

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

No.PUB/MAS/2020/04/07

Date:06.04.2020

**प्रेस विज्ञप्ति / PRESS RELEASE**

**Chennai Division's pivotal steps in moving essentials and manufacturing PPEs**

Southern Railway is producing masks and hand sanitizer in-house in all its Workshops and Coach/EMU/Loco maintenance depots and sheds, as these items are of great necessity during the current crucial period.

Masks and Hand sanitizers are being made by employees in various locations like Ayanavaram, Avadi Carshed, Tondiarpet yard, Basin Bridge Junction, Arakkonam Junction, Velachery, and Tambaram etc. Masks are also being made by women staff who are working from their home due to lockdown. As on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020, Chennai Division has in house produced total 16,500 number of masks and 550 litres of hand sanitizers.

Our frontline staff like Gangman, Pointsman, Keyman, Technicians of Signal & Telecommunication and Traction and Distribution (TRD) departments ensure uninterrupted maintenance of infrastructure like track, signals, points and crossings and OverHead Equipment (OHE) are working with dedication, even in this COVID-19 threat. Southern Railway, Chennai Division carries essential commodities to every part of the country to ensure that no part of the nation faces shortage of supply in food grains and essential items. More than 38.473 tonnes of medicines, medical essentials and stationeries have been carried by Parcel Cargo Express Trains. 12,000 tonnes of coal is carried to different parts of the country, by operating 3 rakes every day. On an average 8500 tonnes of food grains per day are being loaded/unloaded and distributed to various parts of the Division through freight trains operated by Chennai Division, since start of the 21days-nationwide lockdown. These freight train operations are managed by Commercial and Operating department staff.

65 Coaches are being converted into COVID-19 isolation wards at Basin Bridge Junction, Chennai Egmore and Tambaram yards. Our railway employees work tirelessly in these yards in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

Operation and maintenance staffs of Chennai Division are working round the clock, since freight operations of Indian Railways are running 24 X 7 to maintain supplies of essentials items and other goods throughout the nation. To ensure safety of these staff and boost their morale, masks and hand sanitizers are being made available to all staff performing on duty.

Ensuring safety and precaution of on-duty officials are of great importance to continue with the transportation of such essential items and Chennai Division is taking every possible step in this direction.

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<https://sr.indianrailways.gov.in/index.jsp>  
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