

First of 10 new metro trains for north Chennai line rolls in

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: As the nine kilometre metro rail corridor in North Chennai takes shape, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) received the first of the 10 new trains for the line on Saturday. CMRL managing director Pankaj Kumar Bansal flagged off the first train from Alstom Transport factory at Sri City, Andhra Pradesh. The line between Washermenpet and Wimco Nagar will be completed by June 2020.

Metro rail officials said after the first train is brought to CMRL's depot in Koyambedu, it will undergo a series of tests before it is used for commercial operations.

"The remaining nine train sets are expected to be delivered by end of February



ON TRACK: CMRL managing director Pankaj Kumar Bansal flags off the first train from Alstom's factory at Sri City

2020," an official said.

Before being handed over, the train underwent a number of tests at the manufacturing facility including car body dimension checks, water tightness check, static routine traction and brake tests. The tests were conducted in the

presence of CMRL officials, who approved it for delivery.

On arrival at the CMRL depot, officials said slow and high speed routine tests both at the depot and on the main line will be conducted. These tests may take two weeks to a month before the trains are

deployed. A 2km underground section linking Washermenpet, Tondiarpet and Korukkupet is getting electrified, with cables required for train operations being installed. The 7km elevated corridors, officials said, is about 40%. "By April, we may conduct the first trial with the new metro trains," an official said.

At present, CMRL has a fleet of 42 trains, majority of which was manufactured at Alstom's Sri City facility.

Officials said manufacturing of the 10 new trains commenced in February after CMRL awarded a ₹200-crore contract to supply rakes with the same configuration and specifications as those in the trains operating now in the phase-I corridors.