

# Metro footfall up as 2nd corridor opens

## 65,000 Used Facility In 1st Week Since Op Resumed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** The number of passengers commuting in metro trains more than doubled since CMRL resumed services on its second corridor (between Central Metro and St Thomas Mount) as well. While the footfall was 4,993 on September 7, when metro rail services resumed after a break of five months, it grew to 13,980 on September 9, the day the second line was reopened.

A total of 65,038 passengers used the service between September 7 and 13. CMRL officials said the use of QR-code service, a new ticketing facility launched to en-

### OFF TO A GOOD START

Date	Passengers who used QR code tickets	Total passengers who travelled
Sept 7	157	4,993
8	155	5,381
9	325	13,980
10	277	10,815
11	457	12,172
12	521	11,078
13	465	6,619
Total	2,357	65,038

courage contactless travel, has also increased from 157 on September 7 to 465 on September 13.

At present, CMRL operates services from 7am to 8pm, with trains available every five minutes during peak hours and every 10 minutes during non-peak hours. A top metro rail official had earlier

said train frequency will be increased if the footfalls increase. CMRL's pre-Covid daily average footfall was 1.2 lakh, against a projected 7.8 lakh for the 45km phase-1.

CMRL was among a few other metrorail networks in the country that resumed operations on September 7, amid many restrictions and

measures to provide a safe commute.

The doubling of footfalls once the second corridor was opened, according to officials, could be due to many of office-goers from residential locations such as Shenoy Nagar, Anna Nagar, Thirumangalam and Ashok Nagar using metro trains for their dai-



ly commute to LIC, Thousand Lights, DMS, Teynampet, Guindy and Airport. On September 10, when CMRL resumed inter-corridor services from Central metro to Airport via Koyambedu, 10,815 people travelled. Passenger footfall went up again on Friday and Saturday when around 12,172 and 11,078 people took metro trains but dropped to 6,619 on Sunday, a day when footfalls would go up in the pre-Covid times.

Measures CMRL introduced to provide safe commute include QR-code ticketing service, where people can purchase tickets through CMRL smartphone app, and installation of travel card readers that can be used to recharge smartcards, at all stations. Officials said these two services, besides reducing contact with station staff, would also prevent passengers queuing up at ticket counters or in front of the ticket vending kiosks.