

CCTV cameras soon at Metro parking lots

Will help curb incidents of assault



Keeping tabs: Cameras will be installed at all 32 stations in the 45-km network. ■ FILE PHOTO

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All stations of Chennai Metro will soon have CCTV surveillance to improve security and to keep an eye on passengers and parking staff. One of the reasons for the decision to install cameras is complaints of passengers assaulting parking staff.

According to Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) officials, in the last few months, there have been three to four cases where a few passengers hit the parking staff, demanding a particular spot. The problems arose because the Chennai Metro reserves specific spot for passengers who have taken a monthly pass. Hence, those who park on an hourly basis are allotted space only on a first-come-first-served basis.

“They get agitated because the parking space gets full or they refuse to wait till they get the monthly pass or token checked. Two weeks

back, a passenger hit a staff at the Alandur station, because he wanted a specific spot to park his car, while that was reserved for a vehicle with a monthly pass. The passenger came for a compromise later and paid the hospital expenses for the staff,” an official said.

In another case, a passenger slapped a parking unit staff member, as the former refused to wait in the line to get the pass checked. But passengers who have taken monthly pass claim that the staff make them wait longer to check every vehicle.

Chennai Metro plans to install about 2-6 cameras in all 32 stations in the 45-km network of phase I, depending on the size of the parking lot and how it is built. “Some stations will need only two, but some parking lots are built in an L-shape, which will need about 3-4. We will also know if our staff misbehave with passengers,” he added.