

## Metro Rail Gets SC Nod to Acquire Land

**New Delhi:** The Chennai Metro Rail project on Friday got a boost with the Supreme Court setting aside the verdict of the Madras High Court and giving its nod for takeover of a piece of land required for its 23.1-km-long metro corridor between Washermenpet and airport.

A bench of justices A K Patnaik and Fakkir Mohamed Ibrahim Kalifulla allowed the pleas of Chennai Metro Rail Ltd and the TN government seeking to get possession of 5,644 sq ft land at Vepery village for completion of one of the metro corridors that will start from Washermenpet and end at airport.

"The first respondent (N Ismail and others) is directed to surrender possession of the lands in Survey No 43/2 in an extent of 5644 sq. ft. through the AG & OT within four weeks from the date of receipt of copy of this judgment. With the above directions, these appeals are allowed," the bench said.

The land, sought to be taken over, has hotels and other buildings. The court, which set aside the HC judgment, said the government order and subsequent processes in relation to the land can be "sustained".

It asked the State government and Chennai Metro Rail Ltd "to value the buildings belonging to the first respondent and determine the compensation and pay the same to the first respondent. "The said exercise of valuation and payment of compensation shall be effected within three months from this date," the bench added.

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