

# SC junks plea, metro gets nod for parking lot at park

## CMRL Told To Restore Shenoy Nagar Park Later

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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CMRL carries out construction of a parking area and amenities centre at Thiru Vi Ka park in Shenoy Nagar

**Chennai:** In a reprieve to Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), the Supreme Court has dismissed an appeal moved against the order of the Madras high court that refused to stall construction of a parking area and amenities centre by CMRL at Thiru Vi Ka park in Shenoy Nagar.

However, the apex court has directed the CMRL to bring up the park once the construction is completed and said the court would supervise the same. CMRL has also been directed to file a compliance report to this effect in six months.

A division bench of Justice Arun Mishra and Justice S Ravindra Bhat passed the order while dismissing the appeal moved by residents of Shenoy Nagar against the proposed construction by CMRL.

“We find no ground to interfere with the order passed by the high court,” the bench said.

On September 27, the high court dismissed the plea moved by the residents and permitted the CMRL to go ahead with the construction. It also directed the CMRL to ensure to plant 5,200 trees in the area, as per an undertaking, to make up for the loss of green cover due to the facility.

This apart, CMRL was also directed to ensure noise levels during construction are

within reasonable limits to avoid inconvenience to residents.

In their petition, residents stated that Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar park is one of the oldest green spaces in the city and that it functions as a crucial lung space, providing green cover and catchment area.

They alleged that many trees were cut down when metro rail work began in 2011 for the station which came up in the park. Residents who were hoping the park would be restored after the

**The apex court said it would supervise the compliance of its order by the Chennai Metro Rail Limited. CMRL has also been directed to file a compliance report to this effect in six months**

construction of metro station were shocked to learn that CMRL had proposed to develop a mall.

“At least 138 trees were axed while constructing the metro station and the rest would be cut if the present project is implemented. This would not only damage the ecosystem, but result in concentrated urbanization and commercialization, resulting in deterioration of peace and calm of the residential locality,” the petition stated.

In response, CMRL contended the project is being implemented after getting due permission from authorities and all efforts will be taken to ensure that the tree cover is restored by planting trees on the park’s periphery using Miyawaki method.