

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

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प्रेस विज्ञप्ति /PRESS RELEASE

CHENNAI DIVISION CELEBRATES 74TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Chennai Division celebrated the 74th Independence Day today, (15.08.2020) at the NGO Annexe Building, Park Town, Chennai. Shri P.Mahesh, Divisional Railway Manager, Chennai Division hoisted the National Flag in the presence of Senior Officers and staff of Chennai Division and accepted the Guard of Honour by the RPF contingents.

While addressing the gathering, Shri P.Mahesh, DRM, Chennai, praised the COVID warriors- Doctors, Nurses, Paramedical staff, Health Unit staff of Chennai Division who are doing yeoman service during this COVID pandemic. He also extended his best wishes to 32 RPF personnel who have donated their blood for Plasma Therapy at Railway Hospital, Perambur for saving the lives of COVID patients. He also mentioned that the Divisional Railway Hospital, Arakkonam has been designated as COVID-19 management hospital by the State Government.

Divisional Railway Manager also mentioned the outline of various performances of Chennai Division during this COVID-19 which includes 135 Shramik Special trains operated during the month of May to July ferrying 1.96 lakh guest workers and Rajdhani Specials operated during May to June to New Delhi and back thereby fetching a revenue of 6.60 Crores.

The DRM mentioned about various important works done utilising lockdown period, like

- Demolition of Elephant gate bridge – reconstruction work in progress
- Remodelling of Jolarpettai yard to improve the speed of trains from 15kmph to 110kmph
- Two lifts commissioned at Arakkonam railway station

- Escalators commissioned at Katpadi, Mambalam and Chennai Egmore
- Wi-Fi facility installed at all stations
- Double discharge platforms work completed at Chennai Egmore and Guindy stations
- A new foot-over-bridge commissioned at Ambattur railway station
- Contactless Ticket checking system was implemented at Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Arakkonam, Jolarpettai, Katpadi and Chengalpattu stations.
- 19 rakes were converted as Utkrisht rakes
- Quick watering facility provided at Chennai Egmore coaching depot

He also added that, in line with Indian Railway Business Development initiative, new traffic of Iron and Steel commenced from Chennai Harbour to BHEL siding, Mukundarayapuram on 18.07.2020 and a total of 5103 tonnes moved generating a revenue of 14 lakhs. Chennai Division also achieved 8.90 million tonnes during 2019-20 for the period April to July 2020 is 2.44 million tonnes with a revenue of Rs.219.95 Crores.

He also pointed out the tremendous support given by Chennai Division in the prevailing CoVID-19 pandemic threat. As a part of CoVID-19 preparedness, 70 coaches were converted into isolation wards. Parcel Cargo trains were introduced during May 2020 for transporting medical and other essentials. Preventive measures were taken to arrest CoVID-19, disinfecting is being done at all office premises, depots and yards. Masks and sanitizers were produced in-house and distributed to all branches. Nearly 96% of employees have downloaded Aarogya Setu app as directed by the Railway Board. "138" - Helpline number functioning round the clock to know the queries related to refunds, reservations, resumption of train services, booking of parcel special etc.

DRM congratulated all Officers, Supervisors and staff of Chennai Division who have performed exceptionally well during the Corona crisis and also requested all Railwaymen to take adequate precautions against this pandemic and strictly adhere to the safety protocols in the interest of your family, railways and the nation.

Sd/-

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

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