

SOUTHERN RAILWAY—TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION

1.0 Brief History:

Southern Railway was formed 62 years back, on **14th April 1951** by the amalgamation of the South Indian Railway, Madras & Southern Mahratta Railway and Mysore State Railway.

Tiruchchirappalli Division is one of the six Divisions of Southern Railway. Tiruchchirappalli Division has a long cherished history as compared to other Divisions of Southern Railway. Well before the formation of the Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli was the headquarters of the South Indian Railway. The South Indian Railway had its origin in July 1874 succeeding the earlier Great Southern of India and Carnatic Railway Companies. The First line from Nagappattinam to Erode was commenced in May 1859 by the Great Southern of India. It is interesting to note that this line was completed on the Broad Gauge but later converted into Metre Gauge between July 1875 and December 1879.

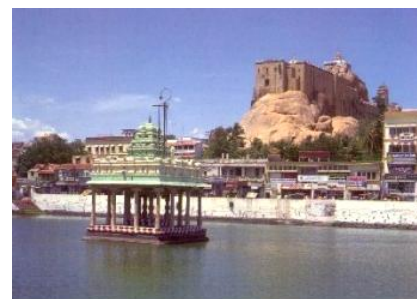
The South Indian Railway progressed rapidly and by 1878 it had opened the Metre Gauge line from Madras to Tuticorin (via Thanjavur and Madurai) with a gap over the Colerroon River near Chidambaram over which a bridge was built in 1879. The lines formerly owned and worked by the Great Southern of India and the Carnatic Railway Companies were amalgamated on 1st July 1874 under the title of South Indian Railway. Later the South Indian Railway and the Villupuram - Guntakal State Railway were purchased by the Government and worked under the name of South Indian Railway Company (Limited). Soon after India's Independence, the Government undertook a programme of regrouping the smaller Railway systems into initially 6 sufficiently large and administratively viable systems. As a result of this integration process the lines worked by the erstwhile South Indian Railway, Madras & Southern Mahratta Railway, and Mysore State Railway were grouped into **Southern Railway on 14th April 1951**.

Trichchirappalli Division formed on 01.16.1956, serves the State of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry. This Division may be the only Division in the world maintaining the Railways developed by both the British and the French empires. The Pondicherry railway line was constructed in the year 1879 by the Pondicherry Railway Company under the supervision of South Indian Railway with the object of connecting the town and the port of Pondicherry with South India and to develop the resources of the Pondicherry Territory. Even though there was total rivalry between the then Super Powers--the French and the English--when it came to economic development they had a very good understanding and the Pondicherry Railway system was a good example of it.

2.0 SALIENT FEATURES:

2.1 Tiruchchirappalli Division occupies one of the most fertile landscapes of Tamil Nadu with the prosperous and lush Cauvery flowing through it. Thanjavur, the Granary of South India, lies in this division. Tiruchchirappalli Division of the Southern Railway is privileged to possess a veritable panorama – the elements of culture, nature and history fusing together and beckoning tourists from all over India and the world over.

2.2 ABODE OF TEMPLES: Tiruchchirappalli Division is considered as a 'Pilgrim's Paradise' and can be called as the Temple Division of the Indian Railways. The division prides itself in having innumerable historic pilgrim centers such as Srirangam, Thanjavur, Chidambaram, Kumbakonam, Nagappattinam, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvanaikovil, Tiruvarur, Tirunallar (Karaikkal), etc. Most of these places have a hallowed niche in the history of South India and attained glory due to the patronage of the great kings of the Chola, Pallava, Vijayanagar Dynasties the Maratha and Naik Chieftains.



ROCK FORT TEMPLE



SRIRANGAM RAJA GOPURAM

Pilgrims visit these temples, which are well connected by train services, often using the railway network of this Division. Special trains are run to these places every year during important festival times. The internationally famous Aurobindo Ashram in Puducherry is located in this Division. Quite a few foreign tourists travel in the Division to visit, among others, the Aurobindo Ashram, the Brahadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur, the Ranganathaswami Temple at Srirangam and the Rockfort Temple at Tiruchchirappalli.

It is noteworthy that the famous Durgah at Nagore and the Vailankanni Church near Nagappattinam are located in this Division. Though these two places were essentially worshipped by the Muslims and the Christians respectively, people of all Faiths throng here seeking peace.

3.0 PHYSICAL FEATURES:

Tiruchchirappalli Division encompasses Tiruchchirappalli, Thanjavur, Nagappattinam, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, South Arcot, Villupuram, Pudukkottai, Sivaganga and the recently formed Perambalur and Ariyalur districts of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry with a route kilometrage of **1028.40** kms, of which **BG comprises of 845.11 kms (52.93 kms between VLDE – ALU has been doubled** and recently opened for traffic) and the balance **146.50** Km. of the MG section between Thiruvarur and Karaikkudi and **36.79** Km. between Tiruthuraipundi and Agastiyampalli are under Gauge conversion. The **Villupuram—Puducherry** Section having a route **Km. of 37.62** and **Villupuram--Tiruchchirappalli (Chord) line having a route km. of 179.63** and **Villupuram – Katpadi section having a route km of 159.10** have been electrified.

The Division has **152** Stations, working as detailed below.

Type	BG	Under GC	Total
Block	83	11	94
CNC	23	2	25
Halt	29	5	34
Total	135	18	153

The Division predominantly has single line working except for the stretch of track between Valadi and Ariyalur for a length of **52.93** Km. in VM-TPJ (Chord) line and for a small stretch of **2.8** kms. of between Tiruchchirappalli and Ponmalai where the section works as Double line section.

4.0 PASSENGER TRAFFIC

This division carries around **34 lakhs** originating passengers every month. It runs a total number of **163** passenger carrying trains every day on an average, providing transportation facility to approximately **1.13 lakh** passengers a day. The passenger earning during the current year is Rs. **181.23 crores** upto **October 2014** against **Rs.159.75 crores** during the corresponding period last year. Other sundry earnings account for about **Rs.27.30 crores up to Oct 2014 during the current year**. The earning on this score during the corresponding period of the previous year is **Rs.28.83 Crores**.

During important festival season and holiday seasons, special trains are run and extra coaches attached to the existing trains to meet the additional demands.

5.0 GOODS TRAFFIC

The division primarily caters to the need of transport of Coal, Lignite, Cement, Food grains, sugar, charcoal. The major industries offering train load and wagon load traffic and their serving stations are as follows.

Sl. No.	Industry	Serving Station	Commodities offered
1	Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited	Kallakkudi Palanganatham	Cement
2	TamilNadu Cements Corporation Ltd. Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited Madras Cements Limited Grasim Cements Limited Ultra tech	Ariyalur	
3	Madras Cements Limited	Ichchangadu	
4	India Cements Limited	Ichchangadu	
5	Chettinad Cement Corporation	Sillakudi	
6	ST-CMS Electric Company Pvt. Limited (TAQA)	Vadalur to Uttangalmangalam	Lignite
7	Bannari Sugars Rajarajeswari Sugars Kallakurichi Co-operative Sugars	Tiruvannamalai	Sugar
8	EID Parry India Limited	TPGY & Nellikkuppam	
9	Thiurarooran Sugars	Kumbakonam & Vriddhachalam	
10	Ambiga Sugars	Ichchangadu	
11	Madras Sugars	Tirukkivilur	
12	Food Corporation of India	TPGY, PDY, CBU & CUPJ	Food grains
13	Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation	TVR, NGT, MV, NMJ, KMU, SY & TJ	
14	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited	GOC	
15	Karaikkal port private limited	Nagore	Coal, Fertiliser, iron ore, Gypsum, Food grains, Containers
16		NPM	Casurina Wood
17		CUPJ, KKPM, ICG	Containers

6.0 STATION IMPROVEMENTS

Tiruchchirappalli Jn., Thanjavur Jn., Villupuram Jn. and Puducherry station have been Improved as model stations and provided with state-of-the-art passenger amenities.

In addition under the **Touch and Feel concept**, the following NINE stations have been completed as Modern Stations.

- * Tiruchchirappalli Jn.
- * Thanjavur Jn
- * Puducherry
- * Kumbakonam
- * Vriddhachalam Jn.
- * Mayiladuthurai Jn.
- * Thiruvarur Jn.
- * Nagappatinam
- * Srirangam
