Flights, Metro and buses resume service

Govt. gives nod hours after landfall

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Transport services in the districts affected by Cyclone Nivar resumed on Thursday.

While flight services resumed from 9 a.m., Chennai Metro Rail services started at noon after the cyclone made landfall.

Officials at the Airports Authority of India said while some flights were cancelled, most others went as per schedule.

"It was a bit of a challenge because there were good winds that continued throughout the day; but there were no disruptions and a majority of them were departing and arriving on time," an official said.

Nearly 9,000 passengers travelled by the Chennai Metro on Wednesday, from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m. The services started at noon on Thursday after an inspection was carried out. "We wanted to check the track, overhead cables and sig-

nalling system before the services resumed. We can't take chances with the safety of passengers," an official said.

But sources said many had voiced concern that it could have been planned better.

Bus services in seven districts where they were suspended in view of the cyclone resumed from noon on Thursday.

Bus services had been suspended in Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tirivarur, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai districts from 1 pm on November 24.

Suburban trains

The Southern Railway will resume the 244 workmen special suburban train services from Friday morning.

On Thursday, the Southern Railway restarted suburban train services in a limited manner on three routes from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.