

Metro conducts second trial run for doubling frequency

CHENNAI: The Chennai Metro Rail (CMRL) in a bid to increase service frequency to 2.5 minutes held the second trial run of trains on Saturday night and continued test operations until the early hours of Sunday. Around 40 trains would be pressed into service during the trial run, official sources had said.

This is the second trial run held by the Metro in the last two months to increase the frequency of its services to 2.5 minutes in phase-I operations.

In an announcement made on its social media page, CMRL said that the inter-corridor service had been cancelled in connection with trials being conducted for operating Metro services with

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2.5-minute headway in Green Line Corridor-2 (Chennai Central Metro-St Thomas Mount Metro) on Saturday from 10 pm and concluded it at 3 am on Sunday.

At present, commuters during weekdays can get a train every five minutes during peak hours (8.30 am to 10.30 am and 5 pm to 8.30 pm) and one every seven minutes during non-peak hours (6 am to 8.30 am, 10.30 am to 5 pm and 8.30 pm to 10 pm).

CMRL officials said around 35-40 trains would be pressed into service during the trial run on Saturday. "We will also try and ensure that there are no technical glitches in signalling and other systems," the official had said.

The CMRL is likely to run services at a frequency of 2.5 minutes if there are no signalling or any other train-related issues.

"We hope the number of people travelling goes up when the frequency is increased. If the trial run proves successful, it is likely to be implemented soon," said an official.