Suburban trains lose 18L commuters in Apr

Many May Have Shifted To Metro Rail

Siththirtha, Publisher
@timesgroup.com

Chennai: In what is likely to interest officials of Chennai metro rail, Southern Railway statistics show a drop of around 3 lakh commuters in April 2019, as 18 lakh commuters. This is the highest drop in the number of passengers in a single month. The number of commuters on the suburban railway network, which saw 22 million passengers in April 2019, fell to 20 million in April 2020. The figures are 4.8 lakh and 4.2 lakh for the same period last year.

This is also due to the stagnation of the suburban network, which now has a patronage of around 15 lakh passengers every day. The suburban network, which was introduced in February 2018, has seen a drop in ridership. This was after the underground section of the Airport-Washermanpet line, which runs parallel to the Chennai Beach-Tambaram suburban line, was inaugurated in February 2018.

A significant number of passengers who travel to central government offices, business establishments and the Madras high court take the suburban trains. For people living in Anna Nagar and local areas who had to take an auto-rickshaw to the nearest railway station, the metro has turned into a more convenient option as it lies within walking distance of their homes.

Not only has the metro rail network seen a drop in ridership, the commuter rail also experienced a decline. Buses and other non-metro modes of transport provide a more comfortable and hassle-free transport.

“This could be a possible reason for a significant drop in ridership,” said a senior railway official.

Statistics show that the number of first-class season ticket holders has reduced by around 60 lakh while the regular first-class travellers have decreased by 1.80 lakh commuters. This is the first time that the number of commuters has dropped by more than 50% in a single month. This is also due to the stagnation of the suburban network, which now has a patronage of around 15 lakh passengers every day. The suburban network, which was introduced in February 2018, has seen a drop in ridership.