

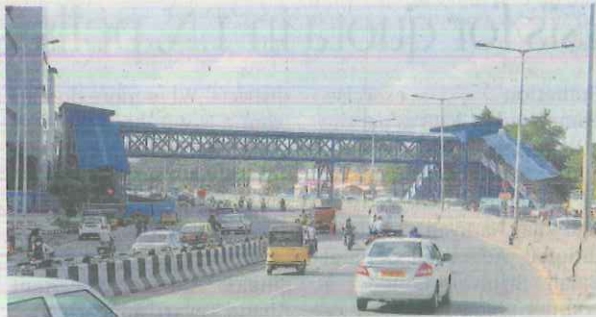
Alandur overbridge to open this month

Metro users were finding it hard to cross the road

SUNITHA SEKAR
CHENNAI

The long-pending foot overbridge project near the Alandur Metro station will soon be completed, and the facility will be opened to the public by the end of this month.

According to officials of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), most of the work is over, and the facility will be opened in two weeks. "There was a stormwater drain near the bridge, work on which we had to finish; the work is on now and it will be over in a week's time. After that, we will fix a date to inaugurate it," an official said. The foot overbridge, built at a cost of ₹6 crore, will have escalators and staircases on either side of the road,



Easy access: A view of the Alandur foot overbridge, which is due to be opened to the public shortly. ■ M. VEDHAN

said the official.

Every day, thousands of people travel through Alandur Metro station. Here, unlike many other stations, entries/exits are available only on one side of the road and it has therefore been an arduous task for passengers to cross the road, as there is no pedestrian crossing.

Aswini P., a resident of Adambakkam who travels regularly through the Alandur station, said, "We have

to walk quite a distance on the GST Road to get to the other side. I have even seen people jumping the median to get to the other side. It's high time the foot overbridge is opened to the public." Though there is a subway, few passengers know about its existence, and those who do say they are scared to use it at night.

Tenders were called twice, and construction began only in early 2018.