

# Work begins, Alandur metro FoB likely to be ready by year-end

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** After nearly a three-year wait, commuters heading out of Alandur metro station would soon be able to use a foot over-bridge (FoB) to cross the busy GST Road, as Chennai Metro Rail Limited has begun construction of the much-needed facility. The FoB, which is expected to be ready in eight months, will link the city's largest elevated transit hub with the air-conditioned bus stop at Asarkhana.

A section of the road near the metro station has been barricaded for construction. "Commuters will be able to use the facility by the end of the year or early next year," an official said.

Alandur metro station was opened as part of the first line between Alandur and Koyambedu in 2015. Soon after, there were several complaints from commuters who said accessing the station from the Asarkhana bus stop was difficult.

So far, commuters were forced to jump the median when crossing the road to

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**LONG WAIT ENDS:** The foot over-bridge is expected to be ready in eight months

get to or out of the station, located close to the landing of Kathipara grade separator. CMRL floated tenders twice for a contractor. The first tender floated in 2016 did not have many takers. Tenders were floated again in 2017 with the addition of certain features required in the FoB.

An old pedestrian subway exists a few metres from the metro station. But many are unaware of its existence or hesitate to use the facility after dark as it is dimly lit.

Alandur station on an average serves more than 10,000 commuters a day. The transit hub links the two corridors of phase-1.