

# Diversions on Anna Salai continue

## Metro Rail Work Over, Cops Yet To End One-Ways

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**Chennai:** It is more than eight months since the AG-DMS, Teynampet and Nandanam metro rail stations were opened, but motorists are still forced to take diversions between Nandanam and Gemini flyover along Anna Salai. At least eight roads are yet to be open for two-way traffic.

The present diversions were enforced nearly eight years ago when construction of tunnels and stations began. Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) officials said they had informed the traffic police about the completion of work, but police were yet to act upon it. "We wrote to the traffic police in December saying they can make roads leading to Anna Salai



**BARRICADES REMAIN:** Two-way traffic yet to be restored at the Nandanam junction

two-way," said an official.

South Boag Road, North Boag Road, Narasimhan Road and a portion of GN Chetty Road, Venkatanarayana Road and Vijayaraghava Road have been one-way since 2012 when construction for the tunnels and the three underground stations on Anna Salai began. The three stations were opened in May 2018. The Anna Salai-General Patters Road junction

and Anna Salai-Whites Road junction are still one-way as construction for LIC and Thousand Lights underground metro stations is on.

Apart from a 250m-wide stretch from the landing of Anna Flyover to Nandanam junction barricaded for construction, the rest of the road is open for four-lane traffic.

Since many MTC buses ply across Anna Salai, the Nanda-

nam junction-Anna Flyover stretch was restricted to buses, to avoid inconveniencing commuters. Private vehicles from Saidapet had to turn left on to Venkatanarayana Road at Nandanam junction, and go via South Boag Road, Thyagaraya Road, North Boag Road and turn right to GN Chetty Road to reach Anna Flyover.

Vehicles coming out of Cenotaph Road towards Anna Sa-

lai couldn't turn right and had to take a U-turn at Nandanam junction to go towards SIET signal and beyond. Sundar Street, which links GN Chetty Road to Anna Salai was also made one-way.

Additional commissioner of police A Arun admitted receiving information from CMRL. He said, "We tried to reach CMRL officials for some clarifications on restoring two-way traffic. Once we get clarity, we will make arrangement."

Motorists continue to be hassled, particularly during the rush hour in the mornings and evenings, and say the traffic police should restore two-way traffic as soon as possible. "To cross a one-kilometre stretch from South Boag Road to GN Chetty Road would normally take less than five minutes. It now takes 15 to 20 minutes during morning peak hours as it is one-way. The roads were made one-way nearly eight years ago, that residents no more remember how convenient the traffic flow used to be when it was two-way," said Prakash Deva, a T Nagar resident.