

# Come August, Kathipara hub to link Metro, MTC and EMU commuters

A Prathap

## Food Stalls, Bus Bay to Come Up Under Flyover

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In about six months, commuters proceeding towards Alandur metro station can sit on a bench to enjoy the greenery, grab a bite from a food stall and shop before boarding an MTC or outstation bus as vehicles zip through on the Kathipara flyover above. The multimodal urban square being built by Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), offering seamless integration of various modes of transport, will be ready by August.

"We are putting the land available to optimal use. Our design will offer lung space in the concrete jungle. It will also be a safe environment for commuters," said a Metro Rail official. Built at a cost of ₹14 crore, the urban square will be a multimodal hub linking Alandur metro station, Guindy metro station, Guindy suburban railway station and Alandur and Guindy bus stops.

The urban square will have several facilities on a 5.85 lakh sqft for the smooth movement of passengers across different modes of transport, according to officials. It will include bus bays for both MTC and outstation buses, parking space, waiting area, food stalls,

ATMs, kids' play area and landscaping. As the Alandur metro station will be the closest, it will be linked through a pathway. The foot overbridge, which is under construction in front of the Alandur station, will also be linked.

Officials said that while the bus bay is expected to come up closer to the Alandur station, blocks to set up food stalls will be located opposite Le Royal Meridien Hotel along with washrooms. An open air theatre is set to come up on the other side of the clover leaf, opposite Central Footwear Training Institute and the children's play area will be under the loop leading to Porur and the parking lot on GST Road.

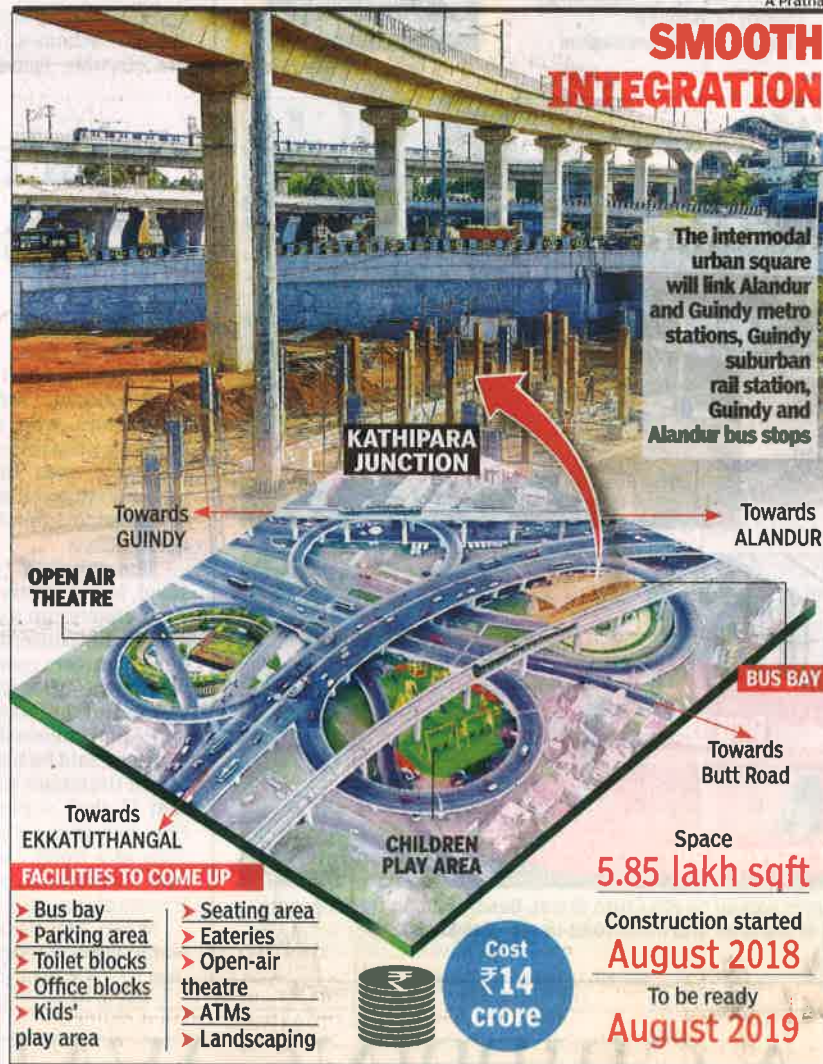
"There will be separate parking spaces for two- and four-wheelers. We are also building office blocks," an official said.

Once the facility is opened, commuters alighting from a bus would need to walk a few metres along the footpath to hop on to the Alandur metro. MTC buses that terminate at Guindy Industrial Estate or those heading towards CMBT can take a turn and pick up or drop passengers at the bus bay. Local buses at the urban square are expected to provide commuters with last mile connectivity linking a 500m radius of the neighbourhood.

With ridership averaging 90,000 per day after the 45km Phase-1 became operational in January, CMRL hopes that the urban square, with its commuter friendly facilities, will attract more passengers.

## SMOOTH INTEGRATION

The intermodal urban square will link Alandur and Guindy metro stations, Guindy suburban rail station, Alandur bus stops



## MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

### FACILITIES TO COME UP

- Bus bay
- Parking area
- Toilet blocks
- Office blocks
- Kids' play area
- Seating area
- Eateries
- Open-air theatre
- ATMs
- Landscaping



Cost  
₹14 crore

Space  
5.85 lakh sqft

Construction started  
August 2018

To be ready  
August 2019