

# Wimco Nagar depot to help keep metro trains running

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** In less than two years, when metro trains start running above and below the crowded stretches of North Chennai, a modern depot at Wimco Nagar will help keep them spic and span.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has invited tenders for construction of the depot that will include signage and auto coach washing plant and is expected to be operational by mid-2019. The company winning the tender will have to handle traffic diversion, utility shifting and all associated work during construction. It will be expected to complete the construction in one and a half years.

The depot is planned as part of the 9km Phase I extension from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar. When the 45km phase is completely operational, more than 42 trains will be operated on the two corridors and CMRL will need a depot, apart from the one at Koyambedu, to maintain its growing fleet and provide uninterrupted services.

"Every line should have a depot to maintain trains on that stretch. The depot at Wimco Nagar will maintain trains running along the Washermenpet-Airport and Phase I extension connecting North Chennai," a CMRL official said.

The depot, set to come up near the Wimco Nagar railway station, will be one-tenth the size of depots built by the railways, but will have cutting-edge

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technology for regular upkeep of trains. "It will only deal with low maintenance work on trains. Heavy maintenance will continue to be done at the Koyambedu depot," he said.

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At present, engineers at Koyambedu depot conduct a three-stage service maintenance once in three days. First, the outer body is inspected, followed by a thorough inspection and a detailed check of the critical systems, including braking, traction and the high-voltage systems. Once checked and certified, the trains chug into an automatic train wash plant. There are also quarterly, half-yearly and annual maintenance programmes besides an overhauling of each train once in four years.