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# Chennai: Foundation stone laid for Kilambakkam bus terminus

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CHENNAI: Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Friday laid the foundation stone for a new bus terminus for south-bound buses at Kilambakkam near Vandalur on GST Road. The new facility will decongest the existing Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus (CMBT) at Koyambedu.

A press release here said that the foundation stone was laid for the project at a cost of Rs 393.74 crore coming up in an area of 44.74 acres. The built-up area would be 6.40 lakh square feet. The new terminus can cater about 1.5 lakh passengers with parking space for 250 buses, 270 cars and 3500 two-wheelers at any given time. After the completion of the project, all southern district bound buses would depart from Kilambakkam

instead of Koyambedu.

Official sources with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) said that the National Monuments Authority (NMA) gave its consent for the project, a few days ago. The nod from NMA was necessary as the new infrastructure project fell in the vicinity of a notified archaeological site of the ASI. Though the CMDA earmarked the land parcel for constructing the terminus for

southern district bound buses in September 2016, it was delayed due to the objections from ASI over the presence of a notified archaeological site near the proposed terminus.

It may be recalled that the ASI had raised objections citing the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 that bans building activities within 100m of a protected site. However, constructions are allowed between 100m and 300m range with its nod.

The press release further said that deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam and senior officials from the housing and urban development department were present on the occasion.