

# Last leg of commute to get smoother with smart bikes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** If you are one of those who travel to work by Chennai metro or the MRTS train and then walk or take a share autorickshaw to your office, Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has now brought in another option for you — smart bicycles.

The civic body, along with the firm smartbike, has installed 32 e-bikes and 32 next generation bikes at 10 prominent locations in the city like Nageswara Rao Park, Marina beach (Light House and Labour statue), Nandanam, Teynampet, DMS, Anna Nagar east, T Nagar pedestrian plaza and CSI Kalyani hospital.

Residents would have to log-in through a special mobile application (smart bike), upload their identification and KYC details and scan the code at the smartbike station, using which the bike would be unlocked.

Usage of the e-bikes would be charged at ₹10 for first 10 minutes and ₹1 per minute thereafter, plus 18% GST. The rate for next gen bikes is ₹5.5

## RATE CARD

### HOW TO GET THE BIKES

- > At designated points, now near metro stations
- > Download Smartbike application, register and make payment
- > Scan code on the station to use a bike, deposit it at a nearby station



### EBIKE

- > 10 for 1st 10 minutes
- > And 1 per minute thereafter
- > Plus GST@18%

### NEXT GEN BIKE

- > 5.50 for 1st one hour
- > 9.90 every 30 minutes thereafter
- > Plus GST @18%

for the first hour and Rs9.9 for every 30 minutes after that and 18% GST, said Ranjit Srivasatva, vice-president marketing and operations at Smartbike. "The e-bikes have a pedal assist system powered by a battery that gives a mileage of 45km-60km. This means that the user need not apply additional energy," Srivastava said. The bikes have controllers which will ensure the speed does not exceed 25kmph, the maximum limit mandated by the RTO for vehicles that don't need any certification.

Though this initiative has been launched on a trial ba-

sis, GCC is geared up to install 1,000 such bikes across the city and is waiting for the nod from the chief minister.

CEO of Chennai Smart City Raj Cherubal told TOI the bikes would help those who don't like to cycle to work as it would be too rigorous an exercise. "The pedal assist system ensures that one doesn't need to put in as much effort," Cherubal said.

The bikes would also have tubeless tyres which eliminates issue of puncture. Once the ride is over, the bikes can be parked at the nearest smartbike station, Srivastava said.