

Metro to start building benches, pathways for Central Square

Tenders Floated, Deadline in 17 Months

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Chennai: In a year, pedestrians can relax on a bench surrounded by pruned lawns and pathways in front of Ripon Buildings or Moore Market Complex as they watch the bustling traffic on EVR Periyar Salai. Chennai Metro Rail Limited has started paperwork for beautification which is part of the ₹400-crore Central Square project. CMRL has floated tenders for landscaping and setting up pedestrian facilities, which are some of the features planned for the project.

According to the tender invite, the company taking up

PRIME CHANGES

Central Square will link the railway station, Metro, MRTS & suburban lines. Private outstation buses and MTC will also be available

► 20-storey Central Plaza with bus bays for private and government buses

► Two pedestrian subways across Poonamallee High Road

► Landscaping, walkways and fountains in front of Ripon Buildings and Victoria Hall

Cost of project | ₹400 crore



the job will have to complete the work in 17 months. As part of the beautification, CMRL has planned pathways with wooden roofs, lawns, pedestrian seating area, pavements and two new pedestrian subways to link existing landmarks like Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, MGR Chennai Central railway station and Evening Bazaar Road. This will be the first step to get the Central Square rea-

dy. "We are planning Central Square as a major landmark in the city. The idea is to have a multi-modal transport system and facilitate as many pedestrians as possible to use underground facilities to cross the busy road," an official said.

The main part of the Central Square is, the Central Plaza, a 20-storey building with bus bays for private and government buses, passenger amenities, shopping area and

office space. The square and the plaza are expected to link all modes of transport including suburban, MRTS and metro rail services, outstation train services, private and government local and outstation buses. A three-level underground parking that could accommodate more than 800 cars will take vehicles, now parked on road corners blocking traffic, off the road. CMRL floated tenders for the construction of the underground parking lot in the end of 2018. The work to build the plaza will be taken up after the parking lot is ready.

Once the square comes up, passengers alighting from any train or bus could have easy access to other transport facilities for their onward journeys either through walkways or pedestrian subways. Passengers could also park their vehicles in the underground parking facility before they board a train or bus to travel outstation. "The parking lot will also be linked to the Central Metro station," an official said.