

Chennai Metro does its bit for conserving water

Begins installing aerators in washrooms at all 32 stations

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With the city reeling under acute water shortage, the Chennai Metro has stepped up measures to conserve the resource at all its stations.

According to officials of the Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), they have started installing aerators in washrooms of all 32 stations in the 45-km phase I project. Aerators are devices that are fit at the end of faucets and taps in washrooms and limit the flow of water, officials said.

“By doing so, we will save about 35% water in each station. We have started fitting these aerators at various stations, including Anna Nagar East, Anna Nagar Tower, Thirumangalam and Chennai Central,” an official said.

Meanwhile, despite the severe ire that the Chennai



Only Chennai Central Metro station continues to have airconditioning, using about 12,000 litres of water a day.

Metro has drawn from commuters for switching off air conditioners, officials say they have been able to reduce water consumption by more than half now, owing to this measure.

“Earlier, for all 32 stations together, we would consume about 405 kilo litres a day, but now that the airconditioning has been turned off for nearly two months, we

use only about 150 kilo litres a day. So, on an average, there is a requirement of about 1,500-2,000 litres only per day at each station, primarily for usage in toilets and other maintenance works,” the official said.

Saving water

“This is in contrast to what prevailed earlier, when each underground station alone needed 9,000 litres of water, of which 7,000 litres itself was used for airconditioning,” he added.

Only the Chennai Central Metro station continues to have airconditioning and uses about 12,000 litres a day. The station has been constructed at about 25 m below the ground and hence, it would be very difficult for passengers if there is no airconditioning, said CMRL officials.