

# NFC to replace Metro tokens, cards

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**CHENNAI:** Soon, commuters would be able to walk through the entry gates of Metro rail after flashing their phones or chip embedded accessories like watch, ring or pendants using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology, doing away with the need to swipe the travel card or deposit the tokens in the slot as it is being done now. They would also have options to use QR code based facility on their smartphones to purchase tickets.

Sources from Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) said that they have issued tenders to set up state-of-the-art ticketing systems like NFC-based open-loop payment system and QR code-based system that uses mobile phones.

“The QR code-based system facilitates the customers to purchase metro rail tickets without being physically present at the Metro station. The commuter can buy a QR ticket using a mobile application by selecting the boarding station, destination station and the number of passengers. The code will be generated once the payment is done,” said a CMRL official. It would facilitate payments through various options including mobile wallets, payment gateways, debit cards and other such latest modes. The



Representative Image

code generated by this app can then be tapped at the QR-enabled Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) entry gates in the Metro stations. The Near-Field Communication (NFC) enables short range communication between two electronic devices. It works like other wireless signals based on the principle of sending information over radio waves. The technology used in NFC is based on older RFID (Radio-frequency identification) ideas, which used electromagnetic induction in order to transmit information.

In this, chips can be embedded on mobile phones, smart watches, or even rings and pendants, which would be read by the terminal at the Metro rail entry gate, where the access is now controlled using tokens and travel cards.