

Terracotta mural on metro station wall breaks monotony of concrete buildings

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Chennai: A large terracotta mural being installed on the outer wall of AG-DMS metro rail station is set to give motorists and commuters some relief from the drab monotony of concrete structures along arterial Anna Salai. The mural, measuring 16ftx27ft, by a city-based art company features a 9-ft-tall clock without the hands and a metro train at its heart. This is surrounded by a tree and folk art performers.

Sunny Systems, which was earlier involved in the installation of art work at the airport metro rail station, was commissioned to conceptualise and execute the project by Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL).

Ravi Dhanda, one of the partners of the art company, said the



SIGHT FOR SORE EYES: The mural, measuring 16ftx27ft, by a city-based art company features a large clock without the hands and a metro train at its heart. This is surrounded by a tree and folk art performers

mural depicts the arrival of a modern transit system like metro rail giving life to the city and its ability to cut down travel time for commuters.

“We came up with the idea of having an art work on the outer wall of AG-DMS because of the availability of a large plain wall facing commuters in the centre of

Anna Salai,” a CMRL official said.

On Saturday, artists were lending finishing touches to the mural, which is expected to be ready on Sunday. “We had been in talks with CMRL for about three years now. We gave them six options and they chose one we now see on the wall,” Dhanda said.

It took seven artists to assemble more than 600 terracotta tiles to complete the mural. It was then fixed on the wall before three artists applied a fine coat of paint.

“We have not compromised on the material used and have given a natural terracotta look. We have also ensured that it does not pose a fire hazard. The work will also be illuminated soon,” Dhanda said.

Metro rail officials said they will have similar works of art in other stations depending on response from the public.