

# Central metro station to get parking space in two weeks

## Underground Facility Can Hold 100 Cars And 300 Bikes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** It has been nearly a year since the city's largest underground interchange metro station at Central opened for service, but commuters are still struggling to find space to park their vehicles as the planned parking lot is yet to be opened. But according to CMRL, there will soon be some relief, as an underground parking space is expected to open by mid-January. The lot will be able to hold 100 cars and 300 two-wheelers at a time.

"We are fixing glass panes at the entrance of the parking lot. It will be ready in another 15 days," an official said. Central metro became operational in February 2019 when the last leg of the 45km phase-1 from



**HOLDING UP GOOD:** A hydraulic system that can hold five two-wheelers at 9ft height, with space for five to be parked below was opened at Meenambakkam metro station on a trial basis

Washermentpet to AG-DMS via Central metro was thrown open to public.

Still now, metro rail commuters at Central struggle to find parking space and end up leaving their vehicles either at Central railway station or near the Ripon Buildings. The hassle of finding space is even worse for those arriving at the station for the first time, since

they are not aware that the parking lot is not ready. "It was my first time at the metro and I went around the junction in front of Central station thrice looking for parking space, until a CMRL staff told me the parking lot is not open. It was a struggle as it was peak hour traffic," said S Harish of Vepery.

The parking lot under

construction is on the concourse level of Central metro and is linked to the entrance through a ramp. Once opened, officials said it can be used both by metro rail commuters as well as others. Passengers taking suburban trains at More Market Complex or outstation trains at Central Railway Station too could use the facility, as the parking lot is closer to these transport hubs. Passengers to Park and Park Town stations could also use the facility as it is only a pedestrian subway away.

Several other stations along the two corridors of phase-1 do not have parking space.

On Thursday, a hydraulic system that can hold five two-wheelers at a height of about 9ft, with space for five to be parked at the ground level was opened at Meenambakkam metro station on a trial basis. "We will wait to see its safety and response from commuters for a month before extending it to other stations. We will build a level between street level and concourse for parking in station," an official said.