

Metro ridership spurts by 17,000

Airport station is the most popular with commuters, followed by Thirumangalam

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Two weeks after the opening of two crucial underground stretches, Chennai Metro Rail has witnessed an increase in the average number of daily travellers to nearly 45,000, with Chennai Airport being the most popular station with commuters.

Chennai Airport station sees an average of about 4,380 travellers a day, followed by 4,040 at Thirumangalam and 3,534 people taking the Metro at CMBT. Vadapalani and Chennai Central see an average of 3,369 and 3,239 users respectively.

Chennai Metro sources said a significant number of air passengers have been using the Metro to reach the airport. "Since a traveler connects the Chennai Airport Metro station with both domestic and international terminals, it has become convenient for commuters," added an official who did wish to be identified.

Thirumangalam Metro station caters to people going to places like Mogappair, Maduravoyal and Padi and hence witnesses decent passenger traffic, the sources explained.

Surprisingly, Chennai Egmore Metro station has only about 1,000 people travelling through it, but officials did not cite any reason for the low volume of traffic, even though the Metro station is very close to the Egmore railway station that connects the southern districts and suburbs.

On May 25, Chennai Met-



Nehru Park to open next month

STAFF REPORTER
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Nehru Park, closed for nearly seven years now on account of Chennai Metro Rail work, will finally open next month after extensive restoration.

According to Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) officials, restoration work has been on for a few months and the park will be opened to the public with additional facilities. It will have fountains, jogging and walking tracks and a small play area for children.

The park was closed due to construction of the underground Nehru Park Metro station adjacent to it. While it has been a year since the Thirumangalam to Nehru Park stretch became operational, the park remained closed. An earlier announcement said the park would open in March but that did not happen.

ro Rail opened two stretches—a 2.7-km stretch from Nehru Park to Chennai Central and a 4-km stretch from AG-DMS to Chennai airport,



Gaining Traction

- Completed
- Newly opened
- Under construction

Chennai Airport most popular station:
4,380 travellers a day

25 May
Chennai Metro Rail opens two stretches – a 2.7-km stretch from Nehru Park to Chennai Central and a 4-km stretch from AG-DMS to Chennai airport

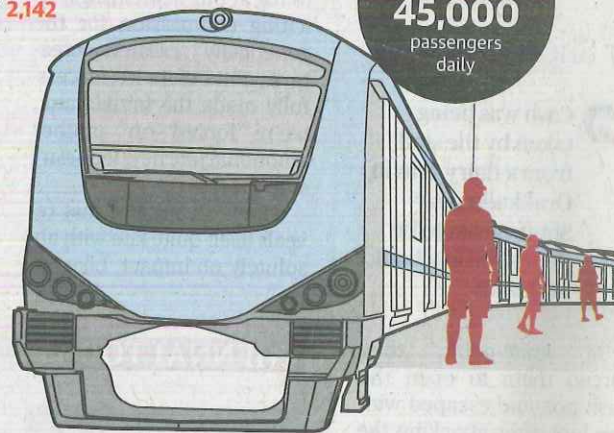
Before the opening of these two stretches:
27,000-28,000 passengers daily

Now it has gone up to nearly
45,000 passengers daily

Walkers and joggers will feel the heat though as 65 trees have been felled. Of the 7,250 sq. m in the park, 250 sq. m has been used up by CMRL for entry/exit points to the Metro station and other buildings.

When opened, Nehru Park will be the first to be restored by CMRL.

thus connecting four important transport hubs of the city—Chennai airport, Chennai Central, CMBT and Chennai Egmore. Till



the opening of these two stretches, the average number of people using the system was around 27,000-28,000 daily. Now it has gone up to 45,000.

According to Chennai Metro Rail officials, one of the reasons for the in-

crease is frequency. "During peak hours, there is a train every five minutes. When we add new stretches, the number of people using our system will naturally go up but what we are seeing now is much more than what we expected."