

# Metro rail to operate vans from Alandur to Porur, ensure last-mile connectivity

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**Chennai:** Commuters heading out of a metro station may no longer have to wait for MTC buses or haggle with auto-drivers to reach their destinations as Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) will soon begin operating a fleet of air-conditioned vans from stations to provide last-mile connectivity.

CMRL has floated tenders to identify an operator who can own, operate and maintain the vans. As a start, CMRL has planned to operate four 14-seater vans from Alandur metro station to DLF Porur, mainly to cater to IT employe-

es. "We decided to start with Alandur metro station as we received many requests from IT employees working in and around Porur that they were unable to use metro service due to lack of connectivity to their offices. The route for the-



## RIDE OF EASE

- Four 14-seater vans will be operated from Alandur metro station to DLF Porur
- Frequency of vans | Every 15 minutes
- Fare | ₹ 20
- To be introduced in Thirumangalam next

se vans will be fixed," the official said.

At Alandur metro, which is the elevated transit hub connecting the two corridors of Phase 1, there will be a van available every 15 minutes.

"The charge (for the van

service) is yet to be fixed but it is likely to be around ₹20," the official said.

Depending on the response at Alandur metro, the service will be extended.

Last mile connectivity has been a major issue that CMRL is yet to address. It initially promised to connect localities within 500m radius around all its stations. In the last few months, bicycle rental was introduced at nine stations while motorcycle rental, small buses, buggy services and tie-ups with cab aggregators were done for 16 stations. Though commuters welcomed the move, many still complain that the services are not adequate.