

Track work on N Chennai metro line begins, to be ready by 2020

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Work to install ballastless tracks on a section of the North Chennai metro line has begun, and commuters will be able to travel up to Wimco Nagar in 18 months. The phase-1 extension line between Washermentpet and Wimco Nagar, which is expected to be ready by March 2020, connects a 9km stretch through seven stations.

Metro rail officials said construction work in the two underground stations in Theagaraya College and Korukkupet and five elevated stations are under way. "Work on the elevated corridor is steadily progressing. Track and electrical work are on in the underground section," said a metro rail official. After tracks are laid, OHE cables required for power supply to operate the trains will be installed.



File photo

IN FULL SWING: Work to install ballastless tracks on a section of the North Chennai line has begun

Once the 9km line is ready, commuters can travel from Wimco Nagar in Tiruvottiyur to the airport in less than 60 minutes through the underground section on Anna Salai. They will also be able to reach CMBT bus terminus by switching corridors in the underground transit hub at Central Metro.

CMRL managing director Pankaj Kumar Bansal earlier said all tenders, including those required to

build trains, installation of electrical, communication and other systems had been finalised except for signal software. "The company, which is yet to give us software for the Anna Salai line, has not given us a proposal so far," he said.

Construction on the extension line began in July 2016. Tunnels for the upline and the downline for a distance of about 2km from Washermentpet to Korukkupet were completed last year, well ahead of the deadline. According to metro rail officials, the soil condition in the stretch was favourable unlike the location between high court and Central and portion on Anna Salai, where engineers hit a rocky strata and slowed down and stalled work. Initially, CMRL said they expect to complete construction of the line by March 2019, but it has been pushed by a year.