

Metro stns to get electric vehicle charging points

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Emerging as the symbol of eco-friendly transport services in the city, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) will soon have electric vehicle charging stations for commuters to recharge their electric bikes and cars.

A metro rail official said they are in talks with Power Grid Corporation of India, the state-owned electric utility company, to set up the charging stations. To start with, they will be installed at stations in Tirunangalam, St Thomas Mount, Koyambedu and Alandur, which witness more footfall than other stations that are operational.

"Power Grid Corporation will install a standard charging port that could be used by all vehicles. They will use our space to set up the stations and



A metro rail official said they are in talks with Power Grid Corporation of India, the state-owned electric utility company, to set up the charging points

also maintain it," an official said. The charging stations will be set up at the parking lot of metro stations. At least 10 electric bikes and five electric cars can be charged simultaneously. Commuters will be charged a nominal fee for using the ports, a metro rail official said.

Recently, L&T Metro Rail in Hyderabad signed a contract with Power Grid Corporation to setup and promote electric vehicle charging stations.

CMRL is also in talks with companies to provide electric bikes on rent for last mile con-

nectivity. To begin with, the bikes will be made available at stations that have high footfall and will be later extended to other stations depending on the demand.

Two-wheeler rental services were introduced at Tirunangalam and Airport stations in February. Commuters could rent any two-wheeler, from a Scooty Pepplus to a Harley Davidson, from the stations for fee of ₹75 per hour and a refundable deposit of ₹2,000. They can return it at any other station or any of the offices of the bike rental company.