SUNITHA SEKAR
CHENNAI

After the opening of the final
stretch of Phase 1 project
from AG-DMS to Washerm-
manpet, the number of peo-
ple travelling on the Chennai
Metro has gone up to an av-
erage of 90,000 a day.

According to officials of
Chennai Metro Rail Limited
(CMRL), before the opening
of this 10 km stretch from
AG-DMS to Washermanpet,
an average of 55,000 people
travelled through the Metro
every day.

Trip cards popular

"We expect it to soon touch
1 lakh in the coming weeks.
After opening of a new
stretch, it usually takes a
week or two for people to
know about a station in their
area, its exact location and
start using it. We see several
new passengers buying trip
cards (which work like a
weekly or a monthly pass)
every day and that is an indi-
cation that more people are
coming in to travel by Chen-
nai metro," an official said.

It will go up further when
share auto and share cars
start operating in all 32 sta-
tions in the 45 km network
of the Phase I project, he ad-
ded. "We have awarded the
contract to a firm and they
will begin operating in all
stations in two months. This
will improve the number of
people taking the system as
well. This apart, we will
bring in cycles soon in all the
newly opened stations as
well," another official said.

Currently, Chennai Cen-
tral and Chennai Airport are
the favourite stations of
commuters as 7,000 and
6,500 people take this sys-
tem respectively on a daily
basis. Saidapet and Nanga-
nalur are the least used and
only 1,100 and 1,200 people
cycle through them every
day.

Metro users jump to 90,000

Daily usage will hit 1 lakh mark as awareness spreads, say officials

Catching on: Patronage for the Metro has gone up after the
opening of the final stretch of Phase I project. *FILE PHOTO*