THE ATTRACTIONS OF MADURAI DIVISION

Madurai Division was formed on 16.05.1956 and it is the largest Division on Southern Railway with 1355.96 Route kilometers (BG 1157.77 Km, Under GC 201.19 Km). It extends over 11 districts of Tamilnadu and 1 district of Kerala. The area served by Madurai Division represents the traditional centers of Tamil language, art and culture. It has a very large number of pilgrimage centers and other places of tourist interest.

Major Towns served by the Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Towns</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>Rameswaram</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tirunelveli</td>
<td>Karaikudi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dindigul</td>
<td>Manamadurai</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tiruchendur</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Kodaikanal Road</td>
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<td>Virudunagar</td>
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<td>Palani</td>
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<td>Sivakasi</td>
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<td>Rajapalayam</td>
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<td>Ambasamudrum</td>
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</table>

The City, Madurai

Area
147.99 sq kms

Population: (as of 2011 census)
City: 10,17,865
District: 30,41,038

Average Altitude
100.58 meters (330 feet) above sea-level

Weather
Dry and hot with rains during October-December

Summer
Max: 40 Deg. C.
Min: 26.3 Deg. C.

Winter
Max: 29.6 Deg. C.
Min: 18.0 Deg. C.

Annual Rainfall
850mm (average)
**History of Madurai city**

Madurai is one of the **oldest cities of India**, with a history dating all the way back to the Sangam period of the pre-Christian era. The glory of Madurai returned in a diminished form in the earlier part of previous millennium; it later on came under the rule of the Vijayanagar kingdom. During the 16th and 18th centuries, Madurai was ruled by the Nayak Emperors, the foremost of whom was Tirumalai Nayakar. The Sangam period poet Nakkeerar is associated with some of the **Tiruvilayaadal** episodes of Sundareswarar - that are enacted as a part of temple festival traditions even today.

The Sangam age or the Golden age of Tamil literature – produced masterpieces way back in the Pre-Christian era and in early 1st millennium. Madurai was the seat of the Tamil Sangam or Academy of learning. The entire city of Madurai, is built around the Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple – the temple par excellence. Concentric rectangular streets surround the temple, symbolizing the structure of the cosmos.

As early as the 3rd century BC, Megasthanes visited Madurai. Later many people from Rome and Greece visited Madurai and established trade with the Pandya kings. Madurai flourished till 10th century AD when it was captured by Cholas the arch rivals of the Pandyas.

The Cholas ruled Madurai from 920 AD till the beginning of the 13th century. In 1223 AD Pandyas regained their kingdom and once again become prosperous. Pandian Kings patronised Tamil language in a great way. In 1323, the Pandya kingdom including Madurai became a province of the Delhi Empire, under the Tughlaks.

The 1371, the Vijayanagar dynasty of Hampi captured Madurai and it became part of the Vijayanagar empire. After the death of Krishna Deva Raya in 1530 AD, the Nayaks became independent and ruled the territories under their control. Among Nayaks, Thirumalai Nayak (1623-1659) was very popular, even now he is popular among people, since, it was he who contributed to the creation of many magnificent structures in and around Madurai. The Raja Gopuram of the Meenakshi Amman Temple, The Pudu Mandapam and The Thirumalai Nayakar's Palace are living monuments to his artistic fervor.

Madurai started slipping into the hands of the British's East India Company. In 1781, British appointed their representatives to look after Madurai. George Procter was the first collector of Madurai.

The history of Madurai will not be complete without mentioning the name of **Rani Mangammal**, the woman of great skill and sagacity. History does not provide many instances of ruling queens in Tamil Nadu. Though it was considered that women were not suited to succeed the throne of a kingdom, Rani Mangammal, however shines in almost solitary eminence as an able and powerful ruler in Tamil Nadu.
Madurai is famous for its temples. The Aappudaiyaar Koyil Tevara Sthalam and the Koodalazhagar Divya Desam are the most important temples, one could rarely miss to go. In the vicinity of Madurai is Tirupparamkunram, one of the 6 padai veedu shrines of Murugan (Lord Karthikeya) (glorified in Madurai Sangam Nakeerar’s Tirumurugaatruppadai). Also in the vicinity of Madurai is Alagar Koyil, one of the prominent Divya Desam shrines of the Sri Vaishnavite faith.

**Goripalayam Mosque** is a large mosque in Goripalayam (part of Madurai City) containing two graves (tombs) of Delhi sultans namely Hazrat Khaja Syed Sultan Alauddin Badusha razi and Hazrat Khaja Syed Sulthan Shamsuddin of the Madurai Sultanate. There is also one invisible grave of Hazrat Khaja Syed Sultan Habibuddin razi who is also known as Ghaibi Sulthan. Its dome is 70 feet (21 m) in diameter and 20 feet (6.1 m) in height and made of a single block of stone which was brought from the Azhaga Hills. It is said that it was built by Thirumalai Nayak for his Muslim subjects. 

Gorippalayam Dargah on Urs. The name Gorippalayam comes from the Persian word gor which means grave. This area is called as Goripalayam because the graves of the two famous saints of Islam and rulers of Madurai Hazrat Sulthan Alauddin Badusha (Radiyallah) and Hazrat Sulthan Shamsuddin Badhusha (Radiyallah) are here. A beautiful green tomb can be seen from the A.V. Bridge, which is the Gorippalayam Dargah located in the northern banks of Vaigai River.

**St. Mary’s Churth:** Fr. Bertrend SJ, bought a piece of land in 1840 and a mini chapel dedicated to our Lady of Dolours was constructed in 1841 by Fr. Garnier. He settled down nearly 30 families of Saliers who were persecuted and driven out from W. Pudupatti church. During the period of Fr. Trincal, (1855) the number of Catholics in this area rose from 600 to 2500. To accommodate the Catholics, the Church was expanded by Fr. Hibolite sj and Br. Lemothe, sj who built two bell towers in Roman style about 1972. The Church was extended to the present Gothic style in three parts. Due to lack of fund from Europe caused by World War I in 1914, Fr. Planchard had to sell the land (the present Mission Hospital opposite to the Cathedral) and continue the construction. The work was over in 1916 and Msgr. Faisandier blessed the church on 15th of August. Mr. Savarimuthu, who built St. Joseph’s College buildings was the architect of the Cathedral. When Madurai was created as a new diocese, Msgr. Leonard sj. announced Our Lady of Dolours as Pro-Cathedral. After Fr. Gomez sj,

**Air Connectivity:**

Madurai is well connected by flights from various destinations such as Chennai, Banglore, Mumbai and etc. Madurai, (IXM), offers flights from major airline carriers to a number of well-traveled global destinations.
Industrial Centres

Madurai

The Second largest city of Tamilnadu. Most important center for trade and industry, south of Chennai. Textile and small machinery are the important activities. Jasmine flower is very famous from Madurai and thus industries related to this flower is available in large number.

Rajapalayam

Textile mills, ginning factories, power loom processing factory, cotton mills and some match industries are the major industries at Rajapalayam.

Tuticorin

A main Port city of India. The major harbour of Tuticorin is well known as pearl diving and fishing centre. A passenger cruise from here is operated to Colombo, the Srilankan Capital. It is also centre for a thermal power plant, SPIC, Dharangadhara Chemicals and Sterlite Copper Industry.

Kovilpatti

It is a bifunctional town with commercial and industrial activities prominently. The town started its developments earlier to 1876. It is a town of match factories, textile mills and fireworks industry. It is also famous for the chikkies.

Sivakasi

Famous for Fire Crackers, Printing and Match Box industries honoured as MINI JAPAN by Nehruji. More than 80% of the fire crackers and calendars need of the nation is supplied from here. The fire crackers also exported to many countries. It is one of the highest Excise duty and Sales tax paying industrial town in India.

Tulukkapatti & Talaiyuthu

Cement plants belonging to Madras Cements and India Cements are located here.
Vadipatti

TAFE tractor production unit is situated here. Tractors made here is distributed throughout the nation.

Virudunagar

It exports all kinds of food grains and Edible oil to foreign countries. Virudunagar play an important role in price fixation of consumer products.

PILGRIM CENTRES

Madurai - Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple

One of India’s biggest temples is dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi, the consort of Lord Siva. An excellent example of Dravidian Architecture. The Madurai City is developed keeping the temple at the centre. The Chithra festival celebrated for a fortnight during the Month of April-May is attended by more than a millions of people from the nearby towns and villages. The Ganesh idol is said to be found from the ground while excavating for the tank called Theppakulam and made out of a single stone. The Golden Lotus tank inside the temple is treat to eyes. The Mega Gopuras located at the four entrances and also other Gopuras are the main features of the temple. The temple came upto the last round for the recent poll to select the new wonders of world. Thousands of tourists from the foreign countries visit the temple every month. It attracts devotees from all over India and tourists from all over the world.

Tiruparankundram

Lord Subramanya temple, one of the six abodes of Lord Subramanya. It is a cave temple, 7 kms from Madurai. The Lord Karthikeya married Devayanai here. The Soorasamharam and Thaipoosam are the important festivals celebrated here, attended by lakhs of people from the nearby towns and villages.
Srivilliputtur

Sri Renganatha Swami temple. The 60 metre high gopuram, one of the tallest in South India and the Ratha (Car) of this temple is one of the biggest and has beautiful carvings from the scriptures. Andal, the devotee of Lord Vishnu who was accepted as Garland by Lord Vishnu is one of the main deity here. The Main Gopuram of this temple is the symbol of Government of Tamilnadu.

Rameswaram

It is one of the most sacred and historical towns of India. It is well known for its Sri Ramanatha Swamy temple and the corridor in the temple is the longest in India. The temple is considered as the holy place to be visited by every Hindu in pair with the temples at Kasi, the Banaras city. The sea at this place called “Agni Theertham” believed to be so sacred that the person take a dip will become pure in heart. The idol of Lord Siva is believed to be created by Sita, wife of Lord Rama while returning from Sri Lanka after winning over the King Ravana in the Ramayana. The Ram Sethu, a bridge like structure is considered to be constructed by the Lord Rama and his sena. The Bathing Ghat, Kothanda Rama Temple and other nearby islands-abundant with coral reefs and others marine wonders are worth to visit. The Danuskodi, a town at the Eastern tip of the South India was devasted by a cyclone during December 1964 and remains as historical witness for the cyclone. Pamban bridge is unique Railway bridge of its kind in entire world.

Sankarankoil

Sri Sankaranarayana Swami temple was built by Ukira Pandiyan, 900 years ago. It is one of the important temples in the Southern Region. This temple is dedicated to both lord Siva and Vishnu.

Palani

One of the six abodes of Lord Karthikeya. The shrine stands on top of the Palani Hills consisting of 660 steps. There are rope ways and winch train to take pilgrims to the top. The main deity is called Dandayudhapani. Pilgrims from various parts of the country visit this temple. Large number of devotees visits the temple by foot from their residents of hundreds of kilometre away every year as part of their prayer. The temple is visited by millions of people every year and considered to be the third temple visited by largest people next to Sabarimala and Tirupathi in the nation.

Tiruchendur
On the coast, south of Tuticorin, this impressive shore temple is located and it is one of the six abodes of Lord Karthikeya and is very popular with pilgrims. The location of the temple is ideal and draws a perennial stream of devotees. The temple overlooking the sea is an inspiring sight. Soora samharam is the main festival of this temple, which is attended by lakhs of people.

**Tenkasi**

The Vishvanathar temple here, one of the ancient temples built during the Pandyas period is considered to be “Banaras of south India” and has a large area in this part of country. The temple has Deities of Lord Siva, Lord Karthikeya and many other important Deities. The Gopuram of this temple which was not finished by the kind, was constructed recently and is one of the tallest Gopurams in Tamilnadu. The Ilangi Kumarar, Thirumalai Kumarar temples are also located nearby and both the temples are very famous, ancient and loved to be visited by the large number devotees from South Tamil Nadu.

**Aryankavu, Kulathupuzha, Kotarakara**

Two out of four important temples of Lord Ayyappa are located at Aryankavu and Kulathupuzha near Tenmala stations in Sengotta-Quilon section and the Ganesh temple at Kottarakara is also a famous temple in this section.

**TOURIST CENTRES**

**Madurai – Thirumalai Nayak Palace**

This Palace was built in 1636 by King Thirumalai Nayak with the help of an Italian Architect. During the British rule, in 1822, Lord Nepier made several renovation works. Then the palace was utilized to house some officials of the judiciary and district administration. After independence, this palace was declared as a national monument and is now under the care of the Tamilnadu Archaeological Department. It can be visited from 9 a.m to 5 p.m. The history of this palace is depicted through Light and Sound Shows in English, Hindi and Tamil daily, after 5pm.

**Kodaikkanal**

Kodaikanal is one of the famous hill resorts of India and large number of tourist from all over the world are visiting this hill every year. It is Hill princess of the South India. Kodai is located 2130 m. above the sea level in the Western ghats, 120 km from Madurai. The unique feature of this resort is that the weather is pleasant throughout the year. It is a hill valley, Pillar Rocks, Pine forest are famous among sightseeing spots. The Berijam Lake (protected area) and way to it are visual treat to eyes and a memorable sight for the nature lovers.
Tenkasi (Courtallam)

Courtallam is a well-known bathing place in different falls having major tourist attraction. Some of its magnificent waterfalls (there are as many as seven) of the Chittar river are said to have medicinal properties. The experiencing of bathing under each falls is different from each one. Bathing in these waterfalls is considered good for both mind and body. Many spiritual institutions by famous philosophers are located here. Boat house in the lake is a newly added attraction.

Megamalai

Megamalai, popularly called High Wavy Mountains, is a cool and misty mountain range situated in the Western Ghats in Theni district, Tamilnadu, South India. It is a place of natural beauty dotted with cardamom plantations and tea estates. The place is situated at an elevation of 1,500 m above sea level and it is rich in flora and fauna. The area is less habituated and thus the nature is protected with pure water and air. Few dams and falls are adding beauty to it.

Karaikkudi

Literally called 'Chetti land' in Tamil, is a collection of 76 villages/towns. Karaikkudi became popular because the area is famous for the type of houses built with limestone called 'karai veedu' and also may be due to a plant called "Karai" which is widely spread over this area. Most of the people from this land migrated to Burma during the Second World War and the palace like large houses remains here as historical memories.

Thirumayam

Thirumayam is a place of historical importance located about 20 km south of the town of Pudukkottai. Thirumayam fort, set in 40 acres (160,000 m2), is of great historical importance. It was built by Sethupathi Vijaya Raganatha Thevar, ruler of Ramanathapuram in AD 1687.

Suruli falls

This is located 56 km from Theni. It is a two stage cascading water fall. The Suruli River supplying the falls originates from the Megamalai mountain range. The falls drop from a height of 150 feet (46 m) gathers into a pool, flows for a short distance and again plummets an additional 40 feet (12 m).
Dhanushkodi

Dhanushkodi is a town/village at the southern tip of the Rameswaram island. Dhanushkodi is about 18 miles (29 km) West of Talaimannar in Sri Lanka. The Dhanushkodi Railway line running from Pamban Station was destroyed in the 1964 cyclone and a passenger train drowned in the sea.

Ariyaman Beach

On the side of Palk Bay in Ramanathapuram district, is the Ariyaman Beach. It is a much sought by tourist because the waters here are calm and the waves gentle. The beach is clean and fringed by casuarina trees that offer shade to those who like to picnic here. The watchtower and children's park are ever popular. Adding to the attraction are the waterside attractions with water scooters and wind surfing, and for the less adventurous the aquarium and museum.

Papanasam - Agasthiyar Temple and Falls:

Agasthiyar falls is located at Papanasam, which is at a distance of 4 kms from Papanasam Shiva Temple. One can reach these Agasthiyar Falls and the Temple by trekking a distance of 3 kms. It is located near Ambasamudrum in Tirunelveli-Tenkasi section. Regular buses are available to visit these temples from Tirunelveli and Tenkasi. From here, we can visit the servalaar dam, Bana theertham falls which are scenic spot and picturesque locations liked by nature lovers.

Mancholai

This quiet Hill resort in the Western Ghats is about 6000 feet high. Manjolai is the nearby town and is an ideal summer resort. It is 50 kms from Ambasamudram. One can reach Lower Kodaiyar by winch. This hill resort offers a panoramic view to the tourists. Important locations are Oothu and Kuthiraivetti etc. They are the best viewpoints.
1. Route Kms.

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2. No.of trains run

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3 Special Trains Run

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4. Contact Nos.

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<td>Shri. Ajai Kant Rastogi DRM</td>
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<td>Shri. R.V.B. Babu ADRM</td>
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</table>
CHRONOLOGY - Development of Railways in the region

1. Trichinopoly Junction to Madura Railway line was opened on 1st September 1875 (154.5 kms)
2. Madurai to Tuticorin line was opened on 01.01.1876 (158.85 kms)
3. Vanchi Maniyachi to Tirunelveli line was opened on 01.01.1876
4. Tuticorin-Foreshore line was opened on 07.08.1899
5. Madurai to Mandapam line was opened on 01.08.1902 (129.55 kms)
6. Tirunelveli to Kallidaikurichi line was opened on 01.06.1902 (30.78 kms)
7. Kallidaikurichi to the British Frontier near Shencottah line was opened on 01.08.1903 (50.34 kms)
8. Quilon to Punalur line was opened on 01.06.1904 (45.51 kms)
9. Punalur to the Frontier of Travancore State near Shencotta line was opened on 26.11.1904 (47.91 kms)
10. Pamban to Rameswaram line was opened on 11.09.1906 (11.18 kms)
11. Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi Jetty line was opened during December 1908.
12. Dhanushkodi Jetty to Dhanushkodi point line was opened on 01.12.1914
13. Mandapam to Pamban line was opened on 24.02.1914 (13.06 kms)
14. Virudunagar to Tenkasi line was opened on 29.06.1927.
15. Dindigul to Pollachi line was opened during 1928
16. Tutocorin harbour to Tirunelveli BG line was opened during 1956
17. Dindigul –Madurai BG line was opened in 1992
18. Madurai-Tuticorin MG line was converted into BG in 1993
19. Tiruchirappalli- Dindigul MG line was converted into BG in 1999
20. Virudunagar-Rajapalayam MG line has been converted into BG and opened for traffic on 01.06.2003.
21. Rajapalayam – Tenkasi MG line was converted into BG on 20.09.04.
22. Madurai – Manamadurai BG converted line was opened on 30.04.05
23. Tiruchchirappalli – Pudukottai BG converted Route was opened on 05.01.07
24. Pudukkottai– Karaikudi BG converted line opened on 19.05.07
25. Manamadurai – Rameswarem BG converted line opened on 12.08.07
26. Tenkasi – Sengottai twin Gauge line opened on 07.02.08
27. Karaikudi – Manamadurai BG Converted line opened 02.07.08
28. Dindigul – Kodaikanal Road BG converted line opened 03.10.08
29. Kodaikanal Road – Madurai BG converted line opened 29.07.09
30. Tirunelveli – Tiruchendur BG converted line opened on 27.09.08
31. Kollam- Punalur BG converted line opened on 12.05.2010
32. Tirunelveli – Tenkasi BG converted line opened on 21.09.12
33. Dindigul – Palani BG converted line opened on 20.11.2012
Escalator facility at Madurai junction

Shri Kotla Jaya Surya Prakash Reddy, Hon’ble Minister of State for Railways inaugurated the 6 nos. of escalator facility at Madurai junction on 16.07.2013.

To know the earnings particulars please click the following link:

**General TRD statistics for the complete division:**

1. Madurai Division is a newly Electrified Division of Southern Railway.

   - Electrification with 25kV AC Single Phase Supply for the Single Line Section between Tiruchchirappalli – Dindigul was started in 2009 and completed during the year 2011.
   - Double line section between Dindigul – Madurai and Single Line Section between Madurai –Virudunagar electrification work was test charged with 25 kV AC Single Phase Supply on 30.3.13
   - CRS inspection is concluded for the section between Dindigul –Virudunagar on 21.08.13.
   - Electrification work between Virudunagar- Tirunelveli and Tuticorin is under progress by RE. The section was charged with antitheft 2.2 kv in March 2012. The section up to MEJ is test charged with 25 KV AC supply during March 2013.

**MADURAI DIVISION - COMMERCIAL – General Profile**

**Gist of Amenities provided at stations**

**Computerised Reservation Centres (41):** (Satellite – 2, Non-Railhead –2, India Post – 10 &Others- 25)


**Satellite** – Madurai Tallakulam and Palayamkottai

**Non-Railhead (India Post PRS)** – Kodaikanal Hills, Tiruppattur, Alangulam, Sivagiri, Natham, Udumalaipettai, Pudukottai, Thiruvadanai, Thisayanvilai, Pavuncharam

**NRH PRS**: Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai & V.O.C.College, Tuticorin

**INDIA POST PRS:**

- Thiruppattur, Kodaikanal Hills, Alangulam, Sivagiri, Natham, Udumalaipettai, Pudukottai, Thiruvadanai, Thisayanvilai, Pavurchatram

**IVRS for PNR Enquiry :**

- User friendly No.139 accessible from all over the Division.
Battery Operated Car: (1) Available at Madurai Jn

Credit Card Booking (3): - at Madurai, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin

Pay & Use Toilet (5):- at Madurai, Dindigul, Palani, Rameswaram and Tenkasi

Cleanliness Drive:-

In order to maintain highest level of Cleanliness and Hygiene at stations Cleanliness Drive were launched at all major stations with the participation of Scouts & Guides, Non Governmental Organisations, Students etc. Also the travelling public are frequently educated about the importance of Cleanliness through pamphlets, posters, banners, audio and visual media. With the help of sponsors, Dustbins are provided at various stations for disposal of garbage.

Consultative Committee:

To facilitate participation of public in Railway Management, Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee (DRUCC) Meetings at Division level and Station Consultative Committee (SCC) Meetings at Station level were conducted. Presently SCC are formed at Madurai, Tirunelveli, Virudunagar, Dindigul, Tuticorin, Palani and Punalur. Their main thrust is to see development of the stations.

Retiring Rooms/Dormitories: (RR-15 Stations, Dormitory- 9 Stations)

Madurai, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Dindigul, Virudunagar, Palani, Kodaikanal Road, Rameswaram, Karaikudi, Srivilliputtur, Sivakasi, Tenkasi, Punalur, Sivagangai and Tiruchendur

AC retiring rooms provided at three stations viz. Madurai, Tirunelveli & Rameswaram.

Dormitories have been provided at Madurai, Tirunelveli, Dindigul, Palani, Kodaikanal Road, Rameswaram, Tenkasi, Punalur and Tiruchendur
### LIST OF STATIONS OVER MADURAI JN.

#### No. of RAILWAY STATION OVER MADURAI DIVISION

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<td><strong>141</strong></td>
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Shri. Govindappa Raj, Sr.DCM/MDU 72200 9003862950
Shri. N. Mahesh, DCM/MDU 72202 9003862951
Shri. S. Sunil Kumar, ACM/MDU 72204 9003862952