

Metro to operate 2 routes to airport

Direct Service From Central To Continue

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Metro rail commuters can soon take a direct train from Central to the airport and travel in two different directions as the direct service linking all major transit hubs from Central, Egmore station, Koyambedu CMBT and the airport via Alandur will continue.

The 45-km phase 1 of the network will become completely operational soon, with the last leg — the 10-km Washermenpet-AG-DMS line comprising eight underground stations — set to open



FOR BETTER CONNECTIVITY: CMRL will operate trains from Central metro station to the airport on both the corridors of phase 1

later this month.

“We were initially considering to discontinue the direct line after opening the Washermenpet to AG-DMS line. But we understand that there is a demand for the direct service and so we have decided to continue the ser-

vice,” a Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) official said.

The original two corridors were planned from Washermenpet to airport via Central and from Central to St Thomas Mount via Koyambedu. But CMRL introduced a direct service from Central to

airport via Nehru Park, Shenoy Nagar, Anna Nagar, Vadapalani and Alandur. A metro train is available every 15 minutes on this line which was launched on popular demand.

Now, with CMRL deciding to continue the direct line, commuters can board a train from Central and reach airport via Poonamallee High Road, Shenoy Nagar, Anna Nagar and Alandur.

After the stretch between Washermenpet to AG-DMS becomes operational, commuters can take a train from Central to airport and travel also via the underground stretch on Anna Salai.

As the direct service via Poonamallee High Road line is a circuitous route, a metro rail official said, “It may take an additional 10 minutes more to reach airport via the

Poonamallee High Road line compared to the Anna Salai line.” At present, it takes 50 minutes to reach the airport.

With CMRL operating a service from Central to the airport on two different corridors, commuters boarding a train at stations anywhere between Egmore and Ekkattuthangal will not have to change corridors.

At present, the direct train service operated from Central through Poonamallee High Road shifts corridors from the upper level to the lower level through the loopline built at Alandur station.

The looplines were originally built only for taking trains back to the depot. CMRL officials don't prefer to operate trains along the loopline as they have to slow down the trains.