

# Metro station to change skyline near airport

A Prathap

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** The skyline near the airport is set to change as it is being developed as a hub for intermodal transit – flights, buses, trains and metro rail. Amenities are being developed to match the snazzy look of the new airport terminals.

Metro rail's airport station, being built by the Airports Authority of India, gives a hint of the way things are shaping up along the stretch of GST Road near the airport. A huge arch — a part of the roof — has been installed over the station building. The station has been designed to gel with the new terminals of the airport.

As the airport and the metro rail stations have a snazzy design, railways and traffic police have started sprucing up their facilities to make the junction in front of the airport look better. Traffic police have installed a colourful kiosk under the flyover, while Southern Railway is renovat-



**GETTING READY:** The metro station has been designed to gel with the new terminals of the airport

ing the Tirusulam railway station which is linked to the airport through a subway.

Metro rail is expected to start operation by the end of next year. "The decisions were taken after meetings with airport and different departments of the state," said an airport official. "We started the work after airport officials and the state government

wanted us to spruce up the station because of the airport development. A large part of the work has been completed," said a railway official.

The authorities are planning a few more facilities to improve access to different modes of transport for air travellers. AAI has also suggested that a vacant land in front of the airport owned by the defence department be acquired for a bus station. Railways has asked AAI to allow the subway to be brought closer to the terminal so that commuters who get down at Tirusulam need not walk a long way to reach the terminals.

"The railway subway was built when the airport was using the old passenger terminals. People who come by trains have to walk a long distance to reach the first floor departure area of the new terminals. There is a move to link the subway to the metro rail station that is coming up in front of the airport," said an airport official.