

# Metro Phase II: KMRL begins test piling works

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

RK Sreejith

**Kochi:** Construction works of viaduct and stations of Kochi Metro's Phase II line from JLN Stadium to Kakknad began on Wednesday.

Afcons Infrastructure Ltd, the company which won contract for the works, started test piling works at Kakknad in the presence of KMRL officials.

Total cost of the Pink Line project is Rs 1,957.05 crore. Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL) has officially awarded the contract for the construction of 11.2-km long viaduct to Afcons, after completing tender process and the contract amount is Rs 1,141.32 crore. The duration of the work is 20 months.

If the 11.2km construction works can be completed in 20 months, KMRL will get the title of the fastest Metro construction agency in India, says a press note issued by KMRL on Wednesday.

Pile foundation system is more preferred for construction of large structures like Metro viaduct as the foundations transfer the weight of viaduct to more stable layers



Inauguration of Kochi Metro Phase II works held at Kakkand on Wednesday

of soil and rock underground. Pile tests need to be conducted to ensure the integrity and load-bearing capacity of this type of pile foundation," says the press note.

Kochi Metro has decided to conduct four more test piles of this type in different parts of proposed route from JLN Stadium to Infopark and the process will begin soon. Also, soil testing activities will start immediately at various places along the alignment of the viaduct. To-

pography survey work is under way on the viaduct alignment, says the press note. New stations will be constructed at Palarivattom Junction, Palarivattom Bypass, Chembumukku, Vazhakkala, Padamughal, Kakknad Junction, Cochin SEZ, Chittethukara, Kinra and InfoPark.

KMRL, which is aiming to finish the civil construction work in 20 months, is also planning to complete the system and signalling works within another four months.