

New Metro rail depot soon at Koyambedu

₹198-Cr Project to Come Up On 26 Hectares

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: A gleaming new depot for the Chennai Metro Rail is to come up on 26 hectares of land at Koyambedu opposite the metro rail station.

The depot will include a multi-storied building housing a state-of-the-art operation control centre and other offices. During non-operational hours, trains will be berthed here and also brought for various maintenance operations. Trains will be fed into the system as per requirements from here. The control centre will help monitor train movements and operational activities. "A meeting with the contractor was held to plan various activities and commencement of work. The work is expected to be completed within three years," officials said.

The ₹198.1 crore project was bagged by M/s Larsen and Toubro Limited, Chennai, last week. The contractor, among other things, will build viaduct ramps to provide access to the depot from Koyambedu station, construct buildings and structures to accommodate stabling lines, washing plant and maintenance workshops. The land for the depot had been acquired by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority.

CMRL awarded contracts to Soma Enterprise Limited for the construction of elevated viaducts from Koyambedu to Ashok Na-

gar and St Thomas Mount and to Larsen and Toubro Limited for constructing elevated viaducts from Saidapet to the Officers Training Academy (OTA). Consolidated Construction Consortium Limited won the contract for building 10 elevated stations — Koyambedu, CMBT, Arumbakkam, Vadapalani and Ashok Nagar/KK Nagar, Little Mount, Guindy, Alandur, OTA and SIDCO.

The work on underground stations is likely to begin soon on both the Metro rail corridors. "The contracts for the underground stations will be awarded shortly," CMRL general manager (public relations) S Krishnamoorthy told TOI.

Meanwhile, despite claims from CMRL and the traffic police that they have been 'coordinating closely,' traffic on the arterial Jawaharlal Nehru Salai has been affected very badly due to the ongoing metro rail works. The traffic in other areas is expected to become worse once the construction of underground stations begins.

As per the plan, the underground stations in corridor 1 will come up at Washermenpet, Mannadi, Chennai Fort, Chennai Central, CMDA, LIC building, Thousand Lights, Gemini, Teynampet and Chamiers Road. In corridor 2, they will be located in Egmore, Nehru Park, Kilpauk Medical College, Pachiayappa's College, Shenoy Nagar, Anna Nagar East, Anna Nagar Tower and Tirumangalam.



PROMPT START: Ongoing metro work at Koyambedu