

Railway Board approves merger of Chennai MRTS with CMRL

The Railway Board approved the 15-year-pending proposal to merge the Chennai Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) with Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL).

An operational and infrastructural integration transferring Chennai's elevated railway network from Southern Railway to the Chennai Metro network.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The Union **Ministry of Railways** granted formal approval for the merger of the Mass Rapid Transit System (**MRTS**) with Chennai Metro Rail Limited (**CMRL**).
- The entire train operations will be transferred to **CMRL** over a designated transition period of **two years**.
- The merger initiative was initially submitted as a proposal by the **Government of Tamil Nadu** on **January 27, 2011**.
- A draft **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) was finalized between the Ministry of Railways and the **State government** to formalize operational terms.
- **Railway Board** issued formal directions to the General Manager of **Southern Railway** regarding the execution of the takeover.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Chennai MRTS, opened in **1995** between **Chennai Beach** and **Chepauk**, was India's first elevated suburban railway line.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (**CMRL**) was incorporated in **2007** as a **50:50** joint venture between the Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu.

Commercial operations of Phase 1 of Chennai Metro Rail commenced on **June 29, 2015**, on the elevated stretch between **Koyambedu** and **Alandur**.

Southern Railway zone was established on **April 14, 1951**, becoming the first railway zone formed in independent India.

Tamil Nadu enacted the Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (**CUMTA**) Act in **2010** to integrate urban mass transit planning.

Sustainable Development Goal 11.2 (SDG 11) aims to provide safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable public transport systems for all.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Railway Board approved the merger of Chennai MRTS with CMRL over a 2-year transition period.

Syllabus Relevance: Important for questions on Tamil Nadu infrastructure, urban transit systems (MRTS/CMRL/ CUMTA), and Union-State administrative agreements.

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