

Metro footfalls in July 50% of pre-Covid avg

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Chennai: Office-goers, shoppers and devotees headed to places of worship hopped on to metro trains in the city and helped its footfalls in July reach 50% of the pre-covid daily average of 1.16 lakh. In July, the daily average footfalls of metro trains was 59,563.

As restrictions were eased and more people stepped out of their homes, as many as 18.5 lakh commuters used the train services last month. Since June 21, 22.02 lakh people took the trains, of which 102 passengers were caught and fined for not wearing masks. A sum of ₹20,400 was collected as penalty from these passengers.

Since services resumed on June 21, 3.5 lakh commuters travelled between June 21 and 30. In June and July, metro stations like High Court, Chennai Airport, Central Metro and Thirumangalam recorded footfalls between 2,061 to 3,905 every day. Officials said it could be mostly shoppers, office-goers and people leaving or arriving in the city through trains and flights.

While many stations like

Wimco Nagar, Thiruvottiyur, New Washermenpet, Mannadi, LIC, Thousand Lights, Guindy, Nanganallur Metro, Meenambakkam, Egmore, Vadapalani and Alandur saw anywhere between 1,041 to 1,605 passengers on average daily, 18 of 39 metro stations in the city including Anna Nagar East, Anna Nagar Tower, Ashok Nagar, CMBT, Teynampet, Nandanam and Saidapet recorded less than 1,000 passengers a day.

“We are not doing any promotional activity to boost our patronage now. Once things get back to normal, we will begin active promotion of our services as well as start a standard feeder service for last mile connectivity across all our stations,” an official said. At present, CMRL operates trains from 5.30am to 10pm with 50% capacity at five minute frequency during peak hours and 10-minute frequency during non-peak hours.

Around 10.7lakh passengers who travelled in July opted for tokens instead of contactless smartcards or QR-code tickets, the official said.