

Metro rail's office in Nandanam to be ready by end of 2021

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: There will be more office space on arterial Anna Salai when metro rail's new 12-storey headquarters at Nandanam opens by 2021-end.

The first two floors of Metro Bhavan, with two housing quarters for operational staff over 56,000sqm, will be used by Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) and the next two given to the general consultants including those involved in

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phase-2. The other floors will be used for property development, said an official.

"Civil work will be completed before April 2021. The interior and exterior glass façade, for which we have floated tenders, will be completed by 2021-end. Shifting our office will take more time," he said.

"The six floors we have planned for property development will be mostly office space. We will have only the outer framework and not do

the interiors on these floors. We will leave it to whoever rents it out to make it according to their requirement," the official added.

The land where the new office is being built earlier housed the Poultry Research Centre affiliated to Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University. CMRL earlier built four floors and extended it to 12 after getting clearance.

Since the first metro line opened in 2015, CMRL has been functioning out of a glass and steel building in Koyambedu to which the maintenance depot and the operations control centre (OCC) are attached.

Officials say the plan is for a flower-shaped head office with a three-floor 6,600 sqft OCC, a 1,345 sqft conference room, 1,550 sqft library and a 243-seat auditorium. "We have completed two housing quarter blocks and will likely get a completion certificate from CMDA in a week or two. These quarters are for operational staff," the official said.