

Sewage treatment plant sans power installed at CMBT station

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: A sewage treatment plant that operates without electricity and produces minimal sludge without any emission has been installed at CMBT metro station.

The plant, which is expected to save ₹2.8 lakh annually for Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), will be installed at three other stations, including Guindy, Airport and Nanganal Road metro.

CMRL has installed anaerobic sewage treatment system at CMBT metro, where microorganisms break down organic load in the absence of oxygen. The 10KLD capacity plant was commissioned in June at the station, as its existing system is not connected with the main sewage line.

"If we find it successful, we will install it at the three other stations where the sewage system is not connected with main sewage line due to non-feasibility during construction," a metro rail official said.



NOVEL METHOD: Koyambedu metro station in Chennai

The new system works on a four-stage treatment process. As the waste is accumulated in the collection pit, it flows to 20 reactor tanks connected to it. The tanks will be sprinkled with bio-organisms, which break down the waste. From the tanks, the remains flow through a pump where it gets filtered and stored in sumps. At CMBT metro, officials said, there is more liquid waste than solid in the tanks. The filtered water is, at present, being used for watering plants at the station. "The treated water meets pollution control board water

quality norms. We have plans to use ultra-filtration process to use the water in the toilets at the station," the official said.

Compared to other treatment methods, officials said their new system does not require electricity, saves space, produces minimal sludge and is emission-free. Hence, it saves ₹15,000 on purchase of water and ₹8,000 for sewage removal every month. Earlier, the station had collection pits from where the waste was removed at regular intervals. The station also uses around 6,000 litres of water every month.