

Beautification Project, Delayed By Pandemic, To Conclude Shortly



NEW LOOK: A view of the iconic Ripon building near Chennai Central. Workers of CMRL are carrying out landscaping work of the structure

Metro rail races ahead with revamp of Ripon premises

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By the end of the month, the Ripon building premises will sport a whole new look thanks to the multi-crore makeover by Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) that is currently underway.

The beautification project, which was delayed on account of the Covid-19 pandemic, is part of the ₹400 crore Central Square project, and includes the construction of a 20-storey central plaza complete with office spaces, a shopping area, and waiting lounge for passengers as well as bus bays.

Other highlights of the renovation include amenities for multi-modal integration to link suburban trains, MRTS and metro rail with outstation trains and buses with pedestrian subways, and a three-level underground parking space. All the renovation is being done after approval from the heritage conservation committee as the headquarters of the Greater Chennai Corporation is a heritage building.

The land was barricaded for seven years when CMRL was constructing the underground portion of the metro rail line, which is why the agency is refreshing the frontage now.

While at the Ripon premises, cement blocks have been removed, the area paved, all the spaces in between filled with grass, and statues relocated, the CMRL has announced it will soon float a tender for the construction of the Plaza.

The Central railway station and Moore market complex will be taken up next for remodelling.

