

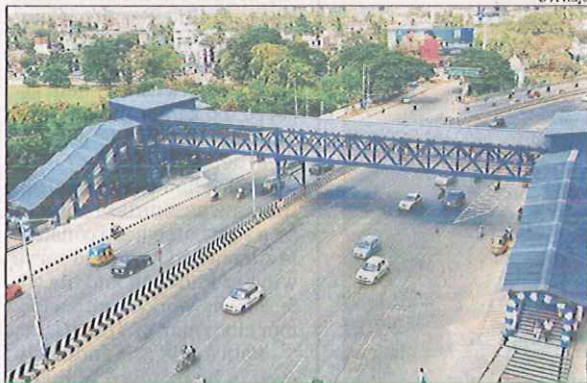
After FoB, more cabs for metro commuters

32 Phase 1 Stations Will Get 256 Taxis

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: After a foot overbridge (FoB) was opened on Tuesday, giving commuters quick entry to Alandur metro station, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (Cmrl) plans to add more cabs to its existing fleet to provide commuters easy access to all metro stations. The FoB built at a cost of ₹9.7crore on busy GST Road, nearly five years after the station started operations, was inaugurated by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami.

A Cmrl official said by April they will have about 256 share cabs. The 32 stations across the phase-1 network will get eight cabs each providing commuters a feeder service for first and last mile connectivity. The cabs will be linked to an existing app where commuters can select one of the pick-up locations given for each station and either pay online or through smart card. "The



B A Raju

FOR QUICK ACCESS: CM Edappadi K Palaniswami on Tuesday inaugurated an FoB on GST Road linking Alandur metro station

fleet will be ready in three months. The app-based service will replace other share taxis and share autos," the official said.

At present, the share cab service is being operated at 16 metro stations with 32 cars. But commuters complain that the service is erratic and not enough cabs are available, particularly during the peak hours.

The FoB has several facilities for an easy and safe access for commuters including four escalators, two elevators, LED lights, CCTV cameras and ramps. The facility links the city's largest elevated transit hub at

Alandur with the air-conditioned bus stop at Asarkhana and the upcoming intermodal urban square under Kathipara grade separator.

S Bhuvaneshwari of Tambaram was one of the first metro commuters to use the facility soon after it was opened. "It usually takes me 30 minutes to reach the station from Asarkhana bus stop which is on the opposite side of GST Road because I walk all the way upto Kathipara flyover and cross the road. Today, it took me just three minutes," said Bhuvaneshwari, who boards a metro train at Alandur to go to her office at CMBT daily.