

Metro feeder services' fare slashed by half

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Commuters can now travel in a share auto or a share taxi from a metro station at the price of an MTC bus ticket as Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has slashed the fare by almost half to encourage more passengers to use the feeder services.

A share auto will be available for a flat tariff of ₹5 and a share taxi for ₹10 up to a 3km radius from a metro station. The previous rate was ₹15 and ₹10 for a share taxi and a share auto respectively.

The reduced tariff will be introduced from Nov 12 on a trial basis for a three-month period till Jan 31, 2019. Since the launch of the services in 13 stations in Aug 2018, more than 75,000 commuters have utilised the feeder services.

"We have been receiving good feedback from commuters. We will soon extend the services to other metro stations," said a metro rail official.

In October alone, as many as 28,032 commuters used the feeder services including 21,590 people, who travelled in share autos. Guindy metro top-

ped the list of stations with more than 5600 passengers using share autos in October. The station is one among a few that links suburban train services, MTC buses and other share autos that ply to the southern suburbs. It was followed by Thirumangalam with 4076 passengers and Little Mount with 3370 people.

As many as 1757 commuters availed share taxis from Alandur metro station, which is the elevated transit hub linking the two corridors of phase-1. AG-DMS and Koyambedu, which records footfalls from the nearby wholesale market and educational institutions, were other stations where more passengers availed the services. The two stations saw 1617 and 1583 commuters travelling in the four-wheeler feeder service last month.

In Aug 2018, CMRL launched the feeder services in 13 stations. Share autos operate from eight stations- Guindy, Thirumangalam, Alandur, Little Mount, Ekattuthangal, Koyambedu, St Thomas Mount and Ashok Nagar. Share taxis are available at AG-DMS, Anna Nagar East, Koyambedu, Alandur and Vadapalani.