

Launch of hospital, metro line mark Modi's brief visit to State

PM dedicates ESIC med college hospital in Chennai to public, inaugurates Ennore coastal terminal and a crude oil pipeline from Chennai port to Manali refinery

PM, CM jointly inaugurate last leg of Washermanpet metro line

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE much-awaited 9.9 km metro rail stretch which was inaugurated on Sunday, was received with much excitement by residents of north Chennai who can now travel to central and southern parts of the City in less than 20 minutes.

The final leg of Chennai Metro Rail's phase I stretch was jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Sunday via video conferencing from Tiruppur.

Trains along the 9.9km stretch which will connect northern parts of the city to the southern, were flagged off by ministers and senior officials including Fisheries Minister D Jayakumar, Minister for Industries M C Sampath, CMRL managing director Pankaj Bansal and others. Officials and their family members travelled in the newly inaugurated stretch with a female driver being the loco pilot.



Union Minister (second from R) Hardeep Singh Puri and TN ministers MC Sampath and D JayaKumar travel in metro after the inauguration | P JAWAHAR

With the commencement of this pending stretch, phase one of the metro rail project that started in 2009, officially completes a full circle. Passengers can travel along this stretch at a cost of ₹50- ₹60.

"We, the residents of North Chennai, are extremely happy that we are connected to the city through an technologically advanced system. The image of this part of the city will go through a complete makeover as CMRL has arrived at Washermanpet," said Muhammed, a north

Chennai resident.

The currently functional AG DMS station at Teynampet will be connected to Washermanpet station. Eight underground stations including Washermenpet, Mannadi, High Court, Central, Government Estate, LIC, Thousand Lights and AG-DMS will be open from Monday, said CMRL officials.

Due to the ongoing trial runs in the 45 kilometre-phase one stretch of metro rail, passengers can travel for free along this stretch till Monday night.

EPS hands over request to PM for Phase II funding sanction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

CHIEF Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Sunday personally requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to sanction Central funding for the second phase of the Chennai Metro Rail Project.

The chief minister personally handed over a letter in this regard to the prime minister on the sidelines of a government function held at Tiruppur. The chief minister's request follows his earlier letter to the prime minister on January 21 and the proposal sent by the State government on January 11.

Highly placed sources in the State government told Express that the Central government is expected to grant its approval very soon and an MoU will be signed on the matter in coming days.

The second phase of the Metro Rail covers a length of about 118.9 km. Three corridors covered under

the project are: Madhavaram to Siruseri, Light house to Poonamallee and Shollinganallur to Madhavaram.

Out of the total project cost, the State and Centre would bear 20 per cent, each. The remaining 60 per cent of the funds would be obtained in the form of loans from international lending agencies.

The chief minister's letter had highlighted that the Centre is yet to accord its approval to contribute 20% of the funds. "Out of the total project cost of ₹69,180 crore, the land cost and state taxes amounting to ₹13,723 crore, is being met by the State government and the balance cost of ₹55,457 crore has to be funded by the Centre (20 per cent), Government of Tamil Nadu (20 per cent) and the funding agencies (60 per cent), respectively. Hence, the Central funding may be to the order of ₹11,100 crore spread over six years," he said in the letter.



PM Modi and CM Edappadi K Palaniswami in Tiruppur on Sunday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tiruppur

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi laid the foundation for the ESIC Hospital in the city on Sunday evening.

He also inaugurated the passenger service for the final leg of Phase-I of Chennai Metro, and laid the foundation for an integrated building at Tiruchy airport and modernisation of Chennai airport via video conference.

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami too was present at the event and presented the Prime Minister with a memento.

Modi, Palaniswami and Dep-

uty Chief Minister O Panneerselvam flagged off the metro service together.

In the 10-minute event, Prime Minister Modi then dedicated the ESIC Medical College and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science and Research (PGIMSR) and 470-bed ESIC hospital at KK Nagar in Chennai, Ennore Coastal Terminal, and a new crude oil pipeline from Chennai port to Manali refinery.

Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Union Minister Pon Radhakrishnan and State Animal Husbandry Minister Udumalai K Radhakrishnan were among those present at the event.