

Metro trains to get digital info screens

LED Displays to Show Stn, Route Info

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: In a few months, sleek LED screens will replace the existing tiny route map display panels and manual announcements by operators on metro trains as Chennai Metro Rail Limited is procuring digital screens which will display route information accompanied by an audio to inform passengers on the approaching station. The screens will also generate non-ticketing revenue for CMRL as there will be provision to display advertisements.

CMRL has floated tenders for design, supply, installation and commissioning of the digital display screens for its entire fleet of 52 trains which includes the 10 new trains procured for

FOR BETTER DISPLAY

- Each of four train cars will get two LED screens
- One will display route map and approaching station
- The other screen will show info on facilities at a station
- An audio will also accompany the texts displayed on screens announcing the station and the facilities
- The LED display will also be used for screening advertisements to generate non-ticketing revenue for CMRL
- All 52 trains, including 42 procured for the 45km phase-1 corridors and 10 new trains for 9km phase-1 extension, will have the screens



the phase-1 extension line in north Chennai.

A metro rail official said the screens, which will be linked to the signalling system, will be put up in all trains for operations when the 9km north Chennai line opens by mid-2020. "Each of the four cars in a train will have these screens," an official said.

According to the tender invite, the screens will have automatic visual and audio broadcasting of route-related information in CMRL two-corridor phase-1 and phase-1 extension lines as

well as inter-corridor operations between corridor 1 and corridor 2.

CMRL decided to opt for display systems as the existing fleet of 42 trains are designed only for the 45km phase-1 route and stations and does not include the stations in phase-1 extension line. The 9km line linking north Chennai from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar with the rest of the city is expected to be ready mid-2020.

The CMRL official said there may be a minimum of two screens in every train

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, feeders services, intermodal facilities and landmarks around a station.

The present operational fleet has dynamic route map display panels fixed 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.

"Since display panels are linked to the signalling system and works automatically, we will switch off these panels and link the signalling subsystem to the LED screens," the official said.

The display panels in the current fleet are also designed to show only phase-1 routes and station 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-1 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 feeders services or nearby landmarks until they alight at a station and reach the concourse level.