

Metro passengers to soon get WiFi access at stations

TO



DIGITISED: Work will soon begin to install optical fibre cables across the entire 45km stretch of phase-1

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The 24km underground section of metro rail in the heart of the city has been mostly a dead zone for mobile phones. By April 2021, commuters can browse the internet and make online calls for free, as Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) will provide WiFi connectivity across all its 32 stations.

If the signals are strong on the elevated lines and underground tunnels, commuters would be able to use the internet even while they are travelling in the train.

Metro rail officials said work will soon begin to install optical fibre cables across the entire 45km stretch of phase-1 corridors. It will be a facility similar to those provided at the airport, where passengers can browse the internet as they wait to board a flight or at Central railway station, where passengers can use WiFi for a limited period of time.

"It may take at least three to six months for in-

stallation of cables and access points, as this work will happen only for a few hours in the night after the daily train operations close," an official said, adding that they are still deciding if the internet access for passengers will be unlimited or for a limited duration.

Last year, CMRL floated a tender to install and commission WiFi services across the phase-1 corridors with plans to provide commuters with unlimited, uninterrupted and free access to the internet in both stations and trains. The idea was to provide the service only in the paid area in the station which is after passengers swipe their smartcards on the ticketing or concourse level.