Soon, airport metro to get 2nd scanner

To Cut Short Queues At Peak Hours

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SWIFT ACT: The station caters to about 10,000 passengers a day

Chennai: Metro rail will soon install another baggage scanner at the airport station as passengers often end up waiting in long queues to get their bags checked.

The airport metro station caters to about 10,000 passengers a day.

One baggage scanner is at the entry point and the other at the exit; and passengers end up waiting for long, particularly during peak hours, and complain that there are not enough facilities or staff for quick scanning and frisking of commuters.

"I spend nearly 20 minutes to scan my bags while entering the station, which is the time I usually take to check-in at the airport. Either they should add more scanners or stop scanning those that are already scanned at the airport," said Ganesh Ram, a businessman who uses the metro rail often to get to the airport from Ashok Nagar station.

A metro rail official said that besides installing an additional baggage scanner, they would stop scanning bags that were already scanned and sealed at the airport.

The airport metro station was opened in September 2016, more than a year after the first line between Koyambedu and Alandur opened in June 2015. Passengers can board a direct train from airport to reach CMBT bus terminus or Egmore railway station or Central railway station. The station initially had daily footfalls of around 2000. Later, ridership picked up after the Airports Authority of India installed 602-metre-long walkalators linking the international and domestic terminals to the station.

Most of those who use the metro are domestic air passengers. International air passengers still hesitate to use the metro as bags only up to a capacity of 15kg and measuring 60cmX40cmX25cm are allowed in the station.