

Kodambakkam-Poonamallee Metro stretch to be open by June 2024

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AS the Chennai Metro Rail has started work on the second phase, Finance Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan said that the Kodambakkam-Poonamallee stretch (under Corridor-4) will be operationalised by June 2024. He also announced that a Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for a metro rail in Madurai will be prepared.

Metro Rail Project Phase II in Chennai will span 118.9 km from the northern end to the southern end of the city with three corridors - Madhavaram

to SIPCOT; Madhavaram to Sholinganallur; and Light House to Poonamallee. The Corridor-4 stretch had originally been envisaged from CMBT to the Light House stretch. But it has been extended till Poonamallee considering the



increasing traffic congestion on Arcot Road along Virugambakkam and Valasaravakkam. It will go via Vadapalani up to Poonamallee via Porur.

The stretch will have 12 underground stations (from Light House to Meenakshi College) and 18 elevated stations from Meenakshi College to Poonamallee. It is funded by Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Recently, Chennai Metro Rail has extended Corridor 4 from Poonamallee Bypass to Thirumazhisai Satellite Township. Poonamallee is also expected to be one of the five depots of Chennai Metro.

He also said that work on the 16km of first phase extension from Chennai Airport to Kilambakkam, where the new bus terminus is coming, will start soon. This comes after the chief minister urged Chennai Metro Rail Limited to take up the Chennai Airport-Kilambakkam project, which will have 13 stations. It will be built entirely on GST Road as an elevated stretch. The minister also announced he will urge the Centre to reconsider shareholding under the second phase of the Chennai Metro Rail project