

Book shared cab at metro stn for ₹15 by year-end

C Suresh Kumar



Metro rail said its shared taxi services running on trial basis have been successful

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: By the end of this year, commuters heading out of any metro station may be able to pool a cab for less than Rs 15 to reach their destination in a few taps. Chennai Metro Rail Ltd is soon launching share taxi services across all stations where commuters can book cabs through an exclusive mobile application and pay for it through their metro rail smartcards.

"We will operate 120 cabs in all our 32 stations across the two corridors. This will provide our commuters with a uniform last-mile connectivity," a metro rail official said.

The cab-booking application, which will be integrated with the metro rail application, will work like existing cab aggregator apps. Commuters have to open the metro rail mobile app, search and book the nearest vehicle available. When getting dropped at their destination, they can swipe their smartcard, used for metro train commute, to pay for the travel.

A few weeks back, metro rail floated tenders looking for a company that can ope-

rate this service. "We are in the pre-bid stage. By the end of December we will go live," the official said.

Metro rail will provide bigger cars, which can accommodate six passengers, that will replace the shared auto services that has been planned. In August, metro rail launched share taxi and share auto services in 13 stations on a six-month trial basis.

Officials said the service received good response from commuters as nearly 47,000 passengers travelled in the cabs and autos in the first month. Koyambedu and Alandur stations, which attract the highest footfalls, saw nearly 7,900 passengers using the feeder services.

The existing service operates on a 3km radius for a flat price of Rs 10 for share auto and Rs 15 for taxi. Officials said commuters will have to shell out half that price for the new service when launched and can travel up to 5km.

"We will have a set route from and to every station which our vehicles will follow. Commuters can come closer to the route and book the nearest vehicle," the official said.