

3 more metro rail stations to house commercial complexes, office spaces

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Chennai: The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is planning to build office complexes and mini malls close to three metro stations in 18 months to generate more non-ticketing revenue. Buildings to accommodate corporate offices and retail shopping outlets have been planned on vacant land near Nehru Park, Little Mount and Thirumangalam stations.

Tenders have been floated to build a nine-storey building at Nehru Park, an eight-storey structure at Little Mount and a five-storey building at Thirumangalam. All three multi-

storied structures will have car parking in the basement. The buildings are expected to be ready in 15 to 18 months.

"We are trying to make use of the land available for commercial developments," an official said. CMRL has already floated tenders to build mini malls linking Ekattuthangal and Arumbakkam stations. While Ekkattuthangal will have a 11-storey building, a seven-storey has been planned near Arumbakkam. The lower levels will be rented out for retail shops, upper levels will have space to set up corporate offices.

While these buildings are expected to generate additional revenue for metro rail

through rents, metro rail also hopes that it will help in increasing the footfall at their stations. At present, metro rail has an average ridership of 90,000 a day in the 32 stations of the 45km phase-1.

Officials said office buildings have been planned on a 14,639sqft plot near Nehru Park metro station, located on the arterial Poonamallee High Road. Another structure for office space will be built on 19,214sqft close to Little Mount Metro station on arterial Anna Salai. At Thirumangalam, a commercial complex has been planned on a 54,853sqft vacant plot. These buildings will be linked to the metro stations through a skywalk or a

pathway.

While Nehru Park and Little Mount metro stations are located on arterial roads surrounded by corporate and government offices, CMRL has planned a mini-mall like structure near Thirumangalam, as it is located close to residential areas in Anna Nagar. Thirumangalam metro station caters to an average footfall of 5,574 every day.

All metro stations including transit hubs at Alandur and Central have exclusive space allotted for eateries and other shops.

Earlier, CMRL planned commercial complexes at more locations - Alandur and Ashok Nagar.