

Metro to offer 50% discount on holidays

Decision aimed at boosting ridership, pulling in first-timers

SUNITHA SEKAR
CHENNAI

The Chennai Metro plans to offer a 50% discount to commuters on all Sundays and public holidays, beginning this Deepavali, in a bid to boost ridership.

Highly placed sources told *The Hindu* that when a commuter used a smart card, the minimum fare he would have to pay would be as low as ₹4, and the maximum would be ₹27. With tokens, the minimum and maximum fares would be ₹5 and ₹30, respectively

The Hindu first reported on September 30 that the Chennai Metro was planning to reduce fares to attract more people to use the system.

The decision came after a high-level meeting held recently, and a subsequent approval from a committee, sources added.

The reason for the decision is that on weekdays, the number of people travelling on the Metro ranges from 1.15 to 1.18 lakh. But on Sun-



On Sundays, there is a considerable dip in ridership of the Metro compared to weekdays. ■ FILE PHOTO

days, there is a considerable dip in ridership, and only about 50,000-60,000 people take the network.

‘To be reviewed’

“The idea is to pull more people into using our system and give them an opportunity to travel and see how convenient it is. Many new commuters may try the system on a Sunday, and consider taking it permanently. The discount will be valid for one year, after which it will be reviewed, depending on the need,” a source said.

This will be of particularly

great advantage to those heading to other cities on Sundays and using transport hubs like the Chennai airport, CMBT, Chennai Central railway station or Chennai Egmore railway station, sources said.

For instance, if someone is travelling from Teynampet to Chennai airport, it may cost him only ₹20 (using token), as against the ₹40 that he may pay regularly; if the same commuter were to take a cab for this distance of about 11 km, he may have to shell out anywhere between ₹250-300.