

Metro trains to get new display screens

Old Panels Won't Show Info On Phase-I Extension

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Chennai: Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) will soon replace the existing route map display panels with sleek LED screens on trains. The screens will include all the route and the stations of the upcoming Phase I extension as the display panels in existing fleet of 42 trains are designed only to show Phase-I route and stations. The 9km Phase-I extension line from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar is expected to be ready by June 2020.

"The screens will be installed in all trains in six months for opening of the north Chennai line. We are yet to decide where to install the screens inside the trains," a metro rail official said. The 10 new trains being procured for the extension line too will have the LED display screens.

WHAT'S NEW

- Each of 4 train cars will get at least two LED screens
- One will display route map and approaching station
- The other screen will display info on facilities at a station,

feeder services, intermodal facilities and landmarks near a station

- 10 new trains being procured for Phase I extension will also get the screens



The CMRL official said there may be a minimum of two screens in every car. While one will display the route map and inform commuters when the train approaches a station, the other will have information on the amenities available at the station, feeder services, other intermodal facilities and landmarks near the station.

"The display panels are linked to the signalling system and it works automatically. We will switch off these panels and link the signalling system to the LED screens," a another official said. The dynamic route map display panels are present above the doors inside train cars where lights fixed next to name of every station in the route blinks as a train approaches a station. This helps commuters know where the train is

headed. All four-car trains have eight such panels but only four of them work while the rest are meant to show only the route map.

The panels in the current fleet are, however, designed to show only Phase-I routes and stations from Washermenpet to Airport and Central metro to St Thomas Mount. Since the upcoming line from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar is only an extension of the Phase-I corridors, the same trains will also be operated from Wimco Nagar all the way to Airport. But the trains are not designed to show commuters the nine stations in the extension line. Commuters also cannot get any information on feeder service or nearby landmarks until they alight at a station and reach the concourse level.