

# Rush hour in the city sees Metro trains running full

Thirumangalam the busiest, with an average of 10,056 passengers every day

SUNITHA SEKAR  
CHENNAI

On an average, between 1.18 lakh and 1.21 lakh people take the Chennai Metro on a daily basis.

Yet, if the commuters feel that the trains are never full and it is a rather nice and quiet ride, then they are probably not travelling during peak hours.

Data gathered by *The Hindu* shows the network has the maximum number of passengers, with trains running full, during peak hours in the morning – between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. – with an average of 22,204 passengers, and in the evening – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. – with 37,601 passengers. It has the least number of travellers between 11 p.m. and 12 a.m., with a mere 103 commuters availing of services.

Thirumangalam is the busiest station, with an average of 10,056 passengers travelling every day, followed by Chennai Central and Chennai Airport stations, with 9,702 and 7,358 passengers, respectively.

## Office-goers predominant

According to officials of the Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), most travellers use the network to get to their workplace, followed by those leaving town by train or flight.

“Thirumangalam remains the most used station, because a large number of people come from areas like Padi, Mogappair, Retteri and even Ambattur, and travel to their workplaces. Otherwise, they have to pay a huge amount of money for an auto or a cab,” an official said.

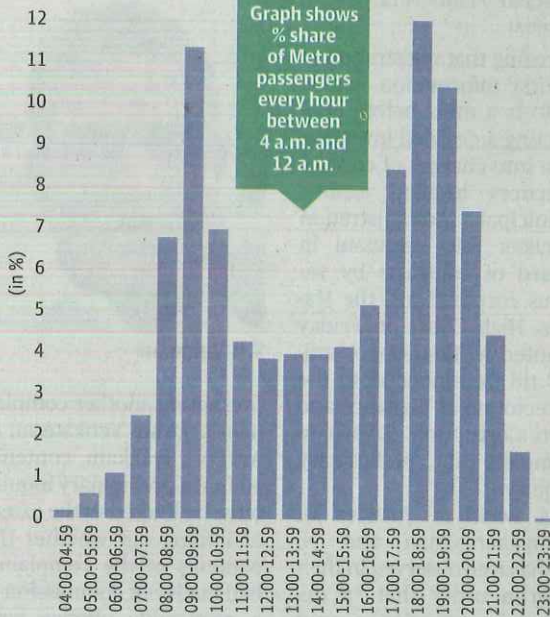
At Thirumangalam, an average of 2,784 people take the Metro from 9 a.m. to 11

## Peak traffic on the Metro

An analysis of Chennai Metro average ridership data for the month of October shows that a large percentage of passengers uses the service between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., and 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., which coincide with the office timings of salaried employees

### Observations from the graph

- 12.1% of commuters use the service between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., the most among all hours
- In the mornings, only once does the ridership share go above 8% – between 9 and 10 a.m. However, in the evenings, it crosses the 8% mark for three hours consecutively – between 5 and 8 p.m. Together, these three hours contribute to more than 30% of the ridership



On an average, 8.3% of Metro riders in October used the service from Thirumangalam station – the highest among all stations. Along with Chennai Central and Chennai Airport stations, the three stations handled 22.3% of October ridership



\*The first service is at 4.30 a.m. and the last one is at 11.00 p.m. ● Share of riders in October



Most travellers take the Metro to get to their workplaces, followed by those leaving town by train or flight. ■ FILE PHOTO

**Thirumangalam remains the most used station, because many come from areas like Padi, Mogappair, Retteri and even Ambattur, and travel to their workplaces**

a.m., and 2,034 people use the service between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

At Chennai Central, apart from those taking outstation

trains, there are quite a few who travel through the station to get to Fort St. George for work. “We have recently started a feeder service (share car) that takes passengers from the station to the Secretariat,” another official said.

## Feeder services

At Chennai Airport, a maximum of 1,039 passengers travel from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Initially, the station was used by people taking flights, but

soon after feeder services were introduced, people from Pallavaram, Chromepet, and hundreds of other passengers began to throng the station, he added.

It is to be noted that sometime back, the Chennai Metro had extended its early morning and late night services.

Data shows that while an average of 1,051 passengers take the early morning services, 2,108 use it late at night.