

# PM Modi to inaugurate first phase of Kochi Metro today

## He will take the inaugural ride up to Pathadipalam

### STAFF REPORTER

KOCHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel 8 km in the Kochi Metro corridor on Saturday morning and, soon after, dedicate the much-awaited first system of mass rapid transport in Kerala to the country. After arrival at the Naval air station here at 10.15 a.m., he will travel by road to the Palarivattom metro station.

Mr. Modi will take the inaugural ride up to Pathadipalam.

The project will be dedicated to the nation at 11 a.m. at a function to be attended by 3,500 invitees at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium in Kaloor.

### Light Metro

With the commissioning of the first 13 km of Kochi Metro, all eyes are now on



**Raring to go:** A view of the Kochi Metro trains. ■ H. VIBHU

the Light Metro proposed for the cities of Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode.

Transport planners and the Kerala government are hoping for the approval from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the ₹6,728-crore project, which has been awaiting clearance from the Centre for almost three years now. All the

mandatory requirements has been addressed by the DMRC and the Kerala Rapid Transit Corporation Ltd, the special purpose vehicle set up to execute the project.

The development needs of the State, including Light Metro, will be taken up, Minister for Tourism Kadakampally Surendran said.

*(With inputs from Thiruvananthapuram)*