

Chennai metro rail fare capped at ₹50

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Saturday announced a reduction in the maximum fare for travel in Chennai metro rail by ₹20, bringing down the fare for full length travel to ₹50 from the present ₹70. The new fare will come into effect from February 22.

The fares were reduced following requests from commuters and to encourage more people use the facility, the chief minister said in a press

release.

A metro train ride from Wimco Nagar to airport covering 31km will now cost ₹50.

While the minimum fare of ₹10 for travelling up to 2km will be the same, commuters will have to pay ₹20 for travelling between two and five km, ₹30 for 5km to 12km, ₹40 for 12km to 21km, and ₹50 fare for a distance of 21km to 32km.

Passengers using QR code tickets and smartcards will get a 20% discount.

► **One-day trip card, P 4**

One-day trip card to cost ₹100

► **From P 1**

One-day trip card, which includes travelling on the 9km north Chennai line, will cost the same ₹100. Cost of monthly pass will also be the same ₹2,500 for daily commute, including on the new line. Passengers will get 50% discount on Sundays and public holidays.

“So far, 7.25 crore people have used the metro rail service that commenced on June 29, 2015,” the release said.

On February 14, a 9.05km

line from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar, which completes the 54.15km-long phase-1 corridor, was thrown open for the public.

The foundation has been laid for construction of 118.9km phase-2. While some commuters welcomed the reduction in ticket fare, many said the service would still not be economical for short distance commute.

V Rama Rao, director, Traffic and Transportation Forum, an NGO, said the slashing of fares will be helpful for

long-distance travel covering above 32km where commuters can save ₹20 by paying ₹50 instead of the earlier fare of ₹70. People from the low-income groups can use the service only if the fares are reduced for travelling short distances, he said.

“The fares we request should be modified as ₹10, ₹15, ₹20, ₹25, ₹30 and ₹35 (maximum). In Kolkata, maximum fare is ₹25 only and in Delhi, it is ₹50. The fares should be revised so that it brings more footfalls,” he said.