

Soon, watch movies, songs on metros

CMRL Set To Begin Service In December

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: A trip by a metro rail train is about to get a lot more fun and interesting than just a view of the city. Come December, commuters can hop onto a metro train and watch their favourite movie, song or TV show on the go for free at the click of a button.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) will launch on-board entertainment system in December wherein commuters can log on to a smartphone app and choose from a wide range of content availa-

HOW IT WORKS?

➤ Walk into a metro station and **switch on mobile WiFi**

➤ Connect to **metro's WiFi network**

➤ Download separate app (**yet to be released**)

➤ Select movies, songs or TV serials **you may want to watch on the go**



➤ Content can be downloaded **to watch offline**

➤ Content to be

made available in **English, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada**



ble in five languages free of cost. Installation and testing of the routers procured from France and servers are underway, officials said.

"The WiFi speed will be such that passengers can

download a movie in about five seconds. The systems will be similar to in-flight entertainment but here you can download content," an official said.

"We will perhaps be the

first metro service in the country to have such a facility." However, the WiFi network can't be used for browsing internet or making calls.

The new system will have servers with entertainment content installed in all stations, trains and the depot.

To view the content, commuters have to download and install an app developed specifically for the purpose. Once they enter a metro train, they can connect to the station WiFi and start viewing the content. They can also download the content and view it offline within a specific period. Officials said entertainment content will be available in English, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Telugu.

Only a few mobile networks have now extended their connectivity in under-

ground stations while many commuters travel without any mobile service in underground stations even after more than two years since the first underground line opened between Nehru Park and Thirumangalam.

"A trip between Washermenpet to Airport could take an hour and if there is no phone reception, commuters could get bored. Our new system would help keep them entertained," an official said.

Officials said new content will be available everyday, as the servers in the trains will be synced to those in the depots, which will be updated regularly. "If the train is not brought to the depot, the content will get updated when the trains stop in stations, where we will have servers," an official said.