

Metro fare capped at Rs 50; new rates from Monday

CHENNAI: After maximum fare in the Chennai Metro was increased to Rs 70 following the opening of the north Chennai line, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Saturday announced reduction in the fare structure with the maximum fare fixed at Rs 50 after public demand. This will come into effect from Monday.

“We accepted the demand of the public to reduce the ticket fares to make Chennai Metro services more accessible for the general public,” Palaniswami said in a statement.

As per the fare revision, there will be no change in the minimum fare of Rs 10 for 1-2 km journey while 2-5 km journey would cost Rs 20. A trip for the distance of 5-12 km would be charged Rs 30 while 12-21



km trip would cost Rs 40. The 21-32 km trip would be charged Rs 50.

The decision was taken to boost patronage which plummeted following the COVID outbreak. The daily patronage which stood at 1.2 lakh a day before lockdown came down to less than 50,000 a day in January this year.

The Chief Minister also announced a 20% discount on the base fare for passengers using the QR code ticketing, travel cards and trips cards. He said that the cost of one-day and one-month unlimited

NEW FARE STRUCTURE

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|------------|-------|
| Up to 2 km | Rs 10 |
| 2-5 km | Rs 20 |
| 5-12 km | Rs 30 |
| 12-21 km | Rs 40 |
| 21-32 km | Rs 50 |

OLD STRUCTURE

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| 0-2 km | Rs 10 |
| 2-4 km | Rs 20 |
| 4-6 km | Rs 30 |
| 6-12 km | Rs 40 |
| 12-18 km | Rs 50 |
| 18-24 km | Rs 60 |
| Above 24 km | Rs 70 |

rides card would be available earlier at fares of Rs 100 and Rs 2,500 respectively for the 9 km Washermanpet-Wimco Nagar extension line as well. The 50% discount on the ticket fares for Sunday and other public holidays would be continued, he said. Following the opening of the north Chennai line on Sunday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, residents demanded that fares be reduced as a trip to Guindy from Wimco Nagar would cost Rs 70, North Chennai People's Rights Federation, which organised a movement to revive the north extension line in the Metro project also appealed to the government to extend the 50 per cent ticket fare discount provided on Sunday and public holidays to the weekdays as well. ▶ **More on P3**

‘Reduced Metro fares will boost patronage’

CHENNAI: Slashing the Metro Rail ticket fare to cap the maximum at Rs 50 from Rs 70 is likely to boost its patronage and also improve public transportation, experts say.

Much to the anguish of the commuters, the Chennai Metro's maximum fare went up to Rs 70 with the opening of the 9 km-long Washermanpet-Wimco Nagar extension line. Besides, the Metro's patronage came down from 1.2 lakh to less than 50,000 a day in January.

Officials said fare reduction and opening of the North Chennai line would help boost patronage. “On average, 8,500 people are using the North Chennai line and overall ridership has gone up to 75,000 a day,” the official noted.

Aswathy Dilip, senior programme manager, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, said the fare reduction would make it more affordable and accessible. “Public transport systems should not be viewed from the point of view of profit and loss. After investing so much, it should car-



ry as many people as possible. The reduction of fares is one such factor that helps improve its patronage,” she said.

Metro officials said steps have been taken to improve last-mile connectivity to Metro stations as well. “We have reintroduced share auto services in eight stations, including Guindy, Tirumangalam, Koyambedu, Alandur and Ashok Nagar, at a flat rate of Rs 10,” the official said.