

Chennai's first metro train to arrive from Brazil in June

Nearly 10% of tunnelling work of the project completed

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The first train for the Chennai Metro Rail (CMRL) manufactured by Alstom in Sao Paulo, Brazil, is expected to arrive in the city in June.

The pilot rake of train was recently inspected by a team from the Chennai Metro Rail Ltd led by L. Narsim Prasad, Director (RS, S&T and Electrical) and Umesh Rai, CGM (EI) along with general consultants. C.K. Khaitan, Director, CMRL, was also part of the team.

The team expressed satisfaction about the quality of the train manufactured by Alstom. On completion of the remaining static type tests and clearance by CMRL and its general consultants, the train will be shipped to Chennai and is expected to reach the city by June, according to sources in the Chennai Metro.

Two car body shells are fully completed and the customer holds point inspection conducted and cleared by Chennai Metro. The inspection for



Ready to trundle: The first train for the Chennai Metro Rail getting ready at the Alstom facility in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

third and fourth car shell is being planned.

WORK IN PHASES

Meanwhile, as on March 31, nearly 10 per cent of tunnelling work for the project has been completed. Out of the

total 27,220 metres, tunnelling work of 2,731 metres has been completed.

The estimated base cost of this project is about Rs 14,000 crore.

The project envisages creation of two initial corridors

under the proposed phase-1 with a total of 45.1 km. The corridor from Washermenpet to Airport will be 23.1 km and the other corridor from Chennai Central to St Thomas Mount will be 22 km.

The portions of Corridor-1

with a length of 14.3 km from Washermenpet to Saidapet, and Corridor-2 with a length of 9.7 km from Chennai Central to Anna Nagar 2nd Avenue will be underground and the remaining portion will be elevated, says information available on the Chennai Metro Web site.

Tentatively, the first phase of the project is expected to be completed in the financial year 2014-15.

The Tamil Nadu Government gave its in-principle approval for the initial corridors in October 2007 and the Centre gave its nod in January 2009.

TRACK WORK

Meanwhile, out of total plinth track of 10,577 track metre between Vadapalani and Koyambedu, work on about 9,800 track metre has been completed.

A total of 1,586 joints for welding of tracks have been done, the Chennai Metro said.

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