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Metro joy ride for govt school kids

CHENNAI: In a bid to popularise metro rail service, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has embarked on a new education trip programme for government school students.

So far, students of six schools, including those from a Corporation Girls Higher Secondary School in Shenoy Nagar, numbering around 1,500, have taken the education trips since July 13, when the programme was launched.

The education trip includes a ride from Nehru Park to Airport, during which students would be briefed about the several facilities provided in Chennai Metro, including the safety features available at the Metro stations and trains.

When asked, a spokesperson of CMRL said that education trips were being organised on



Government school children seen enjoying the Metro Rail ride. Officials explained the mechanism of how the Metro works to the students

alternate days. "The idea is to popularise the Metro. We are taking government school students, so that they would explain the benefits and comforts of the Metro Rail ride to their parents. It would help boost

our patronage," the spokesperson explained. Numbering between 200 and 500, CMRL has been organising trips in batches for government school students. Though CMRL has not set any age limit and left

it to schools to decide the participants of the education trip. CMRL officials opined that they prefer secondary and higher secondary students, who are old enough to become brand ambassadors of Metro.

CMRL had earlier slashed the base price of its contactless smart cards by 80 per cent to Rs 10, to popularise cashless ticketing system, the only ticketing mode available in the 8 km underground stretch from

Nehru Park to Koyambedu. Buoyed by the overwhelming success received after the price reduction, CMRL had floated tenders for Rs 10.80 crore to procure more contactless smart cards.