

Central metro station is most popular, daily ridership stands at 7.8k

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Chennai: With nearly 7,800 passengers boarding trains every day, Central metro, the underground transit hub, overtakes Airport metro as the most popular station in the metro rail network. The station became fully operational after the 10km last leg from Washermenpet to AG-DMS was opened on February 10. Airport metro, which now boasts of an easy access for air passengers through a walkator, is not far behind with 7,200 average daily ridership.

While the overall daily average ridership is at 90,000, up from 60,000 before the last stretch was opened three weeks ago, metro rail officials are hopeful it will touch one lakh in coming months. "The patronage will increase once we extend feeder services like share auto and share taxis to all stations," said an official. Contract has been awarded to a firm to operate share autos and taxis from all stations. It is likely to start in two months.

Officials said the rise in patronage at Central is because it serves as a point linking major transit hubs like Central Railway Station, Egmore, CMBT, Airport, suburban



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and MRTS stations for commuters boarding trains from any of the other stations in the network. The decent footfall in the neighbouring stations like High Court and Egmore, is also seen as a contributing factor to the ridership at underground transit hub. Both High Court and Egmore caters to an average 2,500 passengers a day.

The present patronage at both Central and Airport, however, has doubled since a portion of Central Metro opened in May 2018. A few weeks after the line linking Central metro with St Thomas opened in May 2018, airport metro continued to be a favourite with a daily average of 4,300, while the underground hub saw an average 3,369 users.