

# Hop off Metro stations, hop on to Harley Davidson

Chennai Metro Rail has tied up with automobile companies to offer two-wheelers for hire to commuters in need of last-mile connectivity

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CHENNAI

Now, a commuter getting off at some Chennai Metro Rail station can take a joyride in a Harley Davidson – for a price, of course.

From Scooty Pep to Harley Davidson, commuters will have a host of brands to choose from at the Thirumangalam and Airport Metro Rail stations.

Bikes are on offer in a bid to improve last-mile connectivity for commuters getting off at stations.

For a start, SFA Bikes has put up eight bikes at the Thirumangalam station and 10 at the Airport station; as a next step, they will soon offer the service at Central and Alandur and eventually expand further in the coming months. If a commuter wants a high-end bike such as Harley Davidson or Royal Enfield, it will be brought to the station within half an hour.

## Refundable deposit

“Commuters will have to pay a refundable deposit of ₹2,000 and the respective rent for each bike and, after that, they can drive for two hours (upto 25 km) or for a day (upto 100 km). For every additional km, they will be charged ₹5,” an official of

## Last-mile connectivity

Commuters will have a host of brands to choose from at the Thirumangalam and Airport Metro Rail stations

Bike	Rent for two hours	Rent for a day
TVS Scooty Pep Plus 90cc	115	450
TVS Scooty Streak 90cc	115	450
Bajaj Discover 100cc	125	500
Hero Honda Splendor NXG 100cc	125	500
Honda Activa 110cc	125	500
Yamaha Ray 110cc	125	500
Bajaj Pulsar 150cc	200	800
Honda Unicorn 160	200	800
Bajaj Avenger 220cc	225	900
Royal Enfield Thunderbird 350cc	350	1,400
Royal Enfield Classic 350cc	350	1,400
Royal Enfield Electra 350cc	350	1,400
Harley Davidson Street 750cc	NA	5,500

the company said.

## Daily rates

While the daily rent for bikes such as TVS Scooty Pep Plus and TVS Scooty Streak will cost ₹450, for the high-end ones such as Harley Davidson, it will go up to ₹5,500.

Syed Firdous Alam, founder of SFA Bikes, said, “If a

**☞ If a commuter has a number of errands, he can just rent out a bike**

SYED FIRDOUS ALAM  
SFA Bikes

commuter takes a Metro train to the airport and has a number of errands to do in and around the area for a few hours or meet some-



Two-wheelers at the Thirumangalam Metro Rail Station. • K. PICHUMANI

## Attractive deal:

- Commuters to pay refundable deposit of ₹2,000
- They have to drop it off at Thirumangalam, Chennai Airport Metro Rail stations or in SFA Bikes office at Kodambakkam, Karapakkam and Chengelpet

one, he can just rent it out. This will greatly help regular users of public transport with last mile connectivity.”

People who pick up bikes from the Thirumangalam and Airport stations can drop them off only at these two stations or at the branches of SFA Bikes office in Karapakkam, Chengelpet or Kodambakkam.

## Cycles at all stations soon

STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI

As the cycle-on-hire facility has become a hit with commuters, Chennai Metro Rail has decided to make cycles available in all 20 stations in the three corridors.

Officials of the Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) said they have ordered for 50 more cycles as they had received a great response from commuters. “We have not been able to offer cycles to new users because all registered and regular users already take away the available ones. Hence, we have ordered for more cycles, and stations which have great demand like Nehru Park, Vadapalani and Thirumangalam will have more cycles,” an official said.

Also, stations that so far did not have cycles, such as Meenambakkam, CMBT, Chennai Airport, Guindy, Nanganallur Road and Arumbakkam, will also get them.

Commuters have to pay a refundable deposit of ₹3,000 to use these cycles.

This apart, commuters have the option of using Athi's Bicycle or the Zoom's PEDL cycles. While Athi's Bicycle allows commuters to have 100 hours of free usage, PEDL charges ₹1 for half hour.

Commuters said this would be helpful as they can park the cycles at any of the 20 stations.

S. Ranganathan, a resident of Shenoy Nagar, who has used the cycles on a few occasions said, “Though I'm glad they are expanding to more stations, they should promote it better. We can barely see where these cycles are. I just happened to spot it and was happy to use it. But they should have boards – in platforms, concourse levels and entry/exit – that say this facility is available, so that passengers know when they get off the trains.”



Heavy demand

CMRL Bicycles: 50 more to be added; cycles to be available in all 20 stations

At present: No. of cycles: 45  
No. of stations: 12

Commuters need to pay a refundable deposit of ₹3,000

### Athi's Bicycle Club

No. of cycles: 25  
No. of racks: 3  
No. of registered members: 122  
No. of bicycle user logs: 313  
No. of stations: 6  
No deposit needed  
100 hours of free usage for commuters

### Zoom PEDL

No. of cycles: 50  
No. of stations: 3  
Fare of ₹1 for every half hour