

In less than a year, you can park, shop and ride at metro rail stations

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Commuters will very soon be able to drive into Alandur metro rail station, park and shop at a two-floor 1.18lakh sqft complex at the back of the station before boarding a metro train.

In less than a year, Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) plans to turn five elevated stations into commercial hubs where people in the neighbourhood can converge for an evening of shopping, movies and dining out.

With six months to go for commissioning of the Koyambedu-Alandur elevated line, CMRL plans to build, two-floor to nine-floor buildings to rent or lease to set up malls, retail stores and other establishments at Alandur, Ekkattuthangal, Arumbak-



A Prathap

CMRL plans to build two-floor to nine-floor buildings to set up malls, retail stores and other establishments at five stations

kam and CMBT stations. Additional floors will also be built at Ashok Nagar station.

"A consultant will be identified to conduct a feasibility study, plan and design the buildings for commercial development. They will suggest

which establishments are to be brought in and other details to earn revenue," said a CMRL official.

The facilities are being planned at these stations as they are located in key areas on 100 Feet Road where there

is a potential for retail and office space. The buildings, to have a tentative built-up area of 32,000 sq ft to 1.18 lakh sqft, will have parking space in the basement and a stilt floor.

A 1.18lakh sqft building with a basement and stilt floor for car park is planned behind the Alandur station where two metro lines will converge and commuters will step out to travel by bus or taxi to the airport.

A 1.06lakh sqft nine-floor building will come up at Ekkattuthangal, opposite Hilton Hotel, while two nine-floor buildings, measuring 51,379sqft and 32,721sqft, are proposed to be built at Arumbakkam.

Two buildings are planned at CMBT on either ends of the station based the availability of the land.