



दक्षिण रेलवे/SOUTHERN RAILWAY  
चेन्नै मंडल/CHENNAI DIVISION

No. PUB/MAS/2023/09/10

Date: 24.09.2023

प्रेसविज्ञप्ति /PRESS RELEASE

**GRAND RECEPTION AT THE DESTINATION STATIONS**

**CEREMONIAL FUNCTION WERE HELD IN ALL STOPPAGES ENROUTE OF THE  
INAUGURAL RUN OF TWO VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS – (TIRUNELVELI –  
CHENNAI EGMORE & VIJAYAWADA – Dr.MGR CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION)  
OF CHENNAI DIVISION.**

Nine new 'Vande Bharat' Express was flagged off by Prime Minister at 12.30 hrs on 24.09.2023 through video conferencing. Of these two Vande Bharat Express trains Tirunelveli – Chennai Egmore and Vijayawada - Dr. MGR Chennai Central are under the preview of Chennai Division of Southern Railway.

Eminent personalities, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and Lt. Governor of Puducherry and Dr L. Murugan, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Thiru Nainar Nagenthran, MLA, Tirunelveli constituency and Thiru Thol Tirumalvalavan, MP, Chidambaram constituency travelled in the maiden journey of the inaugural run of Tirunelveli – Chennai Egmore Vande Bharat Express.

Ceremonial functions were held at enroute stoppages of the inaugural run of Tirunelveli – Chennai Egmore Vande Bharat Express at Tindivanam, Melmaruvathur, Chengalpattu and Tambaram. Officials of Chennai Division, students, Scouts and guides, rail passengers and public participated in the events and accorded warm welcome to the train.

Shri B. Viswanath Eerya, Divisional Railway Manager, Chennai Division of Southern Railway and Senior officials of the Division and staff accorded a warm reception to the inaugural special of Tirunelveli – Chennai Egmore as it arrived at Chennai Egmore at 22.25 hrs on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023. A ceremonial function was organized at Chennai Egmore marking the event.

Thiru Nainar Nagenthran, who was given a warm welcome at Chennai Egmore expressed his happiness and narrated his experience of travel in the prestigious Vande Bharat service.

Shri B. Vishwanath Eerya , Divisional Railway Manager convened a Press Meet and elaborated the media about the features of Vande Bharat Train with regard to the fare, food and journey duration in comparison with the Bus Transport (AC Volvo). Shri Tej Partap Singh, Additional Divisional Railway Manager II, Shri E. Harikrishnan, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager and other officials of Chennai Division were present during the Press Meet.

Vijayawada- Dr. MGR Chennai Central 'Vande Bharat' Express arrived ahead of the scheduled time at 22.05 hrs at Dr. MGR Chennai Central Railway Station. Shri Sachin Punetha, Additional Divisional Railway Manager – I and Shri B.N.S. Challam, Chief Project Manager, Gati Sakthi, Chennai Division accorded warm welcome to the incoming train.

Ceremonial functions were also held at Arakkonam, Tiruvallur, Avadi and Perambur in lieu of the inaugural run. Dance and Music programs were conducted and Officials of Chennai Division, students, Scouts and guides, rail passengers and public participated and accorded warm welcome to the train.

**Scheduled Train timings and stoppages of Tirunelveli – Chennai Egmore - & Dr MGR Chennai Central – Vijayawada Vande Bharat Express Trains:**

**Train No.20666/20665 Tirunelveli – Chennai Egmore - Tirunelveli Vande Bharat Express ( Scheduled Stoppages: Virudunagar, Madurai, Dindigul, Tiruchirappalli, Villupuram and Tambaram)**

Train No. 20665 Chennai Egmore – Tirunelveli Vande Bharat Express (Except Tuesday) will leave Chennai Egmore at 14.50 hrs on and from 25th September, 2023 and reach Tirunelveli at 22.40 hrs, the same day.

Train No. 20666 Tirunelveli – Chennai Egmore Vande Bharat Express (Except Tuesday) will leave Tirunelveli at 06.00 hrs on and from 27th September 2023 and reach Chennai Egmore at 13.50 hrs, the same day.

**Train No.20677/20678 Dr MGR Chennai Central – Vijayawada – Dr MGR Chennai Central Vande Bharat Express: (Scheduled Stoppages: Renigunta, Gudur, Nellore, Ongole and Tenali)**

Train No. 20677 Dr MGR Chennai Central – Vijayawada Vande Bharat Express(Except Tuesday) will depart from Dr MGR Chennai Central on and from 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 05.30 hrs and reach Vijayawada at 12.10 hrs, the same day.

Train No. 20678 Vijayawada – Dr MGR Chennai Central Vande Bharat Express (Except Tuesday) will depart from Vijayawada on and from 25th September 2023 at 15.20 hrs and reach Dr MGR Chennai Central at 22.00 hrs, the same day.

**The above Vande Bharat Express trains have received good patronage from rail users.**

**SD/-**

ए.एलुमलै/ (A.Elumalai)

जनसंपर्कअधिकारी/ Public Relations Officer

चेन्नैमंडल/ Chennai Division

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