



MEDIA COVERAGE

MEDIA : dancewithshadows.com	TITLE: Test-run of Mumbai's monorail successful; Phase I expected to be commissioned in 2010
COMPANY :	MNR : <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
DATE : Tuesday, 2 February 2010	<input type="checkbox"/> PC <input type="checkbox"/> INTERVIEW

Test-run of Mumbai's monorail successful: Phase I expected to be commissioned in 2010

Mumbai: The trial run of Mumbai's super-fast monorail has been successful.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan, who flagged off the 300-metre trial run, described the monorail as "an engineering marvel" and "the only one of its kind in the country" for the use of the common man.

About 3 lakh people are expected to use the monorail daily, Chavan said. The monorail moves on a single elevated beam, instead of the conventional tracks. The Mumbai monorail project – being jointly implemented by Larsen & Toubro and the Scomi Group, of Malaysia – is expected to be completed in 2010 itself, at a cost of Rs 2,460 crore.

An initiative of the Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA), the Mumbai monorail project involves design, construction, installation, testing and commissioning of a 19.4-kilometre route stretching between Jacob Circle and Chembur.

While the Phase I of the Mumbai monorail project will be between Wadala and Chembur via Mahul (about 9 kilometres), the Phase II will cover the distance between Gadge Maharaj Chowk and Wadala (11 kilometres).

We are trying to get hold of a few good photos of the Mumbai Monorail for you.

According to Shailendra Roy, executive vice-president and head of corporate initiatives of Larsen & Toubro, the Phase I of the monorail from Wadala to Chembur is scheduled to be commissioned by the end of 2010, and the Phase II by December 2011.

The monorail network is aimed at easing the traffic in Mumbai, the most populous city in India, having a population of about 14 million people. It is also expected to supplement the existing public transport system in Mumbai, along with the underground metro rail network under construction.

It has been planned to introduce, to start with, 14 monorails with 4 coaches, with a capacity of 500 passengers. The super-fast monorail will have a frequency of 4.5 minutes, and the fare will range from Rs 8 to Rs 20.

Mumbai monorail's first corridor will have 15 trains – with 9 of them for the Wadala-Jacob Circle stretch, and the rest for the Chembur-Wadala stretch. Three coaches from Malaysia are likely to arrive in Mumbai by March 2010.

Suhaimi Yaacob, president of Scomi's India Projects, said the company estimates that the Wadala-Jacob Circle stretch will have a higher passenger density than the Chembur-Wadala one. The Wadala-Jacob Circle alignment, Yaacob added, has fewer public-transport alternatives.

He said the pillars are designed in such a way that they can take the weight of 6-coach rakes. This means that, in future, if the services need be augmented, there is the scope of adding 2 more coaches without affecting the frequency of the trains at that time

Countries such as Brazil have planned 8-coach monorail trains, according to Suhaimi Yaacob.