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 selected stations, citing increased demand.

In seven stations, including Thiruvanmiyur, Anna Nagar East, Ashok Nagar, Guindy, Mambalam, Nungambakkam, and Meenambakkam, the fees 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 at ₹500 for motorcycles and ₹2,000 for four-wheelers, the increase has been even more steep, as commuters who want to park their motorcycles will now have to pay ₹1,000 and those willing 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 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.

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.