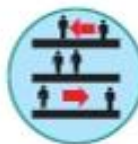
**COMMODIOUS**

While the existing airport has an area of nearly 60,000 sq.m, the new one sprawls over one lakh sq.m

**HASSLE-FREE**

Segregation of arriving and departing passengers ensures easy movement

**MORE FACILITIES & THEN SOME MORE**

The domestic terminal will have seven gates and 52 check-in counters and the international one will have two gates and 52 check-in counters

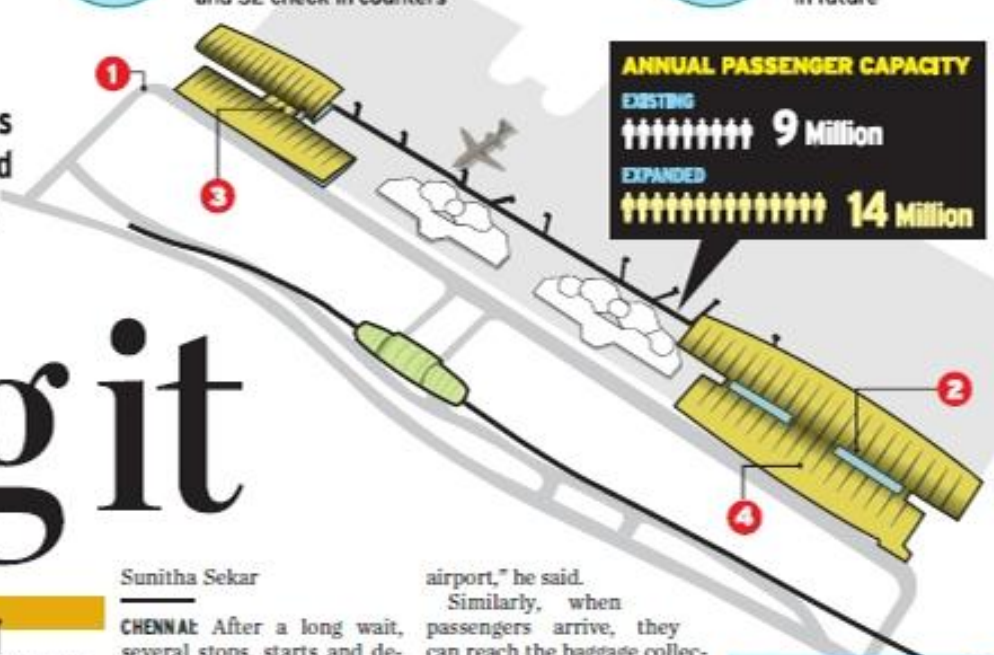
**NO MORE BRICKS**

Fully glass and steel structure can be easily dismantled in future

**JET SET**

Chennai airport's new terminals will have passengers walk in on them in about a month. Posh, polished and picturesque these facilities are expected to add to the city's reputation as a go-to destination

# Winging it



2007	2008	2010	2012
Land acquisition for Chennai airport begins	<p><b>Aug:</b> Expansion project sanctioned with Rs. 1,808 crore that was revised to Rs. 2,015 crore later</p> <p><b>Oct:</b> Foundation stone laid and expansion work begins</p>	<p><b>Mar:</b> Former Union civil aviation minister Praful Patel informs Rajya Sabha that work would be completed by Jan. 2011</p>	<p><b>Apr:</b> First trial, where passengers from Mumbai allowed to exit through the new terminal</p> <p><b>Jul 12:</b> First set of seven aero-bridges arrive from Indonesia</p> <p><b>Jul 18:</b> Airport Authority of India Chairman V.P. Agrawal says airport to be operationalised after August 15</p> <p><b>November:</b> Second batch of three aerobridges arrive</p>



**NIFTY NEW** Multiple levels of gleaming floors (1,3), a vertical garden (2), a design guaranteed to get no one lost and a swanky entryway (4) are only some of the many features of the terminals



It will take a domestic passenger less than 15 minutes to arrive and board a flight and less than 10 to disembark and leave the terminal

GURPREET S. SHAH, ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT

Sunitha Sekar

**CHENNAI:** After a long wait, several stops, starts and delays, Chennai finally has brand new domestic and international terminals at its airport.

Sleek, stylish and designed to be user-friendly, the terminals are set to welcome their first set of passengers sometime next month.

A passenger travelling domestically can enter the airport and within just 15 minutes, board her flight. Likewise, it may take her less than 10 minutes to exit the airport after disembarking from a flight, says Gurpreet S. Shah, an associate principal architect of Creative Group, the firm that prepared the terminals' design.

"When a passenger enters the airport, she checks-in, goes through security procedure and then waits in the hold room. From the check-in point to the hold room, it will be possible to take just 10 minutes and then, if the flight takes more than 15 minutes at the

airport," he said.

Similarly, when passengers arrive, they can reach the baggage collection area in five minutes and exit the terminal in another ten, he added.

International passengers though, will take about half hour, due to extra procedures including customs and immigration, but this is still less than the time it takes at present, Mr. Gurpreet said.

Quick entry and exists will be made possible as the five-level structure boasts a gigantic area with ample check-in counters and gates for both terminals that will ensure smooth movement of passengers, without crowding.

"No passenger will get lost as the terminals are very user-friendly," Mr. Gurpreet added.

Apart from the usual landscaping with trees and shrubs, the terminals also have a vertical garden – creepers winding around steel structures, rising from the ground to a height of 12 metres – to provide a soothing ambience for tired passengers, Mr. Gurpreet said.

