



Fare comparison

- Chennai Metro ₹10-70
- Delhi Metro ₹10-60
- Bengaluru Metro ₹10-58
- Kochi Metro ₹10-50

Total number of trains purchased by Chennai Metro Rail for phase I



Number of trains between Central and airport



Number of trains between Central and St. Thomas Mount



Number of trains between AG-DMS and airport



There is a plan to realign corridor four where the Metro will link Poonamallee through Vadapalani and Porur. A detailed project report is being prepared
EDAPPADI K. PALANISWAMI, Chief Minister

City's transport hubs come under Metro coverage

The plan is to extend service to the outskirts: Chief Minister

STAFF REPORTER CHENNAI

The Chennai Metro Rail service connecting four major transport hubs in the city – Central, Egmore, the CMBT and the airport – was launched on Friday.

At the launch function, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami said the government planned to extend the Metro Rail from the airport to the proposed express bus terminus in Vandalur (through the southern suburbs) and tweak the alignment in the next phase to take the Metro to Poonamallee on the city's western outskirts via Porur.

Along with Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, Mr. Palaniswami inaugurated the two underground stretches – from Nehru Park to Central (a distance of 2.7 km) and from Saidapet to AG-DMS (a distance of 4 km). Till Saturday, commuters can travel free on these two stretches. After that, commuters have to pay fares ranging from ₹10 to ₹70.

Every five minutes, there will be a train from Central to the airport and St. Thomas Mount, officials said. While the first train will de-



Grand launch: Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, third from left, Ambassador of Japan to India Kenji Hiramatsu, right, and senior Ministers at the Egmore Metro station on Friday.
B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Possibility of extending Metro from airport to Vandalur will be studied

EDAPPADI K. PALANISWAMI, Chief Minister

part from Central and AG-DMS at 6 a.m., the last service will be at 10 p.m.

Expansion plans

The Chief Minister announced that a feasibility study would be taken up to explore the possibility of extending the Metro from the Chennai airport all the way to the proposed Kilambakkam Bus Terminus in Vandalur.

"The study will be car-

ried out by the Housing and Urban Development Department and, depending on the outcome of the study, we will know how these two corridors can be linked by the Chennai Metro Rail," a senior official said.

The government has been taking efforts to secure a loan from the Asian Development Bank for the 17.2 km Metro stretch connecting Koyambedu terminus and Light House in the Phase II. "There is a plan to realign corridor four, where the Metro will link Poonamallee through Vadapalani and Porur. A DPR is being prepared," the Chief Minister said, asking the Central government to give permis-

sion and funds for Phase II.

The entire Phase I project (linking Central with AG-DMS stations) covering 45 km will be completely operational by the year-end, the Chief Minister said.

So far, nearly 28 km of the Metro Rail was operational in the city and with the opening of the two new stretches, the network goes up to nearly 35 km. The Phase I expansion from Chennai Central to Washermanpet will be operational by mid-2020, Mr. Palaniswami said.

Ever since the first service of the Metro was launched in June 2015, about 1.64 crore people have travelled on it.

Key lines operational

With the opening of two more stretches, commuters can take a direct ride to two crucial transport hubs – the CMBT and airport



What can commuters expect with the opening of Chennai Central and AG-DMS stations?

- Ride from Central to CMBT (travel time of 12-15 minutes) and Central to airport (travel time of 45 minutes)
- Ride from AG-DMS to Airport (travel time of 35 minutes)

- Length of Metro stretches operational now: **19 km**
- Average speed of train: **35 kmph**
- Metro trains are designed for an operating speed of **80 km/hr**
- **7.75 lakh** people will be travelling by



Frequency:

- There will be a train every five minutes from Central to the airport
- There will be a train every five minutes from Central to St. Thomas Mount
- Every 10 minutes, there will be a train from AG-DMS to the airport

At Central:

- First train will depart for airport at 6 a.m.
- Last train will leave at 10 p.m.

At AG-DMS:

- First train will start at 6 a.m.
- Last train will depart at 10 p.m.

1.64 cr.

Number of people who have travelled through the Metro since its

- Phase I project covers **45 km**
- The last station of Phase I is Chennai