



दक्षिणरेलवे/**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**
चेन्नैमंडल/**CHENNAI DIVISION**

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प्रेसविज्ञप्ति / **PRESS RELEASE**

CHENNAI DIVISION STRENGTHENS THE BACKBONE OF RAIL CONNECTIVITY AT ARAKKONAM WITH ₹97-CRORE TRANSFORMATION

In a major step towards strengthening rail infrastructure and enhancing passenger convenience, the **Chennai Division of Southern Railway is undertaking an extensive modernization of the Arakkonam Railway Station Yard at an estimated investment of ₹97.73 crore.** The ambitious project is set to transform one of the busiest and most strategic railway junctions in the region into a faster, safer, and more efficient operational hub.

Arakkonam serves as a critical gateway connecting Chennai with the northern, western, and southern parts of India, while also supporting one of the busiest suburban rail networks in the country. Recognizing its growing importance, **Chennai Division of Southern Railway has undertaken this large-scale infrastructure upgrade to improve operational flexibility**, increase capacity, and ensure seamless train movements for both long-distance and suburban passengers.

A key highlight of the project is the segregation of tracks for **Express and suburban train operations. At present, both services share portions of the same track network, often leading to operational bottlenecks.** The new independent corridors being developed will enable simultaneous movement of trains, significantly improving punctuality and reducing waiting time for passengers.

The modernization works are also expected to provide faster connectivity for Express trains by simplifying train operations at Tiruvalangadu. With smoother routing arrangements, trains passing through this section are expected to save approximately seven minutes in travel time, contributing to improved schedule adherence and enhanced passenger comfort.

Passenger amenities at Arakkonam Junction are receiving a major boost as part of the project. Platforms 3, 4 and 5 are being extended to accommodate full-length 24-coach trains, replacing the present limitation of handling only 18-coach trains. This enhancement will improve operational flexibility while ensuring greater convenience for passengers boarding and alighting from long-distance trains.

The project additionally focuses on improving train speeds and operational efficiency. Removal of the existing non-standard layouts at the Chennai end of the yard will eliminate speed restrictions and facilitate smoother movement of main-line trains at higher sectional speeds. Freight train operations through turnouts are also being upgraded, with permissible speeds increasing from 10 kmph to 30 kmph, enabling faster and more efficient freight handling.

To further strengthen operational capacity, advanced yard systems are being introduced for simultaneous reception and dispatch of trains towards Jolarpettai and Renigunta directions. These improvements are expected to reduce congestion, minimize detention of trains outside the station, and enhance overall traffic management within the junction. **Additionally, the introduction of a new full-length railway-owned goods shed is expected to provide a significant economic boost to the region. As part of the modernization initiative, old crossings within the yard are also being replaced with modern infrastructure to ensure safer and more reliable train operations.**

The ongoing transformation of Arakkonam Junction reflects Chennai Division of Southern Railway's continued commitment to infrastructure development, passenger safety, and operational excellence. Upon completion, the project is expected to deliver long-term benefits to lakhs of passengers travelling daily on the Chennai-Arakkonam-Jolarpettai, Chennai-Arakkonam-Renigunta, and Chennai-Arakkonam-Chengalpattu-Chennai Beach round-trip corridors, while also supporting future growth in both suburban and long-distance rail services.

In this connection, due to the ongoing infrastructure modernization works at Arakkonam Yard, certain suburban and Express train services operating in the Chennai-Arakkonam section have been partially cancelled, rescheduled, or regulated. Passengers are requested to kindly plan their journey accordingly and cooperate with Railways for the early completion of these essential infrastructure enhancement works aimed at improving safety, punctuality, operational efficiency, and long-term passenger convenience.

Sd/-

ए.एलुमलै/ (A.Elumalai)

जनसंपर्कअधिकारी/Public Relations Officer

चेन्नैमंडल/Chennai Division/S.Rly

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