

# Metro Rail begins soil tests to build stations

## Work On Underground Stretch To Begin By Dec

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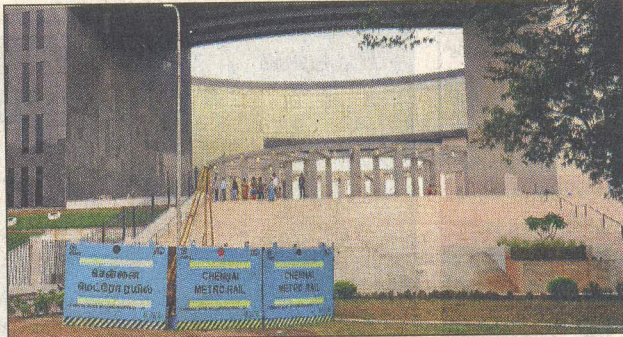
V Ayyappan | TNN

**Chennai:** Metro Rail has kicked off preliminary work to build underground stations on the Washermenpet-Saidapet stretch of the underground corridor on Anna Salai.

Gammon India, which bagged the contract to build underground stations, has started soil investigations at Nandanam and the new secretariat complex. "Soil tests are being conducted. Gammon will design and build seven underground stations. The tests will help them finalise the design for the stations," said a senior Metro Rail official.

Gammon will construct underground stations at Government Estate, LIC Building, Thousand Lights, Gemini, Teynampet, Chamiers Road (Nandanam) and Saidapet. The work has been awarded as two contracts worth Rs 932.88 crore and Rs 1,014.42 crore. "The strength of the ground, soil condition and other parameters will be checked. The designs are likely to be ready by July-end," said Vijay Vancheswar, head of corporate communications, Gammon India. Soil investigations are crucial because soil conditions vary from sandy and clayey to loose.

The 12 underground Metro



**READY TO TUNNEL:** Gammon India, who has won the contract for building the underground stations has started tests in Nandanam and at the new secretariat (above)

stations are to be constructed in two stages to prevent the work from affecting traffic. Construction will be carried out in a novel way because of the peculiar soil conditions and because Chennai does not have bypass roads to divert traffic from Anna Salai. "We are planning to excavate one portion of the road, complete half of the station building and then repeat the process for the other half of the road," a Metro Rail official said. Metro Rail will be building the underground stretch and stations keeping in mind the experience gained from constructing the Delhi Metro.

Similar work started a while

ago at Nehru Park and near Ripon Building where underground stations will be located for the Central to Tirumangalam underground stretch of the Central to St Thomas Mount via Koyembedu corridor. The contract for this stretch has gone to Moscow-based Transtunnel-Stroy Afcons and Metro Tunnelling and L&T SUCG.

Metro Rail is yet to start tunnelling work for the two underground corridors. "The tunnel boring machines are yet to arrive. We expect the work to begin by December," said Metro Rail managing director Rajaraman.

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