

New smart card for all Metro networks soon

The Centre will launch a smart card that can be used across all Metro networks for limited number of trips. The card will help those who are visiting a city or the country for limited period. Foreign visitors can show their passports and obtain the cards, while Indians can furnish Aadhaar card or any other proof. The cards will need to be charged since states have different fare rules. At present, the smart cards issued by Metro can be used in their own network. The government hopes the smart cards will bring down the cost of the system. **P17**

Soon, single card to let you ride any Metro in the country

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New Delhi: The government will soon unveil a new smart card that can be used across all Metro rail networks for limited number of trips. What the passenger would require is to charge them at the counter when they go to avail the services in different Metro networks.

This will be in addition to the "One Nation One Card" the government recently launched which can be used for any mode of transport and even for retail purchases. One needs to comply with the strict KYC norms to obtain this card as these are issued by different banks and are no different from the usual credit or debit cards.

"Many people including those who are visiting a city or the country for limited period won't go for the One Nation One Card complying with KYC norms. So, for them this new card would be the best option. These can be obtained by showing proof of passport for foreign visitors and Aadhaar card or any other proof," said an official. The card is likely to be launched in the next six months.

The urban affairs ministry has given the task of coming up with specifications for these new cards, which will be on the lines of the One Nation One Card to CDAC, a specialised organisation under the electronics department. "The card has to be uploaded at different Metro networks since each of them have separate fare rules," said an official.

Currently, the smart cards issued by Metro firms can only be used in their own network and there are several issues with the present system of tokens that are issued from counter or dispensed from automatic ticket vending machines. These cards and tokens have specifications that were made by some foreign players.

Sources said the government is also working to offer other options to passengers including the option to generate QR code or giving a paper slip with QR code for single journey.