



## SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Dear Colleagues,

It is always a pleasure to greet one and all through this newsletter. It serves as a vehicle of communication to keep us abreast of the developments in various departments of our mammoth organisation.

The year 2011-12 has been a fruitful period. Southern Railway has achieved gross earnings of ₹ 5568 crores during the fiscal 2011-12. From passenger traffic, the zone has earned ₹ 2560 crores, which is ₹ 242 crores more than last year's earnings. The earnings from goods traffic was ₹ 2221 crores which is an increase of ₹ 268 crores over last year's earnings. The year was also special as our sundry earnings, through licensing of land to Chennai Metro, has touched an all time high of ₹ 512.9 crores. The operating ratio has touched an all time low of 119.87 which is the best ever performance after the VI Pay Commission recommendations were implemented. The originating loading of freight has reached 35 million tonnes as against the expected loading of 34 million tonnes. Coal and Fertilizer loading recorded 18.62 MT and 4.98 MT respectively which is the highest ever in the history of Southern Railway. On the passenger sector Southern Railway has introduced 16 Mail / Express trains, 11 passenger trains, 10 EMUs and one MEMU train. The punctuality of the railway has increased to 95%. During the financial year, 1651 special trains were run and 7678 extra coaches were attached to Mail / Express trains.

In recognition of significant contributions made by Southern Railway, Railway Board has conferred the following efficiency shields:

- Shield for Level crossing & Road over bridge safety works
- Civil Engineering Construction Shield
- Signal & Telecommunication Engineering Shield
- Comprehensive Health Care Shield

Needless to say that all these achievements were made possible with the contribution of each and every one of you. I am sure that these significant achievements will serve as incentives to motivate us to perform better in the current year. Together let us make our organisation more vibrant to serve our customers better.



Deepak Krishan  
General Manager

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## Laying of foundation stone for Rail Coach Factory at Palakkad



Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, Shri Dinesh Trivedi, laid the foundation stone for Rail Coach Factory at Palakkad on 21.02.2012 in the presence of Shri Oommen Chandy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala and Shri K.H. Muniyappa, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways made an announcement in the Railway Budget for 2008-2009, that a Rail Coach Factory would be set up at Kanjikode in Palakkad, in the state of Kerala. The objective of this project is to set up facilities for manufacture of modern LHB design stainless steel and state-of-the art aluminium coaches for the Indian Railways. This will help Indian Railways in ensuring timely availability of passenger coaches to meet the increasing demands of passenger transportation. This project will aid development and generation of employment in Kerala. In addition to generation of large scale direct employment, there are big opportunities for growth of industries like foundry, machining, fabrication and sheet metal welding around Palakkad district and Kerala as a whole.



The coach factory is to be located at Kanjikode in Palakkad District. The location is 16 kms from Palakkad Municipal area towards the east. The location has road and rail connectivity in the Palakkad - Coimbatore section.

The adequacy of the land for setting up of Rail Coach Factory has been reviewed and found that 239 acres of plain land is sufficient for setting up of the Rail Coach Factory and the land would be handed over to the Ministry of Railways at a cost of ₹ 33.70 crores for setting up the proposed Rail Coach Factory which can produce upto 400 coaches per year. The project is estimated at a cost of ₹ 550 crores and will be undertaken as a joint venture in which Railways shall contribute 26% of the equity.





## Inauguration of Manned Level Crossings

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways, Shri K.H. Muniyappa, inaugurated a manned level crossing gate at Anjilipalam and dedicated the recently manned level crossings at Alappuzha Section on 06.05.2012 at Anjilipalam.



As a safety initiative, Southern Railway has converted unmanned level crossings in the Ernakulam - Alappuzha - Kayankulam section to manned ones. An amount of ₹ 2.5 crores was spent for developing infrastructure to convert these level crossings into manned ones. Adequate number of ex-servicemen have also been appointed for manning these level crossings.

There are 26 more unmanned level crossings in this

section that will be converted into manned ones through development of infrastructure, by construction of limited use subways and laying of parallel roads to nearby level crossings.

The unmanned level crossing No.36 at km.35 / 800-900 in the Cherthala - Mararikulam section has been converted into a manned level crossing with the funds made available from the MPLADS scheme. Shri K.C. Venugopal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Power, allotted ₹ 26 lakhs for conversion of this unmanned level crossing into a manned one for the benefit of the people in this locality. The new level crossing serves the needs of a large number of people from various parts of the state and provides easy access to the western part of Cherthala where the famous Aruthangal church is located.



## Inauguration of Double Line Between Kayankulam - Cheppad - Haripad



There are 12 crossing stations in this single line electrified section. Increase in train operations due to growing passenger traffic necessitated the doubling of the single line section and the Ministry of Railways sanctioned the doubling work between Kayankulam and Haripad in two phases. The doubling work between Cheppad and Kayankulam (7.76 kms) was sanctioned in the Railway Budget for the year 2003-04 at a cost of ₹ 21.49 crores. Subsequently, the doubling between Cheppad and Haripad (5.28 kms) was also approved under the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2003-04 at a cost of ₹ 14.40 crores. One major bridge and 32 minor bridges in the Kayankulam - Cheppad - Haripad section have been reconstructed. There are 19 level-crossings, out of which 13 are manned. The track is laid with 52 kg rails on PSC sleepers.

The newly converted double line between Kayankulam - Cheppad - Haripad was commissioned on 19.01.2012 by Shri K.H. Muniyappa, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways. Shri K.C. Venugopal, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Power and Shri Aryadan Muhammed, Hon'ble Minister for Power, Govt. of Kerala, were present at the function.

The Ernakulam - Alappuzha - Kayankulam section is a 100.34 km. long single line section on the Chennai - Thiruvananthapuram corridor. This single line section is sandwiched between the Ernakulam - Shoranur and Kayankulam - Thiruvananthapuram double line sections.





## Laying of Foundation for Doubling Works - Haripad and Ambalappuzha



Foundation for doubling works between Haripad and Ambalappuzha was laid on 19.01.2012 by Shri K.H. Muniyappa, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways. Shri K.C. Venugopal, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Power and Shri Aryadan Muhammed, Hon'ble Minister for Power, Govt. of Kerala, were present at the function.

As part of the next phase of the Ernakulam - Kayankulam doubling project, doubling works will be taken up between Haripad and Ambalappuzha. Doubling of the Haripad - Ambalappuzha section was sanctioned by the Ministry of Railways in the year 2007-08. Doubling of this 18.14 km. long line is estimated to be completed at a cost of ₹ 96.6 crores.

## New MEMU service between Katpadi and Salem



The inaugural service of the new MEMU service between Katpadi and Salem was flagged off on 21.03.2012 at the Katpadi railway station by Shri S. Jagathrakshakan, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting.

## MEMU Service between Ernakulam and Kollam

Shri Oommen Chandy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala flagged off two pairs of MEMU services between Ernakulam and Kollam, one pair via Alappuzha and the other via Kottayam, at a function held at Ernakulam on 18.03.2012. Elected representatives from the region attended the function.

## Additional EMU services



Additional EMU services between Avadi - Chennai Beach, Chennai Beach - Gummidiipundi, Gummidiipundi - Chennai Central, Chennai Central - Tiruvallur and Tiruvallur - Chennai Central were flagged off on 18.03.2012 at the Chennai Central MMC suburban station.







## Inauguration of New Broad Gauge Rail Line & Flagging off Train Services Between Nagore and Karaikkal



The new broad gauge line between Nagore and Karaikkal was inaugurated on 17.12.2011 at the Karaikkal Railway station by Shri K.H. Muniyappa, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways in the presence of Shri V. Narayanasamy, Hon'ble Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension. Nagore, located 4 kms north of Nagapattinam, is the sacred town that houses the Dargah dedicated to the 16<sup>th</sup> century Muslim saint. Karaikkal is a major port city on the east coast of India and municipality in Karaikkal district, in the union territory of Pondicherry. Bounded on the north and south by Nagapattinam district, on the west by Tiruvarur and on the east by the Bay of Bengal. Karaikkal is known for its rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

The 10.66 km long broad gauge line between Nagore and Karikkal has been laid at a cost of ₹ 86.58 crores. There are 9 level crossings, 7 major and 35 minor bridges in the section. Passenger amenities like VIP lounge, booking office, reservation office, waiting hall and rooms have been provided at the Karaikkal railway station.

The broad gauge link to the Karaikkal port has already given a boost to freight traffic. Consequent to the completion of the Nagore - Karaikkal broad gauge section, the Chennai Egmore - Nagore - Chennai Egmore Expresses have been extended to run upto / from Karaikkal and the Ernakulam - Nagore - Ernakulam Expresses have been extended to run from / upto Karaikkal with effect from 18.12.2011.

## Nilambur Road – Thiruvananthapuram Rajya Rani Daily Link Express



The inaugural special of the Nilambur Road - Thiruvananthapuram Rajya Rani Express was flagged off by Shri K.H. Muniyappa, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways on 16.11.2011 at the Nilambur Road railway station, in the presence of Shri E. Ahamed, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Human Resource Development. Rajya Rani Express services connect the state capitals with the important cities / towns in those states.

The introduction of the Rajya Rani express between Nilambur Road and the state capital of Thiruvananthapuram has given a fillip to the tourism industry as it provides increased connectivity to renowned tourist destinations. The new service also immensely benefits the students and professionals from the IT industry. Nilambur Road, which was hitherto connected to the main line of the railway network through passenger

services, has got its first direct rail link to the capital city and this has given a boost to trade and commerce in the region.





## Mangalore - Palakkad Intercity Express (Daily)



Intercity Express between Mangalore Central and Palakkad Junction was flagged off by Shri K.H. Muniyappa, Hon'ble MOSR (M) in the presence of Shri Praveen, Worshipful Mayor of Mangalore City Corporation, on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011 from Mangalore Central station. Responding to increasing popularity of point-to-point express trains, several new trains connecting important cities have been introduced to cater to the segment of frequent inter-city travellers.

The gateway to coastal Karnataka, Mangalore is the state's second largest city which also houses a major port. Mangalore also serves as an ideal tourist base as it is surrounded by several hallowed pilgrim shrines. The picturesque town of Palakkad lies at the foothills of the gigantic western ghats. Boasting of a salubrious climate and a verdant landscape dotted with palm trees, water bodies and lush green paddy fields, Palakkad is hailed as the chief granary of Kerala. The Palakkad district is also a tourist's paradise that retains its old world charm.

In order to cater to the increasing demands of passenger traffic, an intercity daily express service operated at convenient timings has been introduced. The newly introduced intercity service serves as an ideal train for technocrats, tourists, businessmen and traders - and the frequent travellers hailing from areas around Kasaragod, Kannur and Kozhikkode. The new service also serves as a convenient link to the Thiruvananthapuram - New Delhi - Thiruvananthapuram Expresses at Palakkad resulting in additional connectivity to upcountry metros.



## 'Awareness on Wheels' Programme



Tiruchchirappalli Division and State Youth and Students Exnora jointly organized a safety and cleanliness awareness campaign on 06.03.2012. Shri P.V. Vaidialingam, Divisional Railway Manager launched the programme by distributing pamphlets along with the Youth Exnora volunteers. Pamphlets were distributed to the passengers of Tiruchchirappalli - Chennai Egmore Cholan Express and a street play stressing the themes of safety and cleanliness was enacted on the platform. Street plays were also enacted on the platforms of major stations including Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Mayiladuthurai, Chidambaram, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Chengalpattu and Tambaram.





## Walkathon on Safety and Security



A walkathon on safety and security of rail passengers was organised by the Chennai Division on 11.12.2011, stressing the need to follow precautions while passing an unmanned level crossing and the dangers of trespassing on tracks. A mass rally of over 500 persons, including school and college students, cine actors, NCC and NSS volunteers, sports persons and railway officials was held along the Marina Beach. Pamphlets on security related matters were issued and banners on safety and security were exhibited during the rally.

## Seminar on Green Energy

A Southern Regional Railway seminar on 'Green Energy' was conducted at Southern Railway at Tiruchchirappalli on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The year 2011-12 was declared as the year of 'Green Energy' by Indian Railways. In order to create awareness among the Railwaymen of southern region, consisting of Southern, South Western, South Central Railway and the Production Units - Integral Coach Factory, Chennai and Rail Wheel Factory, Bengaluru - a technical seminar was organised by Southern Railway at Tiruchchirappalli on 25.11.2011.

Shri M.C. Murali, Chief Electrical Engineer / Southern Railway addressed the gathering on global warming issues and the need to use more renewable energy sources. He listed out various steps taken by Southern Railway to achieve this. Shri P.V. Vaidialingam, Divisional Railway Manager, Tiruchchirappalli division during his presidential address also stressed upon the need to control global warming and the use of green energy.

Technical papers were presented by professors of the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchchirappalli. Shri Vishnukant, Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer explained the efforts by South Central Railway in constructing 'Green Building' at Secunderabad. Shri P. Raveendra Babu detailed the experience of Southern Railway in the use of bio-diesel being produced at Loco works / Perambur. More than one hundred and fifty officers and supervisors from the railway network of Southern Region, ie. SR, SWR, SCR, ICF & RWF attended the seminar.

## Seminar on Arbitration



A seminar on Arbitration was conducted by Southern Railway at General Manager's Office in Chennai on 6.3.2012 and 7.3.2012. Fifty railway officers from various offices of Southern Railway participated in the seminar. While inaugurating the seminar, Shri Deepak Krishan, General Manager, Southern Railway explained the importance of arbitration, role of arbitrators, objectives and purpose of the seminar.

The Chief Guest of the seminar, Shri Chander Prakash, Retd. Chief Administrative Officer / Construction, Northern Railway, New Delhi delivered a guest lecture on various provisions available in General Conditions of Contract / Engineering code to deal with arbitration cases.

Dr. G. Narayanan, Additional General Manager, Southern Railway and Shri R. Rajamani, (Retd. Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, Lucknow delivered lectures. Various legal provisions on arbitration were discussed with the participants by Senior Counsel / Counsels for Railways. Shri B. Ilangovan, Deputy General Manager / General, delivered vote of thanks.





## Innovation in Ultrasonic Testing of Rails

Ultrasonic flaw detection (USFD) testing of rails/welds is carried out to find the inherently developed flaws in rail by non destructive method. Based on fracture mechanics, the frequency of testing of rails is made, ranging from once in two months to once in two years, based on loads carried by track (gross million tonnes). A need arises to improve the technology with automation to reduce human discretion and also to increase speed of testing. This has led to the development of an advanced USFD testing machine by Southern Railway in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

The salient features of the new testing device is mechanised testing, speedy testing with auto recording facility, larger depth coverage and more efficient detection of moon defects and star cracks, monitoring the growth of defect, superior quality of pulse receivers and reusable probes, increased storage and retrieval of data facility and feasibility of recording in night block. These are definite advantages and improvements over the existing system of testing of rails.



Machine Testing



Manual Testing

## Development of Adaptor for EMU coach couplers for use at accident sites – Innovation by EMU workshop, Tambaram

In the event of derailment of an EMU, it is observed that the derailed trailer coach after its rerailment could not be moved out to clear the section for want of proper coupler between the diesel locomotive and the trailer coach, as the couplers are of different type. While the locomotive has screw coupler, the trailer coach has schaku coupler. Much time is consumed in making attempts to remove the screw coupler of the motor coach ahead of the trailer coach and fit it in place of schaku coupler of subject trailer coach.

In order to save time and to move any derailed EMU coach from the accident site, an attempt was made by the EMU workshop at Tambaram to develop an universal coupling arrangement between the two different types of couplers i.e., Schaku coupler and screw coupler. Finally a hook assembly from the available spares was made after modification to suit the male as well as female parts of the schaku coupler so that any trailer coach can be coupled to any locomotive so that it can be moved out of the accident site immediately to clear the section.

## e-Auction introduced

Southern Railway Stores Department has introduced e-auction for selling of scrap materials. The e-auction system was launched on 11.04.2012, by Shri Deepak Krishan, General Manager, Southern Railway in the presence of Shri B.K. Sinha, Controller of Stores. This system provides a common platform for scrap purchasers all over the country for offering their bids on-line in a fair and transparent manner.

To participate in e-auction, purchasers will have to register themselves with the Indian Railways e-auction portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in), should have internet banking account with State Bank of India and Digital Signature Certificate etc. On commencement of e-auction, scrap material worth ₹ 22 lakhs have been sold. Southern Railway is selling scrap materials to the tune of ₹ 350 crores per annum. The General Manager also inaugurated the renovated railway staff canteen at the Stores office.

## Innovation at GOC

Shunting locomotives are utilized in Stations, Coaching Depots and Yards. During shunting, the shunter is not supposed to exceed 15 kmph speed. But often it is noted that the shunters are not following this speed scrupulously. This not only damages the concrete aprons at stations, points and crossings, but also leads to mishaps like overshooting of signals, derailments and collisions. To eliminate this problem Diesel Shed / GOC has developed a device for over-speed alert and protection against over speeding. This device will automatically reduce the power with audio-visual indication and will not allow the shunter to exceed the speed of 15 kmph even if he accelerates the locomotive.





## High Level Co-Ordination Meeting on Security in Southern Railway



A high level coordination meeting of senior police officials of the states of Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh with senior officials of the Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police and senior officials of Southern Railway was held on 20.04.2012 at the Southern Railway Headquarters office in Chennai. The meeting was presided over by Shri Deepak Krishan, General Manager, Southern Railway.

Various security related issues like drugging of passengers on trains, snatching of jewellery and theft of belongings of passengers were discussed with focus on keeping Southern Railway free from major organised crimes. Safety and security of women passengers on trains was also emphasised.

The need for constant exchange of crime intelligence between the GRP, local police and RPF for effective preventive action against crimes on Railways, terrorist attacks and extremist activities was also stressed. The meeting also discussed aspects of visible policing and access control at important stations over Southern Railway. It was decided to form Inter State Police / RPF teams for investigating cases with inter state ramifications and to unearth inter state criminal gangs.

Shri R. Sekar, IPS, ADGP / Railways / Tamilnadu, Shri V.S.K. Kaumudi, IPS, ADGP, Andhra Pradesh, Shri S. Ananthakrishnan, IPS, IGP / Internal Security / Kerala, Shri B. Srikantappa, IPS, DIG / Railways / Karnataka, Shri V.K. Dhaka, DIG & Chief Security Commissioner, RPF, Southern Railway, Shri B. Mohan, IG & Chief Security Commissioner / RPF, South Central Railway, Principal HODs of Southern Railway and Senior Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force Officers participated in the high-level coordination meeting.



## Disaster Management



The severe cyclonic storm "Thane" that hit the coastal districts of North Tamilnadu on the 29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2011, caused severe damage to railway infrastructure and the Tiruchchirappalli division of Southern Railway bore the brunt of the cyclonic attack. There was complete disconnection of access either by road or rail. A large number of trees fell on the tracks leading to obstruction, OHE lines and LC booms were damaged, roof of residential and service buildings, platforms and foot - over bridges were blown off and water supply lines and sewage lines were damaged. Railway schools, hospitals, quarters and other infrastructure units were totally damaged. Train services were paralysed in the worst affected section of

Villupuram - Mayiladuthurai, Panrutti - Melpattambakkam - Nellikuppam and Kurinjipadi - Cuddalore Port Junction sections.

However, the disaster management team of the Tiruchchirappalli division rose to the occasion with its meticulous planning and timely mobilisation of men and machinery. Through effective liaisoning with the local bodies and concerted efforts of all officers, staff and the local public, the devastating Thane was managed and train services were restored in 28 hours.





## Southern Railway Gears Up to Ensure Polio Free India



Southern Railway once again joined hands with the Nation in its endeavour to bring about a polio-free India. The medical department of Southern Railway set up 240 polio immunisation booths covering major railway stations, railway colonies and railway hospitals to administer polio drops to children below 5 years of railway men and the travelling public on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, the days for Intensive Pulse Polio Immunisation across the Nation. The service was thrown open from 06.00 hrs. to 18.00 hrs. in all major railway stations. Extensive measures were in place to cover the children living in outreach as well as the children living in slums and transit migrants on the sides of railway stations through mobile teams. St. John's Ambulance Brigade and Scouts and Guides of Southern Railway were roped in to assist the Medical Officers in this programme.

## Pension Adalat - 2011



Southern Railway conducted Pension Adalat at the Headquarters Office, Chennai Division and other Divisional Headquarters Offices at Tiruchchirappalli, Salem, Madurai, Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram on 15.12.2011. 617 representations were received and the grievances of almost all the pensioners were fully redressed. 149 fresh pensioners attended the Pension Adalat all over Southern Railway and a total sum of ₹ 22,19,544/- was arranged in favour of the eligible representationists towards arrears of pension, settlement dues, etc.

## Online Booking of Retiring Rooms

Online booking of Retiring Rooms at Chennai Central was commissioned w.e.f. 02.11.2011. Indian Railways has developed a system of online booking in association with the Centre for Railway Information System duly computerising the entire operation. A passenger seeking accommodation in retiring rooms can do so at the time of reserving their journey ticket itself. A passenger reserving tickets at Madurai or New Delhi for journey to Chennai can book retiring room for Chennai at Madurai or New Delhi itself by quoting the PNR number of the ticket to the matron of the retiring room of the respective stations. Passenger seeking accommodation at Retiring Room at various stations can do so by approaching and quoting the PNR number to the matron of Retiring Room of the station at the time of reserving the journey ticket. This facility is open to all passengers 90 days in advance as applicable in normal reservation by trains. In case, the passenger cancels the journey, the retiring room reservation can also be cancelled and refunds will be made as per extant rules on par with reservation of tickets.

This system also enables passengers to know the vacancy position of retiring rooms at various locations where on-line booking has been commissioned. This facility is available initially at 18 stations on Indian Railways including 3 stations namely Chennai Central, Madurai and Rameswaram.





## Inauguration of Officer's Quarters at Tiruchchirappalli



Shri Deepak Krishan, General Manager, Southern Railway, inaugurated the newly - constructed officer's quarters at Tiruchchirappalli on 16.05.2012.

## GM's Annual Inspection of Palakkad Division

Shri Deepak Krishan, General Manager, Southern Railway, accompanied by the Commissioner, Railway Safety, Bengaluru and PHODs, conducted his annual inspection in Kannur - Mangalore section on 14.10.2011.



Nethravathi River Bridge and the nearby LC gate post were also inspected by the General Manager and CRS along with PHODs.



At Mangalore Central, the General Manager, Southern Railway, inaugurated Officers' Rest House and TTEs rest house on 14.10.2011.





## Ayurvedic Dispensary on 28.12.2011 at Kannur



Shri N.K. Prasad, Chief Personnel Officer, Southern Railway, inaugurated an Ayurvedic Dispensary on 28.12.2011 at Kannur.

## Annual Day Celebrations of Ashraya

The Annual Day Celebrations of 'ASHRAYA', a school-cum-vocational training centre exclusively for the specially abled children, run by the Southern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation, were held on 09.3.2012. Shri Deepak Krishan, General Manager, Southern Railway was the Chief Guest. Smt. Sangeeta D. Krishan, Hon.President, Southern Railway Women's Headquarters Organisation (SRWHQO) presided over the function. Dr. G. Narayanan, Addl. General Manager and Smt. Vasanthi Narayanan, Hon.Secretary, SRWHQO attended the function. A variety entertainment programme was presented by the children of Ashraya.



Started on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1993 with 10 children, Ashraya has 51 students on its rolls. Offering individualised educational programme for children of the age of six years upwards, the main objective of this institution is to make these specially-abled children as independent as possible. To achieve this objective, the emphasis is on self help skills, academics, pre-vocational skills and vocational training.

The programme base for these special children is IEP (Individualised Educational Programme). Yoga, play therapy, arts & crafts and vocational training form part of the extra curricular activities. The staff of Ashraya are qualified specially to impart education to these children. The students have participated over the years in Special Olympics and brought laurels to the institution. General Manager, Southern Railway announced an award of ₹ 50,000/- for the students of Ashraya.





## Display of Price List Made Mandatory at Catering Units

Following complaints from the travelling public regarding overcharging by some of the catering contractors at stations and on trains, Southern Railway has made it mandatory for contractors to display the price list of the standard food items (indicating the tariff authorised by the Railway) at all the stalls including the pantry cars of the trains. Rail users are requested to be insistent on making payments as per the tariff displayed and MRP printed on packaged items. In the event of overcharging, passengers may register / forward their complaints to the concerned Station Manager / Divisional Commercial Officers.

## Surgical Block Opened at Golden Rock Railway Hospital



A surgical block constructed at the Railway Hospital, Golden Rock, was inaugurated by the Chief Medical Director, Southern Railway, Shri S. Vijaya Kumar on 24.03.2012. Shri S. Raghuraman, Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer, Shri P.V. Vaidialingam, Divisional Railway Manager, Tiruchchirappalli Division and Shri R. Soundararajan, Chief Medical Superintendent were present on the occasion. The new facility was sanctioned by the Railway Board at a cost of ₹ 3.8 crores.

## Training Facility in Ariyalur

Tiruchchirappalli Division has established a model-cum-training facility at Ariyalur to improve the skills of the field level technical staff of the electrical traction department in OHE maintenance. First of its kind in Tiruchchirappalli division, the facility has been set up inside the OHE depot situated close to the Ariyalur railway station. Scrap and released materials have been utilized to set up various OHE - related structures inside the training facility that has been established at a cost of ₹ 1.5 lakhs.

The facility has been established to provide hands on training to the technical staff of the electrical traction department in OHE maintenance and improve their skills so that the restoration time during emergency situation is reduced.

## Wall mural at Chennai Central Station



To mark the commencement of the 140<sup>th</sup> year of the historic Chennai Central Railway Station, a wall mural was inaugurated at the station by Shri Deepak Krishan, General Manager, Southern Railway, on 24.04.2012.





## Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways at Chennai



Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways held discussions with the General Manager and other senior officials of Southern Railway on 23.02.2012. They reviewed the progress of the ongoing projects on Southern Railway.

## At Tiruchchirappalli



Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways held discussions with the officers of Tiruchchirappalli Division and the Golden Rock workshop on 24.02.2012.

The committee also inspected the Golden Rock Railway workshop here along with senior railway officers. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Shri S.K. Sood and senior officers from the Southern Railway headquarters and the Railway Board accompanied the Committee members

## DRUCC Meet

The first meeting of re-constituted Divisional Rail Users Consultative Committee (DRUCC) of Tiruchchirappalli Division was held on 17.04.2012. Shri P.V. Vaidialingam, Divisional Railway Manager and Chairman of the DRUCC in his inaugural address highlighted the division's efforts in providing better passenger amenities at stations and explained the role of DRUCC in maintaining better understanding between Railways and its users.







## Republic Day Celebrations



Shri Deepak Krishan, General Manager, Southern Railway unfurled the National Flag on the occasion of the Nation's 63<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day at the Southern Railway New General Office, Chennai. He later inspected an impressive guard of honour put up by the Railway Protection Force.

Speaking on the occasion, the General Manager said that during 2011-2012, Southern Railway had commissioned new lines between Nidamangalam - Mannargudi (14 km) and Nagore - Karaikal (11 km). Villupuram - Mundiambakkam (6 km) stretch of Chengalpattu - Villupuram Gauge conversion project) and Kayankulam - Cheppad - Haripad (13 km) doubling projects had also been completed and commissioned

during the year.

The year 2011-12 was declared as the 'Year of Green Energy' by Hon'ble Minister of Railways. Southern Railway was able to achieve 4% electrical savings in non-traction purposes in spite of increase in connected load by 1%. In order to enhance security in the Railways, a system of Integrated Security System which comprises CCTV, Access control, personal baggage scanning and explosive detection & disposal would be installed at 9 stations on this Railway, he said. Southern Railway was taking all out efforts to fill up the safety category vacancies and shortly about 4000 persons would be recruited in Group D. 710 ex-servicemen were recruited against Group D safety category.

To improve passenger satisfaction over supply of linen, an automatic mechanised laundry of 6 ton capacity was commissioned at Basin Bridge Depot in October 2011. 100% LED signals which provide better visibility have been provided between Chennai Beach - Tiruchchirappalli both via. main line and chord line and also between Chennai Beach - Jolarpettai, Chennai Basin Bridge - Gudur and Arakkonam - Renigunta, covering a total length of 980 km.



## Welfare Initiative to Women Employees



As a welfare measure under the Central Staff Benefit Fund, 100 induction stoves were distributed on 08.05.2012 to women employees in Group D services at the Southern Railway Headquarters Office by Shri N.K. Prasad, Chief Personnel Officer and Chairman of Central Staff Benefit Fund. The benefit will be extended to women employees in Group D services all over Southern Railway.





## 57<sup>th</sup> Railway Week Celebrations



The 57<sup>th</sup> Railway Week Celebrations of Southern Railway were held on 12.04.2012 at Raja Annamalai Mandram, Chennai. Shri Deepak Krishan, General Manager, was the Chief Guest. Shri N.K. Prasad, Chief Personnel Officer, Southern Railway welcomed the gathering. The programme began with a colourful cultural show and was followed by the distribution of efficiency shields and awards. Tiruchchirappalli Division bagged the GM's Inter Divisional overall Efficiency Shield. As many as 219 individual awards and 18 group awards were distributed at the function.



## Heritage Steam Run



Southern Railway conducted a Heritage Run on 06.02.2012 to commemorate the 157<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World's oldest working Steam Locomotive EIR-21. The locomotive was first used in February 1855 between Howrah and Raneegunje. A special train, run from Chennai Central to Perambur, was hauled by the Steam Locomotive EIR-21.

