

Thiruvottiyur metro stn likely to open by August

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: North Chennai residents will have to wait for at least another four months to use the metro train services to reach Theradi in Thiruvottiyur as the elevated station linking the area is likely to be ready by August.

The station was initially expected to be ready by June, but CMRL officials said work slowed down due to the Covid situation and lockdown restrictions since last year. Thiruvottiyur Theradi metro station is one of the eight stations on the 9km Washermentpet to Wimco Nagar line. The line was opened on February 14 with seven stations.

“Work is still going on at the station. We hope to get it ready by August along with the depot at Wimco Nagar,” an official said. Officials said the delay in acquiring land for the station and change in alignment of the elevated corridor in the location affected the construction and the failure to meet the deadline. The elevated viaduct leading to the station is at its highest level along the 9km line at 17m from the road level. The elevation was



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made to allow movement of the temple chariot during the annual festival of a Pallava period temple in the area, which attracts devotees from across the city. At present, metro trains skip past the station, which is in between Kaladipet and Thiruvottiyur stations.

The delay may, however, have an impact on ridership as the station is located close to the popular Pallava period temple, which attracts people from across the city. The station also links both residential and a shopping bazaar in Thiruvottiyur. CMRL officials

there will be a significant boost in patronage once the station opens and by 2026, they project the station may cater to around 22,000 commuters daily.

The station, previously called Gowri Ashram, is built in cantilever style with the viaduct sitting on a single column of pillars built on the centre of the road with staircase and 24m link bridge built on either side of the road giving access to the station. The station will take commuters to platform level from the road through a staircase as the station does not have ticketing level.