

Metro Line 3 First Phase To Roll Out By July 15; PMRDA Deploys AI Drones To Map Illegal Hoardings

PUNE: In a major push to urban mobility and administrative accountability, the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) has announced that the much-awaited Pune Metro Line 3 (Maan-Hinjawadi to Shivajinagar) will partially open for commercial operations by July 15, 2026. The initial 12-station stretch connecting Maan-Hinjawadi to Baner (Ramnagar) will be structurally ready by June-end, with full-scale operations spanning up to Shivajinagar targeted for December 2026.

Addressing a comprehensive press briefing at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hall, PMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner Dr. Abhijit Chaudhari unveiled a robust three-pronged roadmap focused on infrastructure development, traffic decongestion, and institutional transparency.

Metro Lifeline & Commuter Comfort

The Commissioner revealed that the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) will conduct crucial technical inspections and safety audits of the 12-station Hinjawadi-Baner stretch between June 15 and June 20.

"Following the CMRS safety clearance, the stretch will strictly open for commuters either by June-end or latest by July 15. By August-end, the metro tracks will reach Shivajinagar," Dr. Chaudhari stated. To ensure seamless last-mile connectivity, PMRDA is actively constructing wide, high-quality pedestrian pathways across the first seven stations of the corridor.

Cutting-Edge Tech to Fight Hoarding Menace

In a bid to curb visual pollution and avert public hazards, PMRDA has pioneered the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) through **Virtual Surveyor Mobile Capture (VMSC) drone technology** to track down unauthorized hoardings and flexes across its jurisdiction.

"This advanced drone survey ensures zero blind spots. Illegal hoarding owners will be directed to secure formal, legal permissions immediately. Failing this, PMRDA will launch aggressive demolition drives and file criminal cases against offenders," the Metropolitan Commissioner warned.

War on Traffic and Water Scarcity

Acknowledging the severe traffic bottlenecks crippling Chhakhnan's industrial hub, Dr. Chaudhari announced that PMRDA will independently step in to execute crucial road planning and widening works to resolve the crisis. On the Inner Ring Road project, he clarified that high-level deliberations on land acquisition are ongoing, adding, "We will not initiate any half-baked or

partial land acquisition process. Physical procedures will begin only after absolute technical and legal clarity."

To tackle the metropolitan region's growing water crisis, PMRDA is drafting a comprehensive **Regional Water Supply Scheme** integrated with its Town Planning (TP) Schemes. The authority is closely coordinating with the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran (MJP) and the Irrigation Department to formulate the framework. Furthermore, a two-phase river rejuvenation project will soon be tendered. PMRDA plans to intercept polluting nullahs and treat the sewage via STPs before discharging it. While central funds are awaited, PMRDA will back the initial phase using its internal resources.

Smart Governance & Monsoon Readiness

To eradicate red-tapism and track files dynamically, PMRDA is rolling out a tech-backed **‘Single Window Inward-Outward’** system. This digital dashboard will pinpoint the exact desk where any administrative file is bottlenecked. Addressing staffing issues, the Commissioner confirmed that 70 clerical personnel are set to join via the MPSC route, supplemented by senior officials on deputation, to make all divisional offices fully operational.

With the monsoon setting in, a joint pre-monsoon inspection has been conducted alongside MIDC and local Gram Panchayats to clear major choke points and prevent waterlogging in the Hinjawadi IT Park. Structural audits of all bridges under the authority have also been successfully concluded.

Key Infrastructure Takeaways:

- **Rural Connectivity:** PMRDA to allocate dedicated funds under the 'Pune Grand Tour' initiative for rural road repairs.
- **Affordable Housing:** At least one dedicated housing project (Gharkul Yojana) will be developed in every taluka under the metropolitan region.
- **Public Safety:** Construction of 10 proposed fire stations is currently underway to boost emergency response times.
- **Judicial Infrastructure:** Construction of the dedicated Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Court building is on track for completion by September-end.

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