

Central-airport metro ride to cost ₹70

Cheaper Than Auto, Cab, Say Commuters

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Chennai: Starting from Friday, a direct metro service between Central and the airport will cover the 25-km journey in about 60 minutes. The ride will cost ₹70.

Six stations on two key underground lines between Nehru Park and Central Metro and from Little Mount to AG-DMS will open on Friday, after missing deadlines by more than two years.

The direct service will operate across two corridors to link Central Metro and

FARE TABLE

Central Metro to Airport 25km - ₹70	Egmore Metro to Airport 24km - ₹60
Central Metro to CMBT 11km - ₹40	AG-DMS to Airport 12km - ₹50

DECKED UP: Heritage structure Ramaswami Choultry near Park station gets a fresh coat of paint ahead of Friday's opening of underground metro lines between Shenoy Nagar and Central Metro



the airport as the stretch between May Day Park and AG-DMS, which will link the airport through a single corridor, is yet to be completed.

"Though a direct train from Central to the airport will now take a roundabout route through Shenoy Nagar, Anna Nagar and Koyam-

bedu, we will still spend less time and money when compared to taking a cab or an autorickshaw," R Sundar, a regular commuter, said.

Central Metro will link passengers heading out of suburban and MRTS stations as well as Chennai Central Railway Station, where

long distance trains stop, to CMBT and the airport. Commuters arriving at Egmore Railway Station by long distance trains can also take a ride from Egmore Metro to the airport for ₹60. A ride from Egmore to CMBT costs ₹40.

Ticket fares in the city are the second highest among all metro rail services in the country but have been capped at ₹70.

"Considering future expansion, the ticket fares were capped at ₹70 because hiking fares later will be difficult and could also result in loss of patronage," a former metro rail official said.

At Central Metro, the upper track, connecting corridor 2 between Central Metro and St Thomas Mount, and the concourse level will be opened. The lower track

linking Washermenpet to the airport via Anna Salai is not yet ready.

Along with the line linking Central, a part of Anna Salai between AG-DMS and Little Mount covering 4.5km will also open. Commuters can take a ride from DMS to the airport for ₹50. Commuters on the Central-St Thomas Mount route can shift corridors at Alandur metro and head towards AG-DMS.

The new lines are part of phase-1, which is partly funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). A release from the Japan consulate-general here said the metro rail services will be punctual, have high frequency and provide passenger comfort. "Japan feels a sense of pride in supporting the construction of the Chennai metro," it said.