

Soon, use Chennai Metro smart card to shop

Washermanpet-Wimco Nagar stretch to open next year

STAFF REPORTER

CHENNAI

Soon, Chennai Metro's smart card will work in retail outlets too, Minister for Industries M.C. Sampath said here on Thursday.

Speaking at the launch of a facility to use the smart card at Chennai Metro's parking lots, he said, "I have asked the authorities to explore options of using the smart cards at shopping malls and hotels; if someone is coming down to the city for an interview, he should be able to stay in a hotel, use the Chennai Metro and travel to his destination. The idea is to ease commuting to the maximum possible extent," he said.

Fast expansion

Chennai Metro's phase I extension project from Washermanpet to Wimco Nagar will be inaugurated in June 2020. "By October we plan to start floating tenders for the phase II project so that this system expands soon. At



Easy commute: Smart cards can soon be used to pay for parking at all Chennai Metro stations.

first, 52 km of phase II project will be constructed," he added.

Pankaj Kumar Bansal, managing director of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), said that using the smart card for making payments at parking lots will save time for commuters in a big way. "In 10-15 days, this will be implemented in all stations," he added.

On the occasion, a 1.2 megawatt solar power plant was also inaugurated.

Chennai Metro services between AG-DMS and Washermanpet stations were disrupted on Thursday morning as an overhead cable snapped, sources said.

According to CMRL officials, the incident occurred around 5 a.m. due to power supply issues and was rectified around 9.30 a.m.

Owing to the snag, trains were delayed and instead of a frequency of seven minutes, trains were operated every 14 minutes.