

HC nod for parking lots beneath park

State told to ensure tree cover is restored

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The Madras High Court has dismissed cases filed against the ongoing construction of an underground vehicle parking lot and commercial establishments at the Thiru Vi Ka Park, spread over nine acres of land and situated close to the Shenoy Nagar Metro station.

Justices S. Manikumar and Subramonium Prasad rejected the plea after recording the undertaking of the State government, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) and the Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) that the character of the park would not be altered in any way.

Advocate General Vijay Narayan told the court that facilities at the park would actually be enhanced.

He said the authorities had decided to divide the park into six zones and create facilities such as floor fountains, skating rink and an audio-visual screen. He pointed out that the vehicle parking lot and some shops would be established only



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under the ground.

He told the court that there was no need for obtaining environment clearance if the built-up area was less than 50,000 square metres.

The CMRL had also said that it would plant 1,250 trees around the park.

The judges directed the government to ensure that tree cover on the park was restored at the earliest, and the noise levels in the locality, during the course of construction, was within permissible limits, so as to cause least inconvenience to the local residents.