

Metro users jump to 90,000

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

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After the opening of the final stretch of Phase I project from AG-DMS to Washermanpet, the number of people travelling on the Chennai Metro has gone up to an average 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 a 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)



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

every day and that is an indication that more people are coming in to travel by Chennai Metro," an official said.

It will go up further when share auto and share cars start operating in all 32 stations in the 45 km network of the Phase I project, he added. "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 Central and Chennai Airport are the favourite stations of commuters as 7,700 and 6,500 people take this system respectively on a daily basis. Saidapet and Nanganallur are the least used and only 1,100 and 1,200 people travel through them every day.