

Metro stations to get e-autos soon

Commuters Have Greener Alternative For Last-Mile Link

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A CMRL official said an app-based e-auto service was planned on the lines of those recently launched. The e-auto has many safety features for passengers and is mostly driven by women

recently launched. The e-auto has many safety features for passengers and is mostly driven by women. "Our proposal to introduce the service is still under progress and discussion is underway," an official said.

Last week, the chief minister flagged off 13 types of solar and electric autos to be operated by women. The autos are equipped with GPS, CCTV cameras, panic button and tabs and can be used for

various purposes.

Apart from regular shareautos and cabs which operate up to a specific distance from stations, CMRL operates app-based e-bikes in collaboration with two different startups across eight stations. The service involves pick-up and drop-off hubs in and outside stations enabling commuters to book bikes through an app.

E-auto services, introduced at Alandur station in

January 2019, were to be extended to other stations based on commuter response, but were soon discontinued.

While metro train services were introduced to reduce the number of cars and bikes on the road and cut emissions, every metro train has the capacity to generate its own energy that on an average can save about 30% of energy drawn from the grid. The trains run on a regenerative braking system where a three-phase traction motor installed on trains acts as a generator to produce electricity whenever the brake is applied. The power generated goes into the overhead electricity lines (OHE) lines.

A four-car metro train, which runs approximately for about 400km a day, generates around 1900kWh

through the traction system. This electricity is mostly consumed by the rolling stocks (trains) on the same electrical section and the remaining is fed back to CMRL's 33kv network. Generating its own power reduces dependency on Tangedco, which in turn can save its power generation and eventually carbon emissions.

In addition, CMRL has solar panels of more than 5.5MW capacity installed at the stations to power lights. It also has plans to commission a 8MW solar power plant to generate more than 1.16 crore units of electricity for train and station operations and save up to ₹2.54 crore every year towards the purchase of electricity and also help cut down carbon emissions of up to 11,587 tonnes a year.