

Work on Central Square begins

Mega project will include parking lot, 33-storeyed building

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The Chennai Metro's mega plan to construct a commercial intersection near the Chennai Central Metro station – The Central Square – has finally taken off.

L&T Geostructure has bagged the contract from Chennai Metro to build a section of this project. It will build three basements that will serve as a large car parking area as well as the foundation.

According to officials of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), they have conducted the *bhoomi pooja* and the preliminary work has begun. This parking lot will have a capacity to accommodate around 1,000 cars and will benefit thousands of passengers who travel to the Chennai Central railway station, the suburban station, the MRTS station and the Chennai Central Metro station. It will take two-three years to complete the construction of this parking lot.

The Central Square, estimated to cost ₹400 crore,

A grand hub

- Central Square to be built at a cost of ₹400 crore

- L&T Geostructure will construct a three-level underground parking lot

- Chennai Metro Rail plans a 33-storeyed structure to be used as office space and a shopping mall

- The commercial intersection will have bus bays, auto stands and taxi drop-off points, allowing commuters to travel seamlessly from one mode of transport to another

- There is a proposal to cover the Buckingham Canal and have a landscape garden

- This apart, there will also be a landscape garden in front of Ripon Buildings and Victoria Hall



will not only connect four stations, but also have huge space for bus bays so that passengers can switch from one mode of transport to another, subways and extensive landscaping as well.

This apart, the major component of the Central Square is a 33-storeyed building that Chennai Metro plans to build opposite the Chennai Central Metro which will be given out on lease for shopping and office space.

"After the parking lot, the focus will be on obtaining

clearances from various authorities to construct this 33-storey building. It may take quite a while to get the clearances, after which the tenders have to be floated and the work can begin. If this comes up, it will be one of a kind in the city and a major landmark as well. The challenge will be to get all the approvals on time," an official said.

Meanwhile, the Chennai Central Metro station has two entry/exit units functioning and soon two more entrances will be opened.