

As the long-delayed Metro Rail finally swishes through the city, some commuters share their first experiences with *MetroPlus*

SRIVATSAN S

LIFE IN A METRO



RV Lakshmipathy,
Advocate

It's a wonderful work, even if long overdue. I've travelled in Singapore's Metro service, but this is my first experience on the Chennai Metro. It's so comfortable inside the train that you won't feel exhausted even after a long day. For instance, travelling by bike or bus could take a toll on you. But the facilities are so good inside the Metro. When compared to Singapore, the underground stretch is too steep in Chennai. So much so that one has to climb down the stairs to avail the service. But at the same time, we have lifts and escalators for people with disabilities. Once they become operational, they will be beneficial for office-goers and traders who commute everyday. The CMRL (Chennai Metro Rail Limited) has taken a gargantuan effort to give us the best, so I don't have any complaints. The fare, too, is relatively cheaper when compared to other means of transport.



Taufiq Ahmed,
Surgeon

I finished my course at Meenakshi University three years ago. I'm visiting Chennai after two years and I have to say, things have really changed here! And I think it's the need of the hour. I landed in Chennai on Tuesday and took the Metro Rail right away. I was surprised to find out about the free rides. I took the day off just to roam around the city in the Metro. While the announcements made in English are clear, the pronunciation of certain Tamil words is not, and is difficult to follow. I'd suggest they rectify this soon because Tamils are in majority here. At the same time, the train frequency isn't great.

Lalitha Kumar,
Retired
professional

I am a resident of Pallavaram. I don't usually travel to this part of the city, and it's been ages since I travelled by train. My husband wanted to experience this ride. But this is not our first experience since we've already travelled on the Metro in Malaysia. The interiors of the train make us feel that we're abroad, and the connectivity is appreciable. There seems to be some issues with announcements. But apart from that, everything is fine. A lot of people are queuing up since it's free for the first three days. The real picture will emerge only in the coming days.



Defee Deogracious, Class V student of
St Mary's Higher Secondary School

I'm heading to ECR. This is the first time I'm taking the Metro Rail and I'm loving it! The AC is really good inside and the automatic doors work just fine. I notice that there are safety doors for passengers. I live on ECR while my school is at Parry's. It's difficult for me to commute everyday. Now that the Metro Rail is finally operational, I think it'll reduce the travel time and I can reach my school ahead of time.

P Jayakumar, Advocate

We have been looking forward to the Metro Rail ever since it was announced. Its biggest advantage is that you can avoid the traffic and reach your destination on time. Plus, it's cosy inside. Right now, Metro Rail seems to be a convenient option for most of us. While it's true that this is just the Phase-I, it does cover all the major areas. In fact, you can reach the airport in 45 minutes from Government Estate. Having said that, the ticket pricing is a little too high. Perhaps it'll reduce once more people start using the service.

