

CMRL begins repairs to Poonamallee High Rd

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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Chennai: Nearly seven years after portions of Poonamallee High Road near Central Railway Station were barricaded for metro rail construction, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has started the work to restore smooth traffic flow in the arterial road. While a portion of the road in front of Rajah Sir Ramasamy Mudaliar Choultry will return to its original form in two weeks, workers will also start building the outer compound wall of Ripon Building, which was razed for construction of the underground metro station.

On Thursday, workers began breaking the top concrete layer of the road in front of the choultry to lay a fresh layer of bitumen. Traffic was diverted for the work. "We had closed that portion of the road when we were excavating for Central Metro. Now that the station is nearing completion, we will lay the road in



WORK IN PROGRESS: The stretch near Ripon building will be relaid

two weeks and road traffic can move straight ahead instead of taking diversions," a metro rail official said.

Portions of the arterial road were barricaded when excavation began for the construction of Central Metro in 2012. Over the years, different portions of the road were opened and closed throwing traffic flow into comple-

te chaos. Motorists were forced to slow down when they came near Ripon Building from Egmore, as the road became narrow and snaky. A temporary foot overbridge was also installed for pedestrians to cross, as CMRL closed one of the existing pedestrian subways.

The portion in front of the choultry was partly ope-

ned when CMRL first opened Central Metro earlier this May.

However, smooth traffic flow was not restored. "We are in discussion with corporation engineers. In a week, we will decide the alignment and start construction of the compound wall for Ripon Building," an official said.

However, the barricades put up near Ripon Building will not be removed, as CMRL will begin work for Central Square. "It is now under tender process. Work will soon begin for Central Square," the official said.

While most of the work for Central Square is on the road, some portion near Buckingham Canal opposite Central Railway Station will be excavated for the construction of a multi-level underground car parking that can accommodate more than 800 cars. A 20-storey building with passenger amenities has also been planned as part of the project.