

Portion of road caves in near Central stn

Happens After 90-Tonne Trailer Passes Over

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: A portion of Poomallee High Road near MGR Chennai Central, covered with steel beams and plates, caved in on Sunday night after an overloaded trailer weighing 90 tonnes passed over. Police said it could have been a major disaster but for the fact that it happened at 11.30pm, after peak traffic hours.

A nearly 15-ft wide hole was created in the 20-ft-deep portion dug up for a subway by Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) and covered by steel sheets. No workers were present there at the time.

While the truck driver and the cleaner were treated at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, the driver was booked for negligence. Traffic had to be diverted to remove the trailer stuck in the pit.

Police said the trailer from Chennai Port to Koyambedu was



STRETCH OF TROUBLE: Repair work on at the site of the cave-in near MGR Central station on Monday. (right) The scene after the incident



A Prashad

crossing the stretch was carrying seven iron sheet rolls, each weighing 11 tonnes. Such vehicles are allowed to carry only 40 tonnes. As the trailer passed, the steel plates covering the dug-up portion gave in and the container got stuck between steel beams.

Soon, police cordoned off the road with the help of CMRL workers. Fire and rescue services personnel worked for nearly five hours to pull the container out with the help of a crane. Metro rail

workers later kept iron girders above the caved-in portion.

On Monday morning, traffic on both sides of the Chennai Central-Periamet stretch was stopped, before it was later allowed from Periamet to Parry's.

The pedestrian subway to link Chennai Central Railway Station with Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, is one of two CMRL is building as part of the Central Square project on Poomallee High Road.