

# 256 share cabs for metro users from 2020

## 8 Cars For Each Station; Can Be Booked Online

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** In another few months, finding a cab from a metro station in the city will be a tap away.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) will launch 256 share cabs across all 32 stations before mid-2020. These cabs can be booked through an app that works similar to any other cab services in the city. The app-based service, which will provide a uniform last-mile connectivity, will replace share auto and share taxis operated from 13 stations.



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A metro rail official said the service will be launched in collaboration with Mega Cabs, which has been operating the 32 share cabs in eight stations since August. The plan is to have eight cabs in each of the 32 stations and

increase the fleet as the demand goes up.

"We will have a uniform feeder service at all stations in another six months. We will phase out the share taxi and share auto service we are operating now," an of-

ficial said.

At present, Mega Cab is linked to a smartphone app developed by Ford Mobility. Users can book a cab by choosing one of the five pick-up points for every station. The app assists the commuter with the distance and the arrival time of the nearest cab. By booking a cab, commuters can also reserve a seat of their choice and either pay before taking the trip or swipe the metro smartcard once the trip ends. The service operates on a set route of six to eight kilometres from every station with a flat rate of ₹10.

Besides the app-based service, metro rail commuters also have other shared-vehicle options for last-mile connectivity including share autos and share taxis. While CMRL said it had received good feedback from users since laun-

ching it in August, many commuters complain that they often have to wait for a long time to catch share autos or taxis from the station.

"Since this facility is not app-based, we don't even know when a share auto or taxis will be next available in a station. We end up taking the ordinary autorickshaw outside the station and get fleeced," said Gayathri, a regular commuter at Koyambedu metro.

CMRL officials said the share auto and taxi services were launched on a pilot basis and as a stop-gap arrangement to provide last-mile connectivity to commuters. "Commuters expect feeder vehicles to be available immediately once they step out of the station. The new app-based feeder service will give them just that," an official said.