

‘CMRL likely to handle up to 3.5L daily commuters soon’

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The daily ridership recorded on Chennai metro rail services may soon go up to 3.5 lakh once Covid restrictions are lifted and with the addition of the 9.05km north Chennai line to the existing 45km corridors; said Durga Shankar Mishra, secretary, ministry of housing and urban affairs.

The secretary, who is also chairman of CMRL, told reporters on Saturday that city residents will have better transport connectivity when the 119km phase-2 — for which foundation has been laid — is ready in the next six years. “The 9km line from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar is going to cover most important areas in North Chennai where there are industries and a lot of population. More than 1.5 lakh were benefited everyday pre-Covid in the existing 45km line. Right now, it is around 30,000 plus,” he said. “I think the total ridership will go up to 3.5 lakh

ALL RIDES FREE TODAY: CMRL

PM Modi will inaugurate the 9.05km line from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar today



Secretary D S Mishra inspected the new line on Saturday

➤ No. of stations | 8, including 6 elevated stns

➤ Project cost | ₹3,770 crore

➤ Line will link parts of north Chennai with central city localities and major transport hubs, including Central rly stn, CMBT bus terminus and the airport

➤ Ridership pre-covid | 1.16 lakh daily

➤ Ridership at present | 44,000 on the existing 45km line

soon once the restrictions of Covid are lifted,” he added.

The 9.05km line from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar with seven stations will be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on Sunday. Passengers can ride metro trains across the entire 54km for free from 2pm to 11pm on Sunday after the inauguration.

On Saturday, Mishra also inspected the line and reviewed all passenger ameni-

ties and safety features installed on the line. The line will open with only seven stations due to delay in completing construction of Thiruvottiyur Theradi elevated station.

In a letter to the PM, NGO Traffic and Transportation Forum requested his intervention regarding ticket fares as many find tickets expensive, which is the main reason for poor patronage.