

# Soon, buy metro ticket on your phone

## CMRL App Will Provide Two Ticketing Options

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** No cash, no token and, importantly, no queue. Soon, you can purchase a metro ticket, check balance, recharge your smartcard through your phone and walk into a metro rail station to board a train.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (Cmrl) will be launching new ticketing options in the existing mobile app that will let commuters avoid waiting in queues at ticket counters.

They can link smartcards with near-field communication (NFC) connectivity in smartphones which will let them check balance and recharge smartcards. The other option is a QR-



File photo

**SMART TRAVEL:** A metro smart card recharge kiosk in the city

code based e-ticket which they can purchase through the Cmrl app and simply tap the phone at the automatic fare collection (AFC) point before en-

tering the platform.

“We will launch the NFC option in the mobile app in two or three weeks. The QR-code based ticketing is likely to be available in six months,” said a Cmrl official.

In January, the Cmrl mobile app will receive an upgrade which will let commuters tap the smartcard on smartphones and check balance through NFC connectivity that most smartphones have. Commuters can also check their travel history and past transactions, which till now they could do only in kiosks at stations standing in queues.

While recharging of smartcards through the app is available, commuters have to stop at kiosks to tap the card to update it with the recharged amount.

But the planned QR-code e-ticketing system will completely do away with both smartcards and queues at ticket counters and kiosks in the stations. Commuters can purchase tick-

ets through debit or credit card using the app. On receiving a QR-code ticket in the app, they can tap the phone at the AFC gate and enter the platform level.

Cmrl officials said passengers will also be given the option of collecting paper tickets with QR code, like air tickets, that can be swiped at the AFC gate.

The tender for launching QR-code ticket system in the existing mobile app has been awarded. Readers that can scan these codes will be installed in more than 400 AFC gates at the 32 metro stations.

While it will help commuters avoid queues for buying tickets, it will also make it easy for Cmrl staff to handle cash and accounts at ticket counters.

At present, 10 stations in Mumbai metro and the Airport line in Delhi metro offer this service. Recently, Hyderabad metro launched a QR-code ticketing system.