

CMRL approaches police over posters at stns, pillars

Lodges Complaints Against Ad Agency, Gym, Event Advertiser

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Courtesy: @amrithgiridhar



NOT SPARED: Posters stuck on the walls of Saidapet metro station

Chennai: From welcoming political leaders and movies hitting screens to inviting guests to coming-of-age parties and sweet sixteen soirees and those in memory of the departed, posters of all hues and sizes clutter the city's empty spaces and have been nothing short of an eyesore. The metro stations are no exception to this. Walls of stations such as Saidapet and pillars of elevated corridors have been an easy target.

After many months of removing the posters defacing the station walls and issuing several warnings, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) officials have now filed police complaints at Meenambakkam and Cholaimedu police stations.

CMRL officials said they have filed complaints against an advertisement agency from

Pallavaram, a gymnasium, a printing press in Saidapet and a music event advertiser. "We will continue to take action against those who put up posters on our property," an official said.

In the past few months, CMRL issued several warnings through its website and social media accounts that unauthorised affixing of posters and bills

on piers, barricades and other structures belonging to metro rail could invite legal action under section 62 (2) of Metro Railway Act 2002. The offence could attract imprisonment of up to six months or a fine of ₹1,000 or both.

Wall posters started cropping up on the pillars of the elevated corridors, particularly near Ashok Nagar and Ekkat-

tuthangal stations, within weeks after construction was completed and even before the stations were opened. Soon, metro rail formed a team to remove these posters and dissuade people from putting them up. However, CMRL could not curb the menace.

"The team would go for an inspection at 3am everyday and once in the evening. We have chased away men sticking posters and warned people of legal action. But nothing has worked," an official said.

Commuters too have taken to social media to post images of the defaced walls at metro stations, demanding action from the authorities concerned. "While the government has woken up only after a fatal accident because of banners, when will they act against this poster culture," said S Vikram, a commuter from Saidapet.