

# Construction of Central Square to begin in May

**COMING SOON**



## Multi-Level Parking To Be Foundation

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In around four years, commuters walking out of Central metro station can quickly grab a bite at Central Square, shop for souvenirs or trinkets and catch a glimpse of the heritage structures from an air-conditioned lounge before they walk across a subway to board a long-distance train at Central railway station or catch a bus from outside. The construction for Central Square, will begin this May.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has awarded contract to build a multi-level underground parking, which will serve as the foundation for the 20-storey Central Plaza. Planned at a cost of ₹400 crore, Central Square will be a hub for seamless multi-modal transportat.

A metro rail official said preliminary work for the construction of the underground parking has started. Construction for the Central Plaza,

## CENTRAL SQUARE

➤ Will link Central Railway Station, Central Metro, Park Station, Fort Station, Park Town Station and Moore Market Complex with private outstation buses and MTC

➤ Will have three-level underground parking

➤ Two more pedestrian subways across Poonamallee High Road

## SUBWAYS

➤ Central station to Government Hospital to be built along with Central Square

➤ Flower Bazaar Road to hospital to be built along with Central Square

which will accommodate bus bays and several commuter amenities, will begin once the parking lot is ready. "Underground work will be the first part of Central Square. We have earmarked area on a side of the Poonamallee High Road for the plaza and underground parking. In two years, the parking lot will be ready and we will begin work on the plaza," said the official.

The three-level underground parking to be linked with the metro station and Chennai Central railway sta-

tion through will accommodate more than 800 cars. The space will be open for commuters of metro rail, suburban and MRTS trains and Central railway station users.

Central Plaza will have bays for outstation buses and city buses, and lounges for passengers and bus crew to relax, toilets and a shopping area. Much of the space on the 20 floors will be rented out for offices and other commercial establishments. "Most of the work will be on the side of the road around the Ramasami Mudaliar Choultry. The road that has been restored will not be disturbed in any way," an official said.

The space around the plaza as well as in front of Rippon Buildings and Moore Market Complex will be landscaped, with lawns, shrubs, benches and pathways for people to go on a stroll. Two big pedestrian subways connecting the Central railway station with Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital and Flower Bazaar will be built as part of the square. "Our plan is to put the available space to optimum use. Underground parking and subways are planned to avoid parking on the roads so the traffic flows smooth," the metrorail official said.

## PLAZA

➤ To have amenities for bus crew and passengers

➤ Will have view for commuters to see heritage structures

➤ Will offer amenities like restrooms, food stalls, seating areas and office space