

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CHENNAI DIVISION**

No.PUB/MAS/2021/12/23

Date:27.12.2021

PRESS RELEASE

RAIL TRAFFIC RESTORED ON TIRUVALAM BRIDGE NO.299 BETWEEN ARAKKONAM AND KATPADI SECTIONS

Rail traffic on bridge No.299 between Tiruvalam and Mukundarayapuram stations in Arakkonam - Katpadi section has been restored to normalcy effective from 21:00 hours of 26th December 2021. The structural damage has been completely rectified and a trial run was conducted with a goods train on the bridge before the rail bridge section was certified fit for traffic. The normal operations of all the train services handled in Arakkonam – Katpadi sections resumed from 21:00 hrs of 26th December 2021. However, to ensure the safety of train operations, speed restrictions have been imposed in these sections.

Bridge No.299 is British-era Bridge constructed in the year 1865. Owing to the recent heavy spells of rain and floods the 165 years old bridge structure developed damages. A crack was noticed in a pillar and reported by the bridge maintenance crew on 23rd December 2021. Following this, the rail traffic was immediately suspended in Arakkonam-Katpadi section from 23rd to 26th December 2021 in view of safety of train operations. Technical expert's team along with Shri Ganesh, Divisional Railway Manager/Chennai and Engineering Officials rushed to the spot and inspected the Tiruvalam Bridge. Chennai Division geared up the restoration work on a war footing.

Some of the major works carried by the engineering team of Chennai division for restoration of Tiruvalam Bridge 299 is detailed below:

- The flow of water was diverted to the adjacent spans by building a coffer dam.
- Crib staging work was done from the river bed level to the arch portion.
- Pressure grouting was done into the cracks to avoid further extension.
- Boulder pitching was done around the pier to prevent further scouring.
- Concrete work was done with special grouting along the affected pier.
- Sinkage on settlement of the track was attended with tamping machine.
- A total of 850 Nos. of departmental staff and contract labourers were mobilised for the restoration work, along with one number of 140 & 220 tonnes cranes was deployed in the site.
- In addition to this, Two Nos. of 25 MT cranes were mobilised with trailer for shifting of materials from highway approach to railway embankment.
- The damaged structure was supported with 14 tons of rolled steel section, 1 ton of reinforcement bar and 14 cubic meters of wooden columns and planks.

Dedicated crew from the engineering wing spearheaded the restoration work round the clock. The pillars and piers have been strengthened and the track was certified fit at 20:00 hrs yesterday (26.12.2021) by conducting a trail run with a loco engine and a goods train.

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(A.ELUMALAI)

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