

# With contracts awarded, Metro Rail is on track

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Larsen and Toubro (L&T) has won the contract to construct 9.73km of an elevated corridor for the Chennai Metro Rail project, which promises to make commuting in the city faster and hassle-free. Except for the stretch from the Officers Training Academy (OTA) to the airport, which the Airports Authority of India wants constructed underground, builders have now been identified for almost the entire elevated stretch.

L&T will design and construct the 4.56-km elevated viaduct from Ashok Nagar to St Thomas Mount at an estimated Rs 141.13 crore and the 5.17-km stretch from Saidapet to the OTA at Rs 173.30 crore. The company was awarded the two contracts on Monday, said Chennai Metro Rail chief public relations officer S Krishnamurthy.

A senior official said discussions were on with the AAI on building an elevated corridor between the OTA and the air-

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- ▶ Builders identified for almost all of the elevated corridor
- ▶ From Officers Training Academy to the airport, Airports Authority of India wants an underground corridor to be constructed
- ▶ This will not come in the way of operations on the secondary runway, says AAI
- ▶ Separate tenders to identify builders to construct stations along the elevated stretch and also at St Thomas Mount

port as the AAI had requested that this corridor be built underground to prevent it from coming in the way of flight operations on the secondary runway.

“The stretch will be an elevated corridor but the tender process will start only after discussions with airport officials,” he added.

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