

# Goldplay effect: Over 4L take Metro in two days

## Trains made 93 extra trips, transport more than one lakh additional passengers during the concert weekend



REPRESENTATIONAL PICTURE

**Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau**  
feedback@ahmedabadmirror.com  
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Over 4 lakh people rode the Metro during the last two days due to the Coldplay concert at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera. The Metro rail recorded its highest-ever passenger count, with 2,13,735 passengers on Saturday and 1,91,529 on Sunday. According to GMRC, about one lakh additional passengers travelled on the metro trains during the concert compared to the previous two weekends. This means around 50,000 extra passengers used the metro each day. GMRC extended the metro service until 12:30 am on the Ahmedabad Metro (Motera to APMC) and Vastral Gam to Thaltej Gam) lines. In addition to the regular 313 trips per day, 93 extra trips were made on Saturday, and 114 extra trips were made on Sunday. Tiring cricket matches, the Metro also recorded a large number of passengers.

## 2 held for flying drones; 2 caught in inebriated state

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The Crime Branch detained two cousins in the flying drones in the no-flying zone during the two-day Coldplay concert in the city. The police also seized drones.

Meanwhile, local police registered multiple cases against youngsters under various sections, including Prohibition Act, during the huge crowd-puller event. According to police sources, the Crime Branch swung into action after two drones were spotted flying in a no-flying zone. The drone operators - Kaival Ahir, a resident of Manekbaug, and Sujal Ahir, a

resident of Memnagar -- were detained. During interrogation, it was revealed that they were flying the drones to capture video of the fireworks displayed at the concert. The police also took action against people who attended the concert under the influence of alcohol. Chandkheda police detained two youngsters who were found inebriated on the stadium premises.

Three others who had consumed alcohol before attending the concert were also arrested. In a separate incident, two individuals were detained. The duo were smoking near two girls. A spat ensued when the girls objected to the smoking. While one girl left the scene, the men continued to argue with another girl and her father.

## Coldplay means good business

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After a video went viral showing Amdavadi boy Malay Adalia on his two-wheeler on city streets with the British lead singer riding pillion, fans were seen chanting 'Chris Chris' on city streets post concert when the singer chose to walk around the Judges Bungalow road. While celebration in aapnu Amdavad didn't end at the stadium, scenes of party and dancing with gay abandon were witnessed at roadside joints, dotting the Old City, as well as SG Road, closer to the hotel the singer was put up at. A successful two-day run at the cricket stadium seemed to give city revellers reason to believe and speculate who next would perform at the grand venue!

If Chris Martin's rendition of Vande Mataram didn't create enough magic on Republic Day, it was his reference to areas including Navrangpura, Lapkaman, Kathwada as places his band members hailed from that saw the crowd go crazy. Nothing, however, matched the personalised little song for Indian bowler Jasprit Bumrah who blushed

in the audience as Chris crooned, "Jasprit my beautiful brother, the best bowler in the whole of cricket, we do not enjoy watching you destroy England with wicket after wicket after wicket."

### On a high

Social media frenzy saw heartwarming scenes as it did crazy memes. 'Coldplay in Ahmedabad shows you don't need alcohol to have fun' read one while another termed it a 'concert stadium'. Viral posts included commending India's infrastructure to host giant concerts such as this. And while 'no alcohol needed for a high' did its rounds, there were a fair number of revellers who were picked from the stadium and surrounding vicinity in a 'happy and high state'. A flight to Ahmedabad experienced its 'sky full of stars' moment when the pilot provided for an exciting moment to a flight full of concertgoers. After the concert, many headed straight for the airport, unmindful of passing the next few hours just anywhere within its premises, since the hangover and the extra crowd there was for real.

Outfits in the audience could put Bollywood to shame just as Chris Martin's references to love and life could have lovers scouting for similar expressions to match up. Such was the two-day hysteria and wild excitement in the city that the euphoria isn't set to die down any time soon. The ecstasy that Coldplay generated seized fans across ages. His 'fame badha sundar laago chho' statement saw fans go berserk, considering 'kern chho' is all that celebrity guests normally dish out.

Lovers held each other in tight embrace as lights flashed across the stadium urging fans to "believe in love". Some love stories touched a new high while some witnessed a turning point in the stadium, thanks to Chris and his conscious comments and affirmations.

Ticket sales escalated and created records of sorts. While some sold for double the price and more, many parted with their extra ones for half the MRP. From a beeline at hotels, home stays and Airbnbs to a celebratory spirit during and post concert, is Amdavad the new destination for grand scale concerts?