

Central Square to get 20-floor twin towers

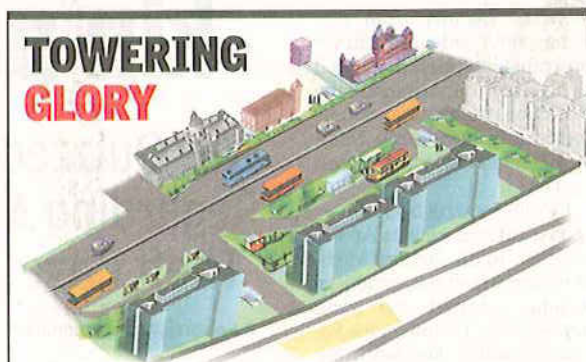
₹400 Crore Project To Have Shopping Hub

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: A 20-storey twin-tower like structure will be a key feature of the proposed Central Square near Central Railway Station on Poona-mallee High Road, blending contemporary architecture with iconic heritage structures. Central Square, planned at an estimated ₹400 crore, is expected to be on the lines of Times Square in New York and Trafalgar Square in London. The detail design is being made and is at present awaiting approval from CMDA and its heritage committee.

Metro rail officials said the twin towers, which will be about 60 metres tall, will have several facilities including restrooms and lounge area to cater to passengers heading in and out of Central Railway Station as well as taking out-station buses at the bus bays proposed nearby. There will also be a floor only for shopping purposes and a food court.

"We want to provide amenities for people using Central station besides those heading to Central Metro and suburban stations," a metro rail official said. "We had planned a



➤ Project has been allotted a budget of ₹400 crore

➤ The total built up area will be around 20 lakh sqft with six-level underground parking lot

➤ Four subways to connect Central Railway station, Park station, Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital and Flower Bazaar Road

➤ Landscaping, walkways, fountains and seating area in front of Ripon Buildings and Victoria Hall

➤ Sir S Ramasami Mudaliar Choultry, which will be located in between the two buildings, will be converted into a museum

➤ Detail plan for Central Square has been sent to CMDA for approval

revolving restaurant but later dropped the idea. So far, we have not decided how to use the rest of the building space."

Extending from Central Railway Station to Ripon Buildings and the space opposite Victoria Hall, other features planned as part of Central Square include a six-level underground parking lot on either side of the underground Central metro station.

The space in front of both Ripon Buildings and Victoria Hall will be developed with

landscaping, walkways and seating area. Buckingham Canal behind the building will be converted into a green area.

"A detail design work is going on now. It has to be approved by CMDA and its heritage committee as there are heritage structures in the location. Our buildings have to be in sync with what is already there," said S Krishnan, principal secretary, planning, development and special initiatives, recently.