

# In Tamil films, action shifts to metro train stations

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**Chennai:** The recently released Tamil movie '96' not just took the audience down memory lane through the lives of its protagonists played by Vijay Sethupathy and Trisha, but also on a trip on the city's latest public transport system — the Metro Rail.

As the swanky metro stations and trains are gaining patronage and popularity among residents, they are also turning out to be one of the most sought-after locales for commercial feature film shoots. For CMRL, letting out its premises for films to be shot is another way to make money.

Metro Rail officials said that



**SCENE CHANGE:** Parts of the film '96' starring Vijay Sethupathy and Trisha were shot inside a metro train

this year alone two big films — '96' and Dhanush starrer 'Ennai Noki Paayum Thotta' directed by

Goutham Vasudev Menon — were shot at stations. The former had scenes at Koyambedu station and inside a metro train while the latter featured Guindy metro station. "We get at least four or five requests in a year. We ensure the films that we allow to be shot in our premises and in trains are by reputable production houses," an official said.

Several other feature films including 'Remo' starring Siva Karthikeyan and Immaika Nodigal starring Nayanthara also had scenes shot in metro stations and trains. Officials said Tamil films were earlier shot on the Bangalore metro rail before Chennai got

its Metro Rail in June 2015.

Metro rail charges anywhere between Rs1 lakh and ₹4 lakh depending on the location where the scenes would be shot. CMRL property where film shootings are allowed include stations categorised based on the footfall, trains, operational and non-operational lines and other vacant land. Apart from the fee, production houses will have to pay a refundable security deposit of ₹4 lakh to ₹15 lakh depending on the location.

While commercial feature films are shot after obtaining permission, metro facility has been otherwise popular among amate-

ur photographers, who walk in with high-end smartphones and conduct profile shoots on the move. Some even shoot candid images of couples for wedding photography. "We don't get requests for TV serial or still photography shoots, perhaps due to their budget and our fee. But commuters take pictures, which we may not know if it is a casual picture or for a portfolio. We encourage commuters to capture and post images of our facility on social networking sites," an official said.

CMRL shares best images captured by its commuters on social networking sites to promote the facility.