



The cycles are placed at three metro stations. PHOTOS: RANJITH PRATHAPAN

Pedal power

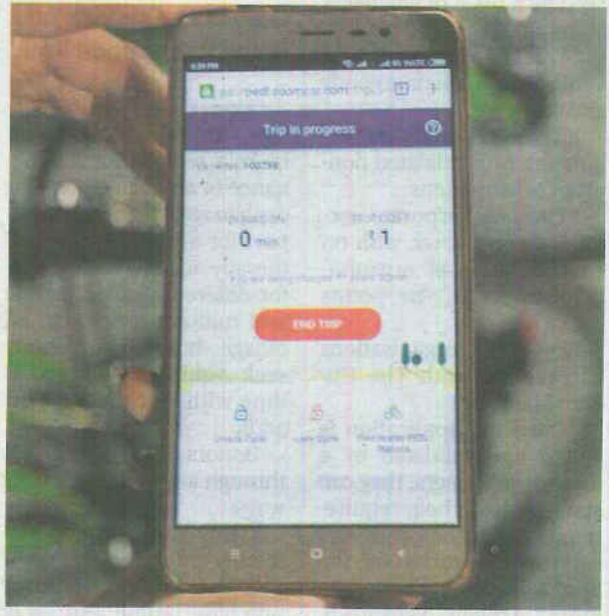
A cycling innovation has captured the imagination of commuters at the Tirumangalam, Anna Nagar Tower and Anna Nagar East Metro stations

ASWATHI PACHA

Why carry around a bunch of keys in your pocket when you can lock cycles with smartphones and pedal away at just ₹1 for half an hour?

Zoomcar has launched PEDL cycles in three metro stations in the city – Tirumangalam, Anna Nagar Tower and Anna Nagar East. With zero security deposit, a commuter can hire a cycle with a few clicks. After logging into www.pedl.in, the rider can unlock a cycle by scanning the QR code on it. There are 20 cycles at each of these three Metro stations.

“In the next six months, we will hopefully cover most of the Metro stations in Chennai,” says Greg Moran, CEO and co-founder of



Zoomcar. While many use the cycle to commute between work and home, some find

other creative purposes for them. For example, Swetha, a resident of Anna Nagar and



a frequent user of this service, says, “We come here in the evening and ride a bicycle for a couple of hours, just as a form of exercise.”

Another user, Dinesh Mozhivanan, who works at a private firm, picks up a cycle from the Anna Nagar Metro station and runs an errand in the neighbourhood. “It is a much cheaper op-

tion than booking a cab or auto rickshaw and is environment-friendly. Besides, there is a PEDL point at Anna Nagar 6th Avenue. So, it is easier for me to return it too,” he says.

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