

At 40m, Ashok Ngr to be highest metro stn

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Chennai: Ashok Nagar metro rail station will be the highest elevated station as four more floors will be added to make it a six-storey structure. This is aimed at generating revenue by letting out the floors to offices and commercial establishments.

The initial plan was to have a ground floor, a concourse floor and a platform floor, and the structural work on this is nearing completion. When rail services begin by the end of the year, the originally planned floors will be operational, and construction of the additional floors will continue. A contractor will soon be identified for this.

After completion, the station will have a height of more than 40m, which will be higher than Alandur metro rail elevated sta-

CHANGE OF PLAN

➤ Ashok Nagar metro rail station to have **six floors** that will house **offices and shops**

➤ **At 40m, it will be the highest metro rail station**, followed by Alandur station



tion where the Washermenpet-Airport and Central-St Thomas Mount lines converge. "When we started considering different options we found that the foundation of Ashok Nagar station and the location is suitable for such an expansion. Inner Ring Road, along which the station is coming up, is a happening place. So it

makes sense to have more space for commercial exploitation. There will be provision for additional parking," the official said.

Metro rail is also planning to use land available nearby to create parking for commuters and non-commuters who would be visiting the metro station. The station is located a little away from

100 Feet Road in the middle of a residential area, unlike other stations which are located in the middle of busy main roads.

Work on the eight elevated stations on the Koyambedu-St Thomas Mount line is going on briskly. Structural work of the buildings, concourse and platforms are complete while interior work, including installing amenities, is going on.

Underground stations will have more space for commercial complexes and offices depending on the location. Central metro station is going to be the largest underground station because it is going to be the hub where commuters from two suburban lines, an MRTS line and Express trains converge to change over to different modes of transport. A bus bay is also being planned opposite Central station.