

SURGING AHEAD

The Metro Rail holds the promise of smooth transits and connectivity within the city. Here, **HARINI SRIRAM** talks to S Krishnamoorthy, IRAS, General Manager (Public Relations), Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) about the challenges and unique features of the city's Metro Rail...



Chamiers Road and Saidapet, will be underground (11 stations). The proposed metro stations at Little Mount, Guindy (metro), Alandur, Officers Training Academy, Meenambakkam and Airport will be elevated (6 stations). In corridor - II it is proposed to construct 17 metro stations. Chennai central and Alandur metro stations are in-

cluded in both the corridors. The proposed metro stations viz. Chennai Central, Egmore, Nehru Park, Kilpauk Medical college, Pachaiyappa's college, Shenoy Nagar, Anna Nagar East, Anna Nagar Tower, and Thirumangalam will be underground (9 stations). The proposed metro stations at Koyambedu, CMBT, Arumbakkam, Vadapalani,

Ashok Nagar - KK Nagar, SIDCO, Alandur and St Thomas Mount will be elevated (8 stations).

There are allegations that the Metro Rail will affect heritage buildings and parks in the city...

The project has been cleared after studying the impact it will have on the neigh-

What are some of the challenges that CMRL has encountered in the process of design and construction of the Metro Rail network?

Our short-term challenges have been land acquisition, traffic management, shifting of utilities - telephone lines, electric cables, drainage, sewerage, etc, and coordination with other projects (flyovers, etc) and authorities, like the Highways Department, for instance. That apart, the bigger challenges that will confront us once the Metro Rail becomes operational are fare co-ordination and integration with Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS).

How will the integration of different modes of transport with the Metro Rail network be achieved?

The basic principle of introducing the integration is that all the transport systems should complement and supplement each other rather than competing among themselves. Unlike other metro projects, Chennai Metro Rail Project, during its first phase, will link important passenger hubs and terminals like Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Central Mofussil Bus Terminal (CMBT), Chennai Air Port, St Thomas Mount, Guindy,

New Secretariat and High Court. Inter-connectivity with the other modes of transport is planned as below:

- 1) By introducing a common ticketing system with other modes of transport.
- 2) Introduction of park and ride facilities wherever feasible.
- 3) Introducing multi-level parking facilities near Metro stations.
- 4) By linking the metro stations with other modes of transport by providing escalator, walkalator, walkways, etc. wherever possible.
- 5) By running feeder bus services at terminal and peripheral stations like Washermanpet, Mugappair etc.
- 6) By providing the entry and exit arrangements of Metro stations very near to Railway stations, bus stops, traffic junctions, etc.

How many stations will be constructed? What are they and where will they be located?

CMRL has proposed to construct 17 metro stations in corridor - I. The proposed stations viz. Washermanpet, Mannadi, High Court, Central, Secretariat (New), LIC, Thousand Lights, Gemini, Teynampet,

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neighbourhoods. Safety and security are our top priority and we have systems in place to ensure just that. We have done extensive studies and there are no structural impacts on any heritage structures. Besides, plans to restore parks that will be temporarily disturbed, are in the pipeline; we are planting saplings wherever trees have been damaged. Any project of this proportion will involve some amount of inconvenience in the design and construction stages, but in the long-term, it will benefit the public at large.

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