

# Metro stations to offer bicycle parking space

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Chennai metro rail is not content, it appears, with just making commuting hassle-free for residents. It plans to encourage the use of bicycles by offering park-and-ride facilities at a few of its stations.

Many Delhi metro rail stations offer space for bicycle parking and have rent-a-cycle facilities to allow commuters to explore nearby localities.

Chennai metro rail is planning a similar project. "We plan to allocate parking space as it will be convenient for residents who live nearby access stations. It will also be a healthy option. Space may be provided for bicycles at stations where park-and-ride facilities for cars and two-

wheelers are planned," said a CMRL official.

On the Koyambedu-St Thomas Mount stretch, which is scheduled to be opened by the end of next year, Ashok Nagar and Alandur stations may have space for bicycles while parking may be allowed at the St Thomas Mount suburban station where a metro rail station is to come up on the adjacent space. On the underground stretches, additional space will be available only at Central, Egmore and Nandanam stations while efforts are on to provide parking space at stations like Guindy and Fort.

The facility is expected to become popular when the services start because most stations will be located in the middle of premium commer-

## PEDALLING FORWARD



Metro station at Central (top) will get the bicycle parking facility

▶ Metro rail is planning a **park-and-ride facility for cycles to encourage people living near stations to use metro trains**

▶ **All stations will not have the facility** as it will be developed by acquiring government land and not private land

▶ Space will be available at **Koyambedu, St Thomas Mount, Egmore, Central, Nandanam, Airport and Alandur stations**

cial and residential areas. It will be easier for commuters in neighbourhoods like Alwarpet or RA Puram to use bi-

cycles to access Nandanam metro station where metro will have more space because the entry and exit, bus bays

and other facilities are being built on land acquired from the state government. Similarly, people in neighbourhoods near Central and Koyambedu also will benefit.

Park-and-ride facilities for bicycles are being considered as a cost-effective option to bring commuters to stations as multi-storeyed parking lots for cars may not be viable near metro rail stations.

All metro stations may not have space for parking bicycles as the project is being constructed using minimum private land. The use of bicycles has dipped in the city, while people who live in suburbs continue to use them as is evident from the number of bicycles at the parking lots of suburban railway stations.