

5 lakh used metro during 5-day holiday

Chennai: Nearly five lakh passengers travelled on metro trains during the 5-day Pongal holidays, including more than 1.25 lakh on 'Kaanum Pongal'.

Earlier this week, city roads began emptying of traffic ahead of the festival, but the number of passengers using metro trains was steady at 1.21 lakh on Monday and 1.25 lakh on Tuesday. On Pongal day, when arterial roads were deserted, traveller count on the metro too dipped, with 72,845 people using the service on January 15 and 95,379 commuting on January 16.

On January 17, around 1,25,333 passengers used the metro rail service to travel. CMRL operated feeder services from Government Estate and AG-DMS metro stations to the popular Marina beach on Friday. In a bid to improve footfalls, CMRL also announced 50% discount on tickets for people using the service between January 15 and January 17. In October 2019, it had announced discount for people using metro trains on Sundays and government holidays, across the 45km network.

While CMRL's estimated average daily footfalls is 7.76 lakh across the network, its daily average ridership is now only 1.16 lakh. TNN