

LAST MILE WORK IN FULL SWING

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MAKING WAY: Workers are busy building a trench for the metro rail line between Officers Training Academy (OTA) and Meenam-bakkam stations near the airport. The elevated line from Alandur dips below the surface for around 500m after it crosses the OTA station, and comes out to reach the Meenam-bakkam station

Metro rail's airport line takes shape

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: After intermittent hiccups, metro rail's airport line is taking final shape.

The new contractor, who has been awarded work to build viaduct and stations, has started building a trench to take the line below the surface under the air funnel area between OTA and Meenam-bakkam stations. Work was stalled for some time after an earlier contract failed.

The elevated metro rail line from Alandur dips below surface for around 500m after it crosses Officers Training

Academy (OTA) station, and comes out and reaches Meenam-bakkam metro station. The alignment goes underground to prevent it from becoming a hindrance for flights landing on the second

COMING SOON

runway. Work has picked up pace to build the trench outside the compound wall of the airport near Trident Hotel on GST Road. Two ramps that will take the line into the trench are complete. "Digging here is tricky. We need permission from the airport to use heavy machinery be-

cause the work spot is close to the runway," said an official. The airport has started using the second runway when the main runway is closed for maintenance.

A good portion of the cut-and-cover trench is over, and concreting of the floor and the walls are going on. Once work is complete, the trench will be covered.

This stretch had landed in trouble after airport objected to metro rail having an elevated line. ITD Cementation is carrying out the trench work

and URC Construction is doing the work on the viaduct and stations at OTA and Meenam-bakkam.

Metro rail was planning to complete work of the airport line from Little Mount to airport by the end of the year. The line is part of the Washermanpet-Saidapet-airport line.

Viaduct is complete from Little Mount to OTA while structural work of the stations — OTA, Meenam-bakkam and airport — on the route has been completed. Plastering and roof work is going on at these stations.