

Monthly parking rates double at select Metro stations

High demand for space cited as reason for hike

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In what may be a great disappointment to commuters, the Chennai Metro recently doubled the monthly parking pass fee in select stations, citing increased demand.

In seven stations, including Thirumangalam, Anna Nagar East, Ashok Nagar, Guindy, Mannadi, Nanganal Road and Meenambakkam, the fares for motorcycles have gone up from ₹250 to ₹500 and for cars, from ₹500 to ₹1,000. But in the airport alone, where the fee was already high with ₹500 for motorcycles and ₹2,000 for four wheelers, the increase has become even more steep, as commuters who want to park their motorcycles will now have to pay ₹1,000 and those wishing to park cars ₹3,500. In most other stations, the monthly parking rates for motorcycles and cars are ₹250 and ₹500 respectively.

According to CMRL officials, this had to be done as there was high demand for parking vehicles at these select stations.

“Parking lots in these stations get full very quickly in the morning, and if some



Cashing in: Chennai Metro earns close to ₹1.9 lakh a day from parking charges. ■ FILE PHOTO

passengers come late and do not find space, they get agitated. It is only natural, but we are also unable to provide for everyone in the limited space we have. So we realised that once the fee goes up, it could ease congestion and the demand for monthly passes would come down; and people would start buying regular daily parking tickets, which is very cheap,” an official said.

Daily tickets

There are different kinds of daily parking tickets, ranging from ₹10 to ₹40, depending on the kind of vehicle – two or four wheelers – and

the number of hours the vehicle is parked at a station.

Officials said the demand was particularly high at the Airport Metro station, because commuters in the neighbouring localities like Chromepet, Tambaram and Pallavaram came to the station, parked their vehicles and took the system to get to Anna Salai.

But the reason why commuters take the monthly pass is because they can still find space to park their vehicles irrespective of when they come in. The Chennai Metro gets a huge amount of revenue – about ₹1.9 lakh a day – from parking.