj Chowk to Wadala (approximately 11 kilometres) in Phase II.

"Phase I, from Wadala to Chembur (in suburban Mumbai), is expected to be completed and commissioned by this year-end. The second phase is expected to be completed by December 2011," L&T's executive vice-president & head--corporate initiatives, Shailendra Roy said. He was speaking at the monorail's trial run, which was attended by Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan.

"The second phase of the monorail is expected to be completed next year. About three to three-and-a-half-lakh commuters, mainly the city's working class, will benefit from this air-conditioned transport system," Chavan said. The two routes will have 15 sets of four-car trains plying at each station after every four minutes.

Each coach can accommodate up to 130 persons (or a total of about 8,000 people) and is the latest version of the monorail coaches that ply in Kuala Lumpur.

"The project is being implemented on a lump-sum turnkey basis. L&T and Scomi will be responsible for operations and maintenance for the next three years, after which the maintenance contract may be extended or MMRDA could take over," Roy said.

Coaches for the monorail are manufactured at Rawang near Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and shipped to India. Scomi is in talks with the Maharashtra government to set up a coach-making unit in the state which will help India save tax of about 15-20 per cent, a Scomi official said.

The straddle-type monorail system complies with the highest of international standards of safety. Monorail systems have the advantage of substantially lower cost with minimal noise and are capable of negotiating sharp curves, which a metro rail cannot. It also does not require destruction of a city's green cover and has well thought-out safety measures whereby commuters can glide to the ground through a chute in case of a fire. Mumbai Monorail's success is expected to pave the way for more monorail systems in India.



Staffers cheer the monorail's successful run