

City's 2nd metro rail depot to be ready in 4 months

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BIG PLANS: The depot premises in Wimco Nagar will be developed to include a 20-storey apartment complex in the future

Chennai: The elevated metro rail depot at Wimco Nagar, which will have facilities to service and maintain trains as well as have room to accommodate a 20-storey apartment complex in the future, will be ready by August. The depot coming up on a 48,000sqm plot is in addition to the existing one at Koyambedu and was supposed to be completed by December 2020.

Work on the depot began along with work on the 9km phase-1 extension line from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar. Like the extension line, construction of the depot was delayed due to the pandemic-induced lockdown last year. The line was opened, with seven in-

stead of eight stations, on February 14.

Of the 48,000sqm plot, the depot will be built on 15,500sqm and will have a 1,055sqm auto

coach washing plant with three levels for property development. A small station will be attached to the depot for both depot staff and people using the

property, with training and rest area for depot staff.

The depot will have 11 stabling units for daily maintenance and minor repair work of trains operated on the 32.1km corridor from Wimco Nagar to Airport via Anna Salai. "70% of both civil and system works have been completed. The rest of the work is expected to be completed by August," a Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) official said.

At present, CMRL uses the Koyambedu depot to service its fleet of 52 trains, including the 10 new trains procured for the 9km extension line.

"Wimco Nagar depot will handle only minor repair and daily and weekly maintenance work. Major repair and

overhaul will still be done at our Koyambedu depot," an official said.

The plan for the rest of the plot, eventually, is to build a four-level car park below the elevated depot and develop 20 storeys above the depot to have commercial or residential spaces that can accommodate 4,000 families. The apartments will have sea view as the facility is a mere 600m away from the beach.

Last year, a tender was floated to manufacture and install spares and consumables needed in the depots, such as automatic train wash plant, car body stand, retractable overhead equipment (OHE) and self-propelled battery operated scissor lift.