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

Chennai: With nearly 7,600 passengers boarding trains every day, Central metro, the underground transit hub, overtook Airport metro as the most popular station in the metro rail network. The station became fully operational after the initial last leg from Washermanpet to AL 2205 was opened on February 10. Airport metro, which now boasts of an easy access for air passengers through a real-time kiosk, is not far behind with 7,500 average daily ridership.

While the overall daily average ridership is 90,000, up from 45,000 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 rise 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 has benefited its sister stations such as the Kotturpuram and Linamuru, which are now the next busiest stations. The stations are now seeing an average of 3,000 passengers a day.

Your house-to-office commute has been made more convenient by the recent addition of the line. The metro link to the airport is expected to improve connectivity for passengers flying into the city.

The line connects various important nodes in the city, including the city centre, suburban areas, and the airport, making it a vital part of the city's transport infrastructure. It is expected to reduce traffic congestion and improve travel time for commuters.