

# Food stalls to come up at underground metro stns

## Eateries To Be Set Up In Non-Paid Area Soon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Commuters heading to an underground metro station may soon be able to walk in, have a meal or a snack before they take a ride, as Chennai Metro Rail plans to put up food kiosks and stalls in the metro stations. Officials said commuters and even those passing by can stop to quickly grab a bite before they proceed with their journey.

A metrorail official said these food stalls would come up in the non-paid area in the ticketing or concourse level of the underground stations. "We are making certain modifications to the structure to set up the food stalls. By the end of De-



B A Raju

**EAT, SHOP, BOARD:** Thirumangalam, Shenoy Nagar and Anna Nagar East stations see a lot of footfalls

ember or beginning of January, we will have stalls in some stations," the official said.

The nine-kilometre underground line from Nehru Park to Thirumangalam was thrown open to public on May 14, 2017.

Elevated stations like those at Alandur, Koyambedu and Vadapalani, that have been seeing good foot-

falls, have a few well-known brands set up their outlets. They are either set up in the non-paid area of the ticketing level or close to the entrance of the stations. It makes it easy for both commuters and passerby to stop for a quick snack.

Officials said in the underground section, stations like Thirumangalam, Shenoy Nagar and Anna

Nagar East witness good footfall. After the underground section was opened this May, the average number of commuters taking the metro had gone up from 12,000 to 24,000 a day.

"Commuters cannot stay in the station for long once they buy a ticket and have to move to the paid area beyond the automated fare collection gates. So, we will have the stalls in the non-paid area for anyone to walk in and eat," an official said.

Unlike elevated stations that have space on the surface area and in the concourse level, CMRL officials said every underground station has an average space of about 60 to 100sqm only in the non-paid area of the ticketing level that is left for commercial purpose. "We have assigned a company that is handling the job of bringing in the brands. So far, many big brands have expressed interest, but nothing is finalised," the official said.