

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

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प्रेस विज्ञप्ति / PRESS RELEASE

Southern Railway, Chennai Division distributed 3,530 food packets to the destitute in rural areas on 8th April.

Southern Railway, Chennai Division distributes free food, consistently to the homeless and migrant workers stranded even in the rural areas of the division from day-1, when the lock down period was announced nation-wide.

In the midst of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and home quarantines, several families and individuals who lost their bread winning jobs in station premises are sleeping hungry in their homes, stranded at railway stations and borders of the state. Chennai division of Southern Railway continues to distribute free food to the needy and helpless. As for today, the 08th April 2020 3,530 food packets were distributed to poor and migrant workers stranded in the rural areas of Chennai division.

Everyday different kind of food item like Lemon Rice, Curd Rice, Sambhar Rice, Tomato Rice, Tamarind Rice and in few stations homemade food is being served to the needy. As for today, Tomato Rice and Sambhar Rice with pickle has been prepared at IRCTC base kitchen. Distribution was done by Railway Protection Force and entire distribution programme was managed by Commercial staffs of Chennai Division.

The distribution of food packets in various places in Chennai Division are as follows:

(700) packets have been distributed in Katpadi, (500) packets in Vellore, (1500) packets in Chengalpattu, (500) packets in Tambaram, (200) packets in Arakkonam, (80) packets in Gummudipundi, (50) packets in Tiruvallur areas.

All norms of social distancing are 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.

Apart from the distribution done through IRCTC, Railway Scout groups namely, Bharathi Scout group, Tambaram and Bharathidasan Scout group & Kasthuribai guide group, Katpadi and Rabindranath Tagore Scout Group &

Jansirani Guide group, Arakkonam has joined hands in this generous act of providing free food and 25kg rice bags to the destitute and tribal community. Also RPF staff in groups and as individuals provided vegetables and grocery items to the sick, poor people dwelling nearby station areas and coolie porters who have lost their livelihood during the lockdown period.

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