

# Metro phase I extension stations to have only 2-wheeler parking

## Tollgate Metro station parking lot to be ready in 10 days

STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI

Chennai Metro Rail Ltd.'s all seven stations in the phase I extension project from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar will not have car parking lots, but will have two-wheeler parking spaces.

According to officials of Chennai Metro Rail, the bike parking space in each station will vary. While stations like Sir Theagaraya College can hold 25 vehicles, others like Kaladipet and Tiruvottiyur can hold up to 70 vehicles. The one at the New Washermenpet station can accommodate 35 two-wheelers, while the Wimco Nagar parking lot can accommodate 55 vehicles. "The construction work in some parts of the station is still on and once that is completed, there may be more space to house more vehicles. Tollgate Metro station's parking lot will get ready in about 10 days," an official said.

On the need for parking space, sources said it was essential for two reasons. "We don't have last-mile connectivity like share autos and buses do not stop in front of many stations," they said.



**Limited facility:** New Washermenpet Metro station parking lot can accommodate 35 two-wheelers. ■ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

## Surge in ridership

STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI

The number of passengers who travelled by Metro increased by seven lakh in February as against January, following the opening of a new stretch and the reduction in fares.

The Washermenpet-Wimco Nagar line was commissioned on February 14.

From 13.4 lakh in January, the number of passengers touched 20.5 lakh in February. In the past, usually the number of passengers travelling had

gone up by a lakh or two. According to officials of Chennai Metro Rail Ltd. (CMRL), the patronage for phase I extension line has so far surpassed expectations.

### 'More than predicted'

"On weekdays, we see a little over a lakh and at weekends, nearly 75,000-80,000 passengers. This is definitely more than what we were predicting with COVID-19 and lockdown in place. This will go up to some extent next month," an official said.