

# Metro Rail extension gathers pace

Construction of depot at Wimco Nagar starts

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Chennai Metro Rail's phase I extension work is beginning to gather pace as construction of the depot at Wimco Nagar has begun. At the depot, trains that will run from Washermanpet to Wimco Nagar will be maintained and stationed.

According to officials in Chennai Metro Rail Limited, they had awarded the contract to Gannon Dunkerley sometime ago.

"The cost of this contract is around ₹230 crore, and it will be completed in about a year and half," an official said.

There will be 10 trains exclusively running for the 9 km phase I extension project that will cover eight station including, Washermanpet, Theagaraya College, Korukkupet, Tondiarpet, Toll Gate, Thangal, Gowri Ashram, Tiruvottiyur and Wimco Nagar. This is the first



**Work under way:** The 9-km network from Washermanpet to Wimco Nagar will be partly elevated. ■ FILE PHOTO

time that a depot will be on an elevated level. The existing depot in Koyambedu is at the ground level.

This elevated depot will have a multi-storey building above, which will be let out to business establishments. It will be built over 3.5 ha and will have space for 12 trains, three inspection lines and one emergency repair line (a place where train faults and repair will be looked into); a small plant

where trains will be washed.

The project is estimated to cost ₹3,770 crore and it is likely to be over in two years.

This 9 km network from Washermanpet to Wimco Nagar will be partly elevated. Officials said the tunnelling work in the underground stretch from Washermanpet to Korukkupet is over and the work on the elevated stretch from Korukkupet to Wimco Nagar has started.