

Police urge jaywalkers to use metro escalator near Central

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Scenes of people rushing in and out of Chennai Central railway station across Poonamallee High Road, amid speeding vehicles, could soon be memory, if the traffic police drive succeeds.

On Tuesday, the second day of an initiative against jaywalking, police were seen asking people not to walk across the road and to use the metro rail escalator instead.

A TOI report on August 22 had mentioned the perils of jaywalking.

At least 20 personnel from the Flower Bazaar police station have been deployed at the station, with two of them taking turns in addressing pedestrians through a public address system (PAS), giving them directions.

Banners carrying several dos and don'ts for commuters have come up on all sides as part of a system that police say will continue until the situation is set right. It was launched on the direction of senior police officers.

On the first two days,



SAFETY MATTERS: The traffic police have been discouraging people from crossing Poonamallee High Road and instead directing them to the metro rail subway near Chennai Central station

Flower Bazaar traffic enforcement inspector C Velu said, they had a tough time, especially during the peak hours. "Many people, as usual, came towards the road to cross it. Our officers spotted them and directed them to use the escalators," Velu said.

For years, jaywalking at the junction has led to vehicles piling up for long distances on Poonamallee High Road and also on Pallavan Sala. Despite the blatant violation, no one was booked.

As per Southern Railway statistics, at least 4 lakh pas-

sengers use the station every day, making it the busiest in the city.

A police officer said, "More than 50% of those visiting the station prefer to walk across rather than use the subway." Most of the violators, police say, are educated men and women who go to Chennai Central from MRTS railway station, Park suburban railway station and Central metro.

Inspector Velu said, "Most of the people are in a hurry and don't think of using the subway, ignoring our repeated pleas."