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After snatching case, CMRL to install more cams in stns

Two days after a US-based woman was snatched of her gold chain inside Central Metro station, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) officials have begun strengthening the security system at the stations, installing more cameras to keep an eye on visitors.

Central Metro, the largest underground transit hub at 320,000 sqm and at 30m depth, so far has nearly 80 CCTV cameras. Efforts are on to install more cameras in blind spots not covered by the existing ones.

"We are increasing the number to 100 cameras at each station, more than double the number of cameras in other metro cities," said a CMRL official. "The setting work is being completed presently."

Officials have also begun efforts to increase the number of cameras in other newly opened stations between Vandalur and Ameerpet and between IPN and Pallikaranai. The stations are designed to have nearly 80 cameras in various locations. A total of 300 cameras will be installed in these stations, officials said.

In addition, all stations are to have armed personnel at the entrances. But commuters complained that several stations, such as CIT and Thousand Lights, do not have security personnel at entry points and added that there were quite a few stations which do not have cameras or are covered by cameras poorly.

Boosting security: A man robbed a woman of her gold chain at Central Metro station's ticket counter on Monday morning. A man robbed a 45-year-old woman of her 3.5 sovereign gold chain. The victim and her husband arrived by the Saptarathi Express and reached the metro station to board a train to Vadapalani. When her husband was at the ticket counter, a man, who had followed her into the station, snatched the chain and escaped.

The Tambaram Police, who registered a complaint lodged by the couple, said the CCTV camera in the area did not capture a proper image of the snatcher.