

Elevated depot soon at Wimco Nagar

First time Metro will have such a facility; officials say it is part of their plan for using space efficiently

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Chennai Metro Rail has planned an elevated depot, along with a multi-storey building, for raising revenue from property development at Wimco Nagar.

This depot and the building on top of it will be part of the Phase I extension of Metro Rail, which will cover a 9 km stretch from Washermanpet to Wimco Nagar.

This is the first time that Chennai Metro Rail is having an elevated depot and is planning to construct a multi-storey building; at present, there is a huge depot at Koyambedu sprawling over 26 ha and it houses stabling



Unique model: CMRL has called for tenders and work on the building will start in a few months. ■ FILE PHOTO

lines (where trains are stationed), a washing plant and maintenance workshops. All trains from France and Sri City that were manufactured

specially for Chennai Metro Rail are located in this depot. According to officials of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), they have already

called for tenders, and in a few months, the work on this building will start.

“This depot will be built over nearly 3.5 ha and much smaller than the current depot. It will have the capacity to accommodate 12 trains, three inspection lines and one emergency repair line (where faults in trains will be repaired); apart from this, there will also be a mini plant where trains will be washed,” an official said.

Train maintenance

By having such a depot exclusively for north Chennai, they say maintenance of trains can be taken up easily. Since CMRL was keen on

vertical development, they plan on building five or six floors above the depot, officials said.

“We want to efficiently use every bit of space we have and hence this plan. This can be used as office space or even shopping complex; we will lease that space and get revenue from that,” another official said.

The Phase I extension project built at a cost of ₹3,770 crore and the 9 km stretch will be partly underground and elevated.

The tunnelling work from Washermanpet to Korukketpet has been completed and now the work on the elevated stretch is to begin soon.