

Metro Rail lifts to be disabled-friendly

Express News Service
Chennai, February 1

THE Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is procuring state-of-the-art lifts and escalators that will have special features to make travel easier for people with various disabilities in the first phase of the project.

The lifts will have a capacity of 13 passengers and will have Braille operating buttons for the benefit of the visually challenged. They will also be able to accommodate wheelchairs, besides being equipped with automatic rescue devices for

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In underground stations, commuters from street level will go down to the concourse level and further down to the platform level. Apart from providing staircases between various levels, The CMRL is providing escalators for up and down journeys at these stations at various entry and exit points.

greater passenger safety. The escalators, on the other hand, will have a capacity of 9,000 passengers per hour and will have variable speeds to meet the increased peak hour de-

mand. The lifts and escalators will be operational for about 20 hours during the operation of services and will be monitored and controlled by remote monitoring systems located at the station. CMRL sources said that the ₹198-crore contract for providing 122 lifts and 296 escalators has been awarded to a joint venture firm of Johnson Lifts Limited and SJEC Corporation through international bidding process. The scope of work includes design, manufacture, supply, erection, testing and commissioning.

The lifts and escalators are

of modern design and are to be built to international standards with a number of safety features.

The contract is for the Phase-1 of the Chennai Metro Rail Project which consists of two corridors with elevated structures and an underground tunnel for a length of 45 km. It will have 19 underground stations and 13 elevated stations.

For the elevated stations, commuters will have to move from street level to concourse level where they would be able to buy tickets and then move to the platform level to board the train.