

Addl escalator at airport metro to ease air passenger movement

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Passengers going to the airport from the airport metro station will no longer have to wait for elevators as Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is in the process of installing an additional escalator for their convenience.

The facility will take passengers walking out of the station to the airport terminal through the tube that leads passengers to international and domestic terminals.

"The installation of the escalator is almost complete. We have floated tenders for power supply. We will soon



The new escalator being installed will help passengers headed to the airport

open it for passengers," a metro rail official said.

"At present, we have one escalator for passengers heading to the metro station

from the airport. The new one will take passengers the other way." Till now, passengers tugging luggage out of the metro station wait for elevators at the platform level to go two level below to reach the connecting tube. The tube is built perpendicular to the walklator.

During rush hour, some end up waiting for the elevators while others take the escalator down from the platform to the concourse level of the metro station and again take the steps down to the connecting tube.

Walking down the steps from the ticketing level to the connecting tube has been a hassle for those carrying he-

avy luggage.

Airport metro witnesses the maximum footfall, among the 26 stations that are operational, in the evening hours. Nearly 2000 commuters board trains in the evening rush hour and around 800 travel in the morning between 8am and 10am.

CMRL officials said depending on the footfall, they will add more facilities at the station for the convenience of air passengers.

"We also have trolleys for passengers carrying a lot of luggage, which they can take up to the tube and leave it there before they use the walklator to the terminal," an official said.