

Metro trains set to get new route maps with 9 north Chennai stns

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Metro trains will soon have new route maps, which will include the new nine stations in the upcoming 9km north Chennai line from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar, which is likely to be opened for service by January 2021.

At present, 42 metro trains have only route maps to direct passengers across the 32 stations in the 45km phase-1. CMRL recently floated tenders to procure static route maps, which will have both existing and the upcoming stations, that could be pasted in the interior of its fleet of 52 trains including 10 new trains. There also plans to install dynamic route maps which will have the new lines included, where lights will flicker next to each station the train stops.

The automatic announcements inside trains will also be updated with the new route. "We have floated a tender for design, supply and pasting of procurement static route



maps board stickers. The plan is to get these stickers installed before opening the phase-1 extension line," an official said. "We will put out another tender to procure the dynamic route maps for the trains. We will also update the automatic announcements made in the trains to include the new stations," the official said.

Phase-1 extension line covers 9km from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar. It has nine stations including three underground stations. Trial run with a locomotive and metro trains is likely to be conducted on the route by October end.

At present, every four-car

train has six route maps installed above the automatic doors, of which three are dynamic and the rest, static. Dynamic route maps have red lights next to the name of the stations, which will flicker as the train approaches a station while static maps do not have them.

These maps, right now, cover the 45km phase-1 routes from Washermenpet to Airport and from Central to St Thomas Mount. They are also installed only in the 42 trains procured for phase-1.

CMRL has also procured 10 new trains for the extension line, which do not have these route maps installed yet.