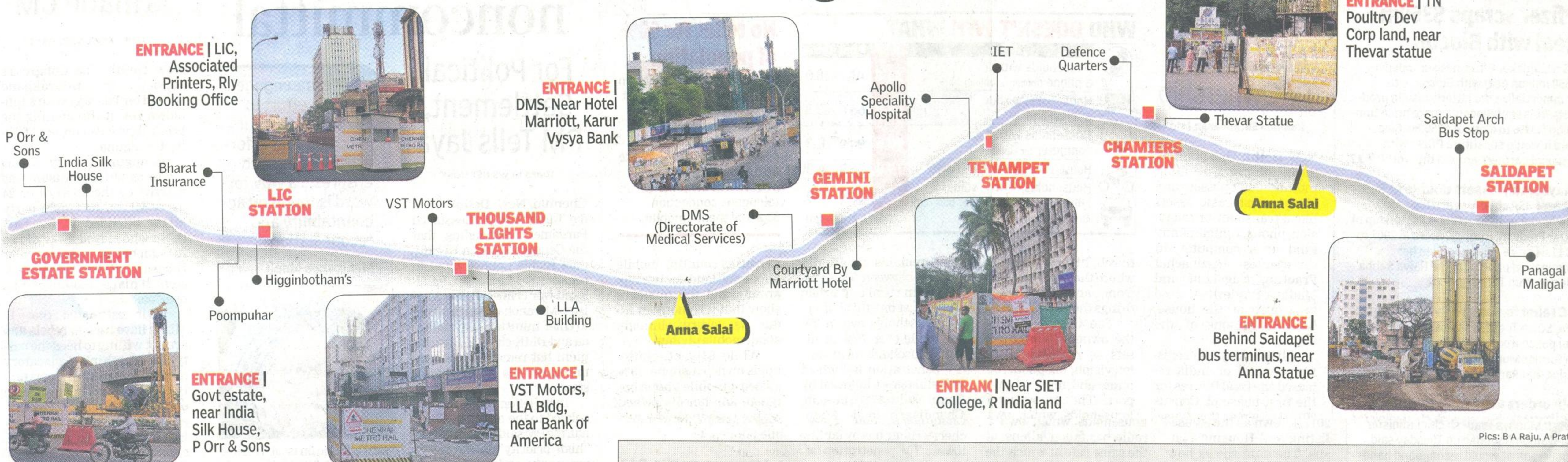


TIMES CITY

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station is right hereTOI Tells You Where Exactly Is
CMRL Building The Seven
Underground Stations
Planned On Anna Salai

Pics: B A Raju, A Prath

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Metro Rail's underground stations on Anna Salai will come up near Government Estate, LIC office, Thousand Lights, Anna flyover (Gemini), DMS complex in Teynampet, Chamiers Road, and Saidapet bus terminus.

CMRL has acquired land to build entrances to the underground stations near these spots. "We will start work on all the stations at one go. We are also planning to have at least two entry points on either side of the road," said a senior official.

The entrances for the Government Estate station will be near the P Orr & Sons and India Silk House showrooms. To get to the LIC station, commuters can use entrances near Associated Printers and Higginbotham's showroom, and the railway booking office next to LIC. Entry points to the Thousand Lights station will be near VST Motors, Bank of America office and LLA building. To enter Gemini station, commuters can use entrances next to the DMS complex, hotel Courtyard by Marriott and Karur Vysya Bank. The Teynampet station can be accessed through entrances near SIET college and Air India office, while Chamiers station entry will be near the Tamil Nadu Poultry Development Corporation, the Thevar statue and the BSNL office. Entry points to Saidapet station will come near the bus terminus and the Anna statue.

CMRL has also acquired land to house venti-

lation shafts, power backup, fire safety equipment and electrical sub-stations near the underground stations. "We have tried to acquire government land to house the utility structures to avoid the hassles of procuring private property," said the official. Apart from state government land in Saidapet and near Anna flyover, CMRL has got



The entrances for the Government Estate station will be near the P Orr & Sons and India Silk House

land belonging to the defence department in Teynampet.

CMRL has also acquired private property, including land adjacent to two heritage buildings — P Orr & Sons and Bharat Insurance building near LIC. "Care will be taken to prevent damage to heritage buildings while construction is on," said the official.

Work begins on three underground stations

V Ayyappan | TNN

While riding through Anna Salai you know the workers boxed up inside Metro Rail's iron sheets are up to something big but couldn't take a peek. Here is the update from behind the iron wall: Metro has begun underground stations work at three spots along the stretch.

Of the seven underground metro stations that will come up beneath Anna Salai, work has begun on the new secretariat campus station, LIC station and Thousand Lights station.

Traffic has been diverted on the LIC and the LLA sides of the arterial road to make space for heavy machinery that will burrow trenches for underground stations. If you are already fretting over the traffic squeeze, then make sure you have enough patience in reserve to bear it for a year.

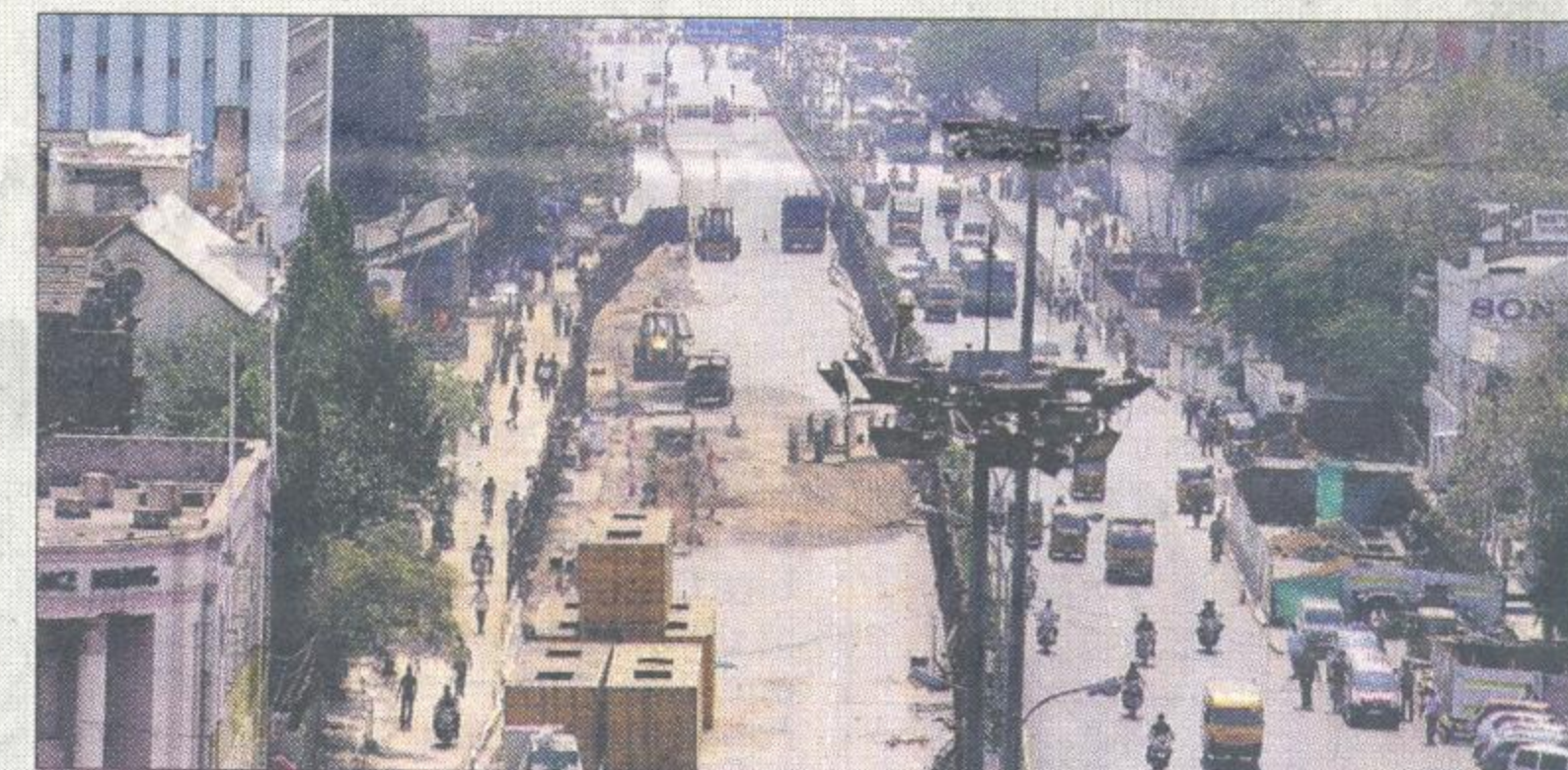
An underground station evolves through various stages — first the soil is tested, cables and pipelines are shifted, diaphragm walls are built to shore up dug-up earth and

finally, the construction of station begins. As the stations are built after cutting open the road surface, metro rail has decided to slash open one portion of the road, complete the works, cover it up and move over to the other half.

Metro has started making diaphragm walls for new secretariat, LIC and Thousand Lights stations. The wall is needed to hold up the earth from collapsing when excavation begins. Raising of the walls requires the help of steel behemoths. Giant drills will make a deep trench, then cranes are used to hoist and place the cylindrical rigs in the trench and concrete is poured to fill up the trench that contains the rigs.

Giant cranes have been moved to the new secretariat station work site while drills have been moved to LIC and LLA. Soil excavation will begin soon after the walls are ready. Water pipelines and power cables are being moved at DMS for Gemini metro station, and Nandanam.

Imagine a five-storey building under the ground — that's how tall an underground station will be. The roof will be three to four meters



Preliminary works have begun for the LIC underground station

below the road surface. Power cables and pipelines shifted out during construction will be put back in this place. Concourse area, where commuters will buy tickets, will be six metres below the roof and six metres further down will be the platform.

"The deepest point of an underground station will be 17 metres below the road. It may vary marginally. We have taken care not to increase the depth further," said an official.

THE DEEPEST POINT OF AN UNDERGROUND STATION WILL BE 17 METRES BELOW THE ROAD. WE HAVE TAKEN CARE NOT TO INCREASE THE DEPTH FURTHER

Official | CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED