

# Metro rail readies facilities to benefit differently-abled

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Perhaps, other state undertakings like TSTC, MTC and Railways can take a cue from Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) in considering the needs of the differently-abled while designing projects for public utility. The amenities proposed in ongoing metro project would definitely be a benchmark, if CMRL were to translate them into reality.

Among the long list of amenities proposed for metro stations are dedicated parking space (subject to space availability) and tactile tiles to access functional areas and platforms and non-slippery floors. Similarly, bumpy tiles would be laid to alert visually challenged and low-vision passengers from reaching the platform edge. The stations would also have accessible toilets and dedicated automatic fare collection gates.

Besides ramps and staircases with handrails as per



standards the ticket issuing window and vending machines would be heights accessible to the differently abled in the stations.

Also, the stations would have a simple and uniform terminal design avoiding glossy surfaces/glasses. Also, steps with contrasting coloured nosing or anti skidding tiles at the edge of the steps will be provided for easy access.

Likewise, the lifts would be at street level at convenient locations with required space and wide doors. Another major feature would be audio announcement and Braille facility within the lift besides signs printed in Braille in the lifts to indi-

## Inspiring others to follow suit

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- Bumpy tiles would be laid to alert visually challenged

cate floors as well as visual/audible announcements. The lifts would also have grip rails on three walls inside the elevator car and the elevator control buttons would be positioned at convenient heights. The design would be in accordance with 'Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built Environment for Disabled and Elderly Persons' and Central Public Works Department, ministry of Urban affairs & employment, 1998.