

**दक्षिण रेलवे/Southern Railway
चेन्नै मंडल/Chennai Division**

No.PUB/MAS/2020/04/06

Date:04.04.2020

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति / PRESS RELEASE

Southern Railway continues the distribution of food packets in Chennai Division

The 21-day lockdown in India due to the corona virus pandemic has brought the nation to a standstill, largely affecting the livelihood of the poor, homeless and migrant labourers. Stepping up to the occasion, in a much-needed move, the Southern Railway of Chennai Division is providing free meals to the homeless and the needy.

The catering arm of the railways, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), is supplying free meals to the underprivileged through its base kitchens located in various zones. These meals are being served by the Railway authorities to the deserving people in paper plates, keeping the environmental concerns in mind. As of today, 4250 lunch meals were served to the underprivileged and migrant labourers in and around Chennai. The food distribution at Railway stations is also done by RPF officials and all norms of social distancing is being followed during food distribution. Southern Railway also takes assistance from Municipality and Corporation officials, NGOs and volunteers for this exercise. This food distribution would continue throughout the lockdown period.

The details of the number of distribution at the respective places are as follows:

Katpadi and Vellore – 1000 nos.

Arakonam – 100 nos.

Chennai and surroundings – 2000 nos.

Chengalpattu and Tambaram – 1000 nos.

Gummidipundi & Minjur – 150 nos.

Apart from the distribution done through IRCTC, Railway staff in groups provide food and grocery items generously to the sick, poor people dwelling nearby station areas and coolie porters who have lost their livelihood during the lockdown period.

ए .एलुमलै/ (A.Elumalai)

जनसंपर्क अधिकारी / Public Relations Officer

चेन्नै मंडल/ Chennai Division

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