

CMRL to digitise maintenance of Anna Salai stations via app

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Chennai: A mobile app will soon ensure all electrical and electronic systems and amenities for commuters in metro stations and tunnels are in operational condition. Chennai Metro Rail plans to centralise maintenance of 10 underground stations including those along Anna Salai via a mobile application and digitise periodic checks and repair work. Tenders inviting companies to develop and implement the smart-phone app have been floated.

Officials said digitising maintenance of stations and tunnels linking them will ensure staff conduct regular inspections and fix faulty systems without interrupting daily operations. Electrical and mechanical maintenance will be recorded in the app. The centralised maintenance is planned for stations from Washermenpet to Sai-

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dapet, except Central Metro, and associated tunnels.

"The app will work like the one used by Indian Railways where a staffer cleans a coach and logs it in by scanning a quick response (QR) code stuck on the wall of the compartment. With our app, staff cannot log in without doing the maintenance work as our GPS-linked app will track them," a CMRL official said. "Maintaining electronic record will help us with asset management. It will work online and offline."

The app will maintain a centralised database on preventive, periodic and breakdown maintenance for critical systems including tunnel

ventilation system, air-conditioning system, lifts and escalators and mechanical, electrical and plumbing system. So, when a maintenance staffer attends to a fault or conducts a periodic check, he will be expected to log on to the app, scan a QR code stuck on the equipment to be serviced. He will then have to follow a checklist for conducting periodic maintenance. "The station manager can alert maintenance staff in case of emergencies through the app," he said.

Once the job is complete, the staffer must update the details of his servicing and the status of the equipment in the app. Pictures of a particular system before and after a fault is fixed could also be shared through the application.

All the information will be stored in a cloud server from where the history of servicing a system can be retrieved.