

# CMRL to introduce bicycle hiring service at more stns

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Commuters may soon be able to avail bicycles from more metro stations to get to the neighbourhoods, as CMRL is in the process of adding 25 more bicycles to its pool. CMRL has floated a tender in this regard.

A metrorail official said they were taking efforts to encourage more commuters to take up eco-friendly transport for the last mile connectivity, which reduces the usage of private transport and is also economical. "We will expand the scheme as and when the demand improves," the official said.

At present, the facility is available in Ekkattuthangal, Nehru Park, Thirumangalam and Anna Nagar Tower metro stations. Com-



**GOING ECO-FRIENDLY**

muters will have to pay a security deposit and produce an identity proof to use the bicycle for 24 hours.

Picking up a cue from Kochi Metro, CMRL introduced the scheme in Vadapalani and Ekkattuthangal metro stations. It was later extended to three underground stations. Apart from this CMRL also tied up with Athi's Bicycle Club that

offers 100 hours of free bicycle usage a month in Nehru Park, Shenoy Nagar and Vadapalani stations. To hire a bicycle from the club, commuters have to send a message to 9645511155.

In stations such as Koyambedu, where the footfall is higher, CMRL has also made arrangements for share autos to pick up and drop passengers in neighbouring areas. MTC's small buses that ply to interior areas also halt at some stations. At underground stations, the entry/exit points are built close to MTC bus stops.

Though metrorail officials said they had chalked out plans to provide a uniform last mile connectivity across all metro stations, it is yet to be implemented across all operational stations.