

KERALA FLOODS RAILWAYS IN ACTION



दक्षिण रेलवे
Southern Railway
August - 2018



FOREWORD



Kerala experienced one of the worst calamity in almost a century that resulted from heavy rains, landslips and flooding of water throwing many people shelterless and in distress. Train operations in Thiruvananthapuram, Palakkad and Madurai Divisions were adversely affected due to the flooding of tracks and station yards, water rising to danger levels at many bridges . Also, there were land slips at a number of locations due to heavy rains.

Indian Railways, under the aegis of Hon'ble Minister of Railways has taken proactive decision to rush the relief materials free of cost to help the flood victims of Kerala. Chairman Railway Board and Members extended guidance and support for early restoration, movement of Water Specials and Special Trains to facilitate movement of stranded passengers.

My colleague officers from Headquarters joined me for round the clock monitoring, encouraging and strengthening the dedicated Railway Team of Thiruvananthapuram, Palakkad and Madurai Divisions. Officers, supervisors and staff of Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad divisions rose to the occasion and made extraordinary efforts braving against all odds posed by the fury of nature. They were also able to provide many humane support to the locals as part of relief operations.

Officers and staff of various Railway zones also joined hands in rushing support to the suffering people of Kerala, keeping the tradition of humanity of Indian Railways high.

I would like to thank each one of them for their individual and collective efforts as an integral part of Indian Railway family, upholding the goodwill of Indian Railways through their valour, dedication, team spirit and humanity.

This is a sincere effort to keep the activities of Railways during Kerala floods 2018 on record.



R.K. KULSHRESTHA / आर.के. कुलश्रेष्ठ
General Manager / महाप्रबंधक

Kerala Floods – Track Damages and Restoration Works

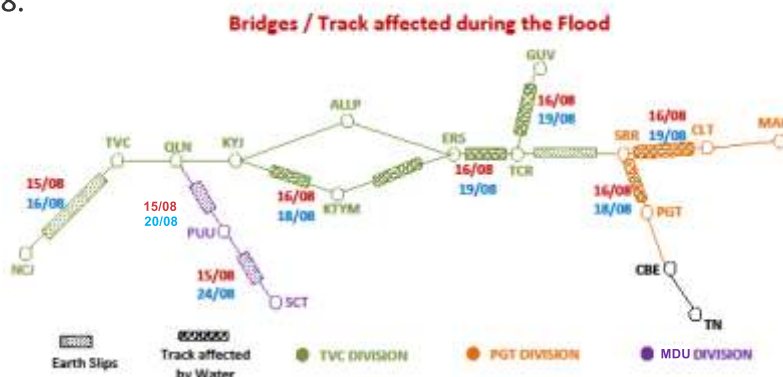


A view of flooded tracks at Pallipuram Railway station.

Restoration : Swift Action by Railways

Railway team worked with dedication round the clock to clear the hurdles in the flood hit sections. All sections in the main route of Kerala were opened on 20th August 2018 as detailed below:

- Thiruvananthapuram (TVC) to Nagarcoil (NCJ) section was suspended for traffic from 0700 hrs of 15.8.2018 and was given fit from 09.30 hrs of 16.8.2018.
- Ernakulam (ERS) – Kottayam (KTYM) section was suspended for traffic from 1600 hrs of 16.8.18 and given fit from 20 hrs of 19.08.2018.
- Ernakulam (ERS) – Shoranur (SRR) section was suspended for traffic from 1200 hrs of 16.8.18 and was given fit from 2315 hrs of 19.08.2018.
- Palakkad (PGT) – Shoranur (SRR) section was suspended for traffic from 1600 hrs of 16.8.18 and was given fit at 0815hrs of 18.08.2018.
- Shoranur (SRR) – Kozhikkode (CLT) section was suspended for traffic from 1600hrs of 16.8.18 and was given fit at 0845 hrs of 19.8.18.
- Kollam (QLN) – Punalur (PUU) section was given fit on 20.08.2018.
- Thrissur (TCR)- Gururvayur (GUV) branch line which suffered heavy damages was certified fit and opened for traffic on 21.08.2018
- Punalur (PUU)-Senkottai (SCT) branch line with heavy landslides and falling of large number of boulders / trees was attended on war foot basis and restored on 24-08-2018.

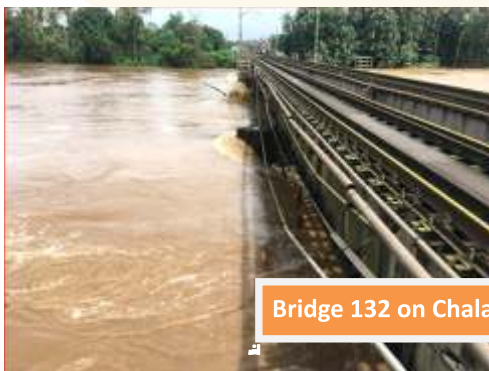


Damages: Boldly handling the challenge in a time bound manner

Due to unprecedented intense rainfall during South West monsoon in August 2018 and consequent to opening of about 36 dams in the state of Kerala, 3 Divisions of Southern Railways were severely affected with heavy flash floods, land slips, boulder falling on track etc from 16.08.2018 as detailed below:-

Thiruvananthapuram Division:

- In Thiruvananthapuram Division, Water level rose above danger level across 12 bridges, track got submerged at 3 locations, breaches occurred at 26 locations, Earth slips occurred at 6 locations over various sections.



Bridge 132 on Chalakudi river-before and after restoration



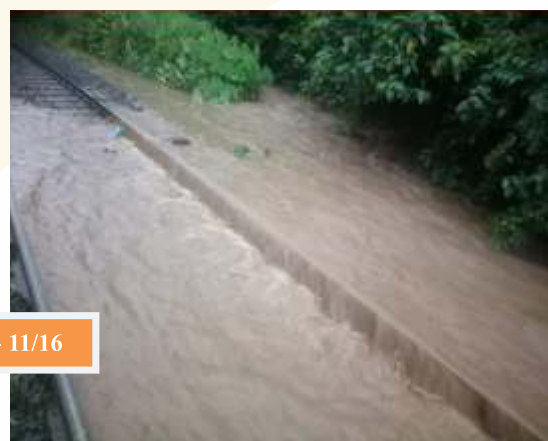
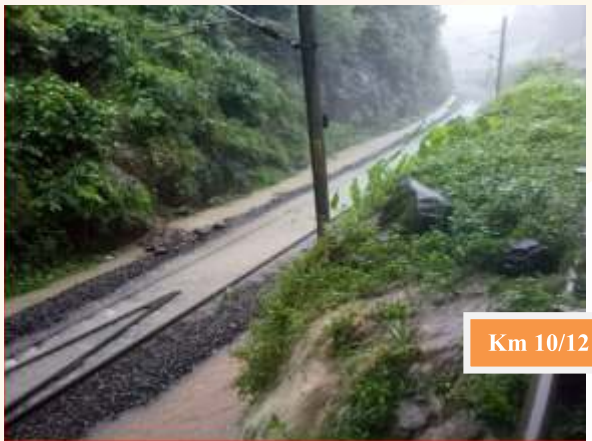
Bridge 148 on Pamba river-before and after restoration



Bridge 176 on Periyar river-before and after restoration



In Shoranur - Ernakulam Section



Wadakancheri - Shoranur Section



Km 19/100 -200 earth slip before and after restoration

Between Eraniel and Parassala stations in Thiruvananthapuram - Nagercoil section



Km 272/100 - 200 before and after restoration



Km 7/8 - 8/5 earth slip



Tirunnavaya Yard, Palakkad Division during the floods

Palakkad Division

- In Palakkad Division, Water level rose above danger level across 14 bridges and track got submerged at 2 locations.

Kozhikode - Shoranur section



Madurai Division

- In Madurai Division, earth slip and falling of boulders occurred at 7 locations.

Obstructions in Sengottai - Punalur Section



- A total number of 9 track machines were deployed round the clock to repair the tracks.
- 7 special trains carrying boulders, sand and ballast were sent for the restoration of affected track and embankment portions.
- HQ and Divisional team comprising of 24 Officers, 91 Supervisors and about 796 Railway Staff worked round the clock braving adverse conditions to restore the tracks on priority thus giving the vital rail connectivity to state of Kerala at the hour of crisis .
- 13 Officers, 24 Senior Supervisors and 10 supporting staff monitored and assisted train operation round the clock from HQ/Divisional Control offices.

Swift response from Railways : Specials Trains to Help Stranded Passengers in Kerala Appreciated



Great Relief : Passenger specials Run by Southern Railway from Ernakulam connecting Kerala to Rest of the world.

- 63 Passenger specials were run in Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad Divisions to connect stranded passengers. In particular, Thiruvananthapuram- Ernakulam section was connected by passenger Special Trains every 3 hours via Alleppey, which was not affected during the flood period, helping smooth movement of people, rescue and relief teams. This move was appreciated by press and media widely.
- 18 Express specials were run from Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram, via Madurai from 17.08.2018 to 22.08.2018. Out of the above,
 - 4 Trains from Ernakulam to Chennai Egmore,
 - 3 Trains from Ernakulam to Santragachi,
 - 1 Train between Thiruvananthapuram and Howrah,
 - 1 Train between Thiruvananthapuram and Silchar,
 - 1 Train from Thiruvananthapuram to Gorakhpur,
 - 1 Train between Kochuveli and Bhubaneswar,
 - 2 Trains from Chennai Egmore to Ernakulam
 - 2 Trains from Kochuveli to Chennai Central
 - 1 train from Chennai Central to Kochuveli
 - 1 Train from Thiruchchirapalli to Alleppey
 - 1 train from MagaloreJn to Ajmer
- Among these, 3 specials were run from Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram to Santragachi based on the request from State Government of West Bengal.
- 1 special train from Kochuveli, Thiruvananthapuram to Bhubaneswar was run on the request of State Government of Odisha.

Many more help from Railways

5.5 Lakh Rail Neer Bottles from IRCTC Plants in Southern Railway



Rail Neer for Palakkad is being loaded at Chennai.

- Railway arranged 3 lakh numbers of one litre bottle of Rail Neer water to Flood Ravaged Kerala through Thiruvananthapuram Division.
- Another 2.5 lakhs Water bottles were arranged from Chennai (Palur Plant) and other places
- Railway Officials at Headquarters and Divisional Levels are coordinating with state Government officials of Kerala for the movement of the water bottles to required destination.

Deployment of Professional Swimmers



The team of professional swimmers from Thiruvananthapuram Division who helped Kerala people.

- 10 employees who are Professional Swimmers of Thiruvananthapuram Division of Southern Railway were deputed to help in relief/rescue operations in the flood affected areas of Pathanamthitta District for a period of 5 days, which was very much appreciated.

Blankets & Bed Sheets for Relief Camps



Food and Medicines being loaded at Thiruvananthapuram Central

- 4000 bedsheets and 500 blankets were handed over to the relief authorities by Thiruvananthapuram Division.
- Clothes, food, medicine and cleaning materials received at various parcel offices from volunteers also reached Thiruvananthapuram Division.

Humane Touch of Souther Railway Team



People Stranded near railway track is helped to board Tower car by Aluva by Railway Team.



People being saved in Tower car by Aluva staff.

- At Chalakkudi station which was marooned in floods, many rescue attempts were spearheaded by the Railway staff in coordination with the NDRF authorities and finally all 50 persons including Railway staff were rescued.
- Nearly 1000 locals were rescued by tower car operated in the traffic near Ernakulam on 17th and 18th August. A pregnant lady was rescued by boat from Chovvara station and airlifted to Thrissur, which were widely appreciated by public/press/media.

Braving against all Odds



- Braving against all odds, Shri.K.N. Sreeraj, Section Electrical Engineer, Ernakulam ensured continuous water supply even during floods to Aluva Station from the pumphouse near Aluva bridge.

Flood Relief work in Kerala – Medical Department in Action



Special team from Medical Department engaged in Chengannur station cleaning.



Relief materials Collected at Chennai is being moved by Alleppey express.

- First aid booths have been opened in the following stations
Trivandrum, Quilon, Chengannur, Tiruvalla, Kottayam and Ernakulam.
- Emergency first aid was provided to 104 patients and 7 injured persons that included locals and railway staff at the above places.
- Distributed food and drinking water in co-ordination with NGO at Ernakulam Station.
- Cleaning of flood affected stations viz. Chengannur, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Chalakudi was done by SJAB/DRRT Members along with other staff.
- Super Chlorination of water was arranged at flood affected stations.
- Cleaning materials like bleaching powder, soap oil, phenol etc. have been given to colony occupants to ensure Hygiene at Chalakudi, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Tiruvalla and Chengannur colonies.

RPF team of Palakkad Division Steps Ahead



RPF in action at PGT Division



RPF receiving flood relief materials

- A collection centre was opened at RPF/CIB/Office/Palakkad to receive relief materials from various Divisions/Railways and was dispatched to various Relief Camps.
- Relief materials collected from RPF/Coimbatore was handed over to District Collector, Palakkad.
- RPF Kannur OutPost has collected and distributed relief materials to the victims at Wayanad area.
- Badakara RPF OutPost has collected and distributed relief materials to the victims in Thrissur area by RPSF vehicle.
- In coordination with District authorities of Palakkad and Pathanamthitta, Railways ensured smooth passage of relief materials that arrived from Bangalore to Pathanamthitta.

Many Heroes of Southern Railway



RPF assisting indistribution work at PGT division



RPF with Relief materials

- A total of 19 Officers and Staff from all departments were honoured with awards for their outstanding service during Kerala Floods.
- Similarly, a group of staff from Thiruvananthapuram and Madurai Divisions were also awarded for their services during restoration.



Emergency Kitchen for staff held up at stations in Thiruvananthapuram Division.

- Rescue operations at Alway have been done by the SJAB / DRRT Members with the help of Engineering staff. Around 1200 people including ladies, children and elderly were rescued and shifted to relief camps at colleges and schools in Aluva. The sick people were shifted to the hospitals in Aluva.
- At the affected stations of Chalakkudi and Ernakulam, quality standards of food and water was ensured.
- Railway colony residents in the flood hit areas were sensitized by Doctors / Health Inspectors (CHI) on how to avoid water borne diseases and usage of Chlorine for disinfection purpose.

Contributions to Kerala CM's Relief fund



Railways Contribution to Flood Relief Fund - DRM Thiruvananthapuram hand over Cheque of ₹ 65 lakhs to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala.

- ₹ 65 lakh was contributed by the Officers and staff of Thiruvananthapuram Division to Chief Minister of Kerala Relief Fund to assist flood victims. Divisional Railway Manger, Trivandrum handed over the cheque to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala on 20.08.2018.
- ₹ 46.5 lakh was also raised by Officers and staff of Palakkad Division for Kerala Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Four Water Rake Specials to Kerala



Southern Railway Water Special from Erode on arrival at Ernakulam.

- Southern Railway dispatched first water special with 7 BRN wagons carrying 2.8 lakh litres of water from Erode Jn Station to Kayankulam on 18.08.2018.
- Second water special from Erode with 10 BRN wagons carrying 3.2 lakh litre of water also reached Tiruvalla on 20.08.2018.
- Third water tank special with 29 tank wagons carrying 14.5 lakh litre of water which was dispatched from Pune on 18.8.2018 reached Ernakulam on 20.08.2018.
- Fourth water special with 7 BRN wagons carrying 2.8 lakh litres of water from Tirunelveli Jn reached Kayamkulam Jn on 21.08.2018

Free Transport of Relief Materials to Kerala



Parcel help Desk Thriuvanthapuram Division.



Coaching (C&W, TL/AC) Depots of Trivandrum Division handed over food material worth ₹ 3.4 lakhs for Kerala flood relief victims at Ernakulam and Trivandrum in addition to contribution to Chief Minister's Relief fund.

- Railways arranged free transport of flood relief materials till 31st August, 2018 to Stations in Kerala.
- Apart from government agencies, reputed organizations approved by DRMs were permitted to load the materials free of cost, to Stations within Kerala.
- Help desks were opened in 11 major Parcel offices across Southern Railway viz., Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Madurai, Tiruchchirappalli, Salem, Tirunelveli, Villupuram, Karur, Tirupur, Erode and Coimbatore stations.

Water Purifiers and other Materials



Health Inspector testing water samples at Kayamkulam yard and handed over to state department.

- 150 Water purifiers which arrived at Ernakulam by Train No.12626 was delivered to State Government officials.
- Food packages, medicines, sanitary napkins, biscuits, soaps, etc., received at Parcel Help Desks are dispatched to Kerala at regular intervals on priority.

Southern Railway Medical Aid through St. John's Ambulance Brigade Service



Southern Railway – Medical Aid Booth on PF No. 1 at Chengannur



St John's Ambulance Brigade of Railways providing relief and medical support at Chalakkudi.

- Southern Railway Opened First-aid Booths at major railway stations viz., Tiruvalla, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Chengannur.
- 8 Lakh worth medical relief materials was mobilized and dispatched to Chengannur for distribution.
- St John Ambulance (No.20) / Disaster Relief and Rescue Team (DRRT) collected around 12 tonnes of relief materials for the flood victims of Kerala. Materials included Clothes, blankets, mats, food materials, bleaching powder and other basic provisions.

- On 18.08.2018 one ton relief materials were sent by 12601 (Mangalore Mail) to Kozhikkode and handed over to Dy. Collector / Calicut, the relief work Co-ordinator.
- 2 Tonnes of materials sent from Chennai Egmore to Chengannur were handed over to Shri Saji Cherian, MLA for relief camp at Chengannur.
- On 19.08.2018 by Bokaro Alleppey Express one tonne relief materials were sent to PGT and handed over to Camp Co-ordinator.
- On 20.08.2018 by Mangalore Express 5 tonnes of materials handed over to Dy. Collector/Wayanad by 5 SJAB/DRRT members.
- 20.08.2018 by Chennai – Allepy Exp. 4 tonne materials viz. Clothes, food and other Provisions and one ton of bleaching powder & Phenol sent to Chenganasseri to assist the flood victims.
- Shri G. Manikandan, Asst. Commissioner/SJAB No.20 Southern Railway District lead the team of 20 SJAB / DRRT Members . They also conducted relief work at Chalakkudi station.



Food and Medicines being loaded at Thiruvananthapuram Central.



Coaching (C&W, TL/AC) Depots of Trivandrum Division has handed over food material of worth ₹ 3.4 lakhs for Kerala flood relief victims at Ernakulam and Trivandrum in addition to contribution to Chief Ministers Relief fund.

- Medical and Food special train was also offered from Trivandrum Central and Ernakulam to the State Govt. for moving their relief material. However the State Government officials preferred to take the materials by road directly to remote locations.

Shelter arrangements free of cost

- Paid AC waiting halls were opened to all passengers free of cost in both the divisions.
- Stranded passengers were accommodated in Panchayat community Centre, Schools Shoranur.
- At Chengannur, the Pilgrimage Centre at the Railway premises was converted into relief camp. More than 200 people have taken shelter there. Food packets and drinking water is being arranged by State Government officials.
- At different stations and locations station staff are actively helping the NDRF officials in rescuing the people who are stranded and taken shelter at Railway Stations Specially in Chalakkudi and Kottayam section of Trivandrum division and Shoranur station of Palakkad Division.

Food arrangements free of cost



Southern Railway Rescue team distributing cloths & food at Chengannur.

- At all major stations, Trivandrum and Palakkad the catering establishments are operated round the clock and food supplied to the needy on payment basis.
- Arrangements were made to supply food packets through NGO for stranded passengers in Aluva–Wadakkancheri section of Trivandrum and Shoranur in Palakkad Division.
- Food packets were distributed to staff working in the section Shoranur – Calicut section.
- 12000 Food packets were arranged at Ernakulam, Chalakkudi and Aluva during 16th to 18th August 2018.
- The staff of divisional office collected relief materials worth ₹ 4 lakh which was also handed over to the District Administration and Shoranur station of Palakkad division.

Free Transportation of Rice by Special Train from Raipur



Rice special train from Raipur for flood victims - Railway transported free of cost.

- One rake containing 2500 tonnes of Rice dispatched from Raipur to Kazhakutam by Chhattisgarh Government to support flood victims of Kerala. Railways did not charge any freight for this consignment.
- The train reached Kazhakutam on 22.08.18 and was delivered to State Government Officials.

Southern Railway's helping Hand in all possible ways



Passenger Help Desk – Tiruvananthapuram Division.



Additional Passenger Assistance Booth at Ernakulam.



- Special control cells were opened in Trivandrum and Palakkad control Office coordinated by officers / Commercial inspectors.
- Help desks, Enquiry Counters, Ticket refund Counters were opened at Trivandrum Central, Ernakulam Jn, Alleppey, Nagercoil, Thrissur, Mangalore Central, Kannur, Kozhikkode, Palakkad, Shoranur stations to help passengers.

Great deal of Humanity : Thiruchchirappalli Division Volunteers in Flood Hit Villages



Railway doctors paramedical staff RPF staff in Kerala flood affected Villages for voluntary service.



Railway volunteers from Thiruchchirappally helping the flood affected families to get back to their Home.



Railway doctors and team in service of flood affected people.



Railway team From Thiruchchirappalli in Kerala Flood affected villages.

- Team of 68 Volunteers consisting of Doctors, Paramedical Staff, RPF and other Department staff served Flood Hit Villages.
- Joined Shri.Thomas Isaac Honble Finance Minister of Kerala, NSS volunteers, for rehabilitation service at Edanad.
- Entire sanitation, disinfection, super chlorination of wells of 40 houses and one old age home were done by the team.
- Health check-up, wound care and leptospirosis prophylaxis was given to 55 families, 30 inmates of Old age Home and 300 volunteers.
- Thiruchchirappalli team was the first to reach Marupacha Old Age home, Kallisseri with Relief and Medical support.

Kerala receives large quantity Relief Materials by Rail



Sothern Railway St John Ambulance opened Relief Materials collection centre at Chennai.

- 265 tonnes of Relief Materials received in Kerala that was booked free of cost from various stations of Indian Railways.
- Out of this 109 tonnes received from 4 Divisions of Southern Railway and 156 tonnes relief materials received from various Railways.
- Relief materials were received from Santhragachi, Guntur, Vijayawada, Pune, Bhusaval, New Delhi, Banaswadi, Secunderabad, Raygada, Lokmanya Thilak Terminus, Madagaon etc till 29.08.2018.

Central Railway despatches of support materials

 **Relief Materials For Kerala State Flood**
Affected Regions will be carried free of cost:
Free Transportation is provided in this parcel office

1. Apart from govt agencies/Reputed organisations Can Transport Material After Competent Authority Approval.
2. We Will Transport from Stations onwards upto Station in Kerala.(Not before and after that.)
3. Materials Will Also Be Sent By Separate Parcel van/coach.
4. Free transport is in force till 31st Aug 2018.
5. NGOs/ Philanthropic organization , PSUs , state governments across the country can book relief material free of cost.



Parcel help Desk Thriuvanthapuram Division.

- 405 packages weighing 56 quintals of Relief material collected at Panvel was dispatched to Alleppey.
- 167 packages weighing 25 quintals of Relief materials collected at Lokmanya Thilak Terminal dispatched to Calicut.

- 22 packages weighing 7 quintals of Relief materials collected at Chhathrapathi Shivaji Maharaj Terminus despatched to Ernakulam.
- 1166 packages weighing 172 quintals of Relief materials collected at Lokamanya Tilak Terminus despatched on 21.08.2018 to Thriuvanthapuram in a separate VPU.
- 23 tonnes relief materials collected in VPU By 16381 Express on 22.08.2018 was dispatched from Pune to Chengannur .
- Despatched 11 tonnes relief materials Collected in VPU By 22150 Express from Pune to Ernakulam.

South Western Railway VPU with support materials

- One VPU loaded with flood relief materials containing Rice, Dal, Sooji, Atta, oils, sugar, clothes, medicines, bleaching powder, etc., sent by SWR from Yasvantpur to Palakkad Division by Train No.16515 for distribution in Kerala.

Relief materials from South Central Railway



300 Nos Rice bags kept ready for loading at Guntur Railway Station.

- 22 tonne relief materials Collected from Secunderabad dispatched by 07119 Kochuveli Special to Kottayam.
- Loaded 13 tonnes of relief materials including 533 milk cartons from Secunderabad to Kochuveli.
- 300 bags of Rice collected from Guntur dispatched by FSLR of 17320 Express to District Collector, Kottayam.
- Relief Materials were also dispatched by Guntakal and Nanded Divisions to Kerala.

Press and media bulletins were released frequently to update public on trains services and relief/restoration works.

Great effort! How Indian Railways is providing relief materials, shelter to flood-affected people in Kerala

According to the ministry, during the last one week, due to unprecedented intense rainfall and consequent opening of about 36 dams in Kerala, three divisions under Southern Railway zone of Indian Railways were severely affected with heavy flash floods, boulders falling on tracks, landslips etc.

falling on tracks, landslips etc. However, the ministry recently said that it has undertaken prompt rescue work by restoring all affected railway tracks to help in the movement of people as well as relief teams.

Well done Indian Railways! Piyush Goyal-led Railway Ministry has taken several measures for the relief operations in flood-hit Kerala. According to the ministry, during the last one week, due to unprecedented intense rainfall and consequent opening of about 36 dams in Kerala, three divisions under Southern Railway zone of Indian Railways were severely affected with heavy flash floods, boulders



The ministry recently said that it has undertaken prompt rescue work by restoring all affected railway tracks to help in the movement of people as well as relief teams.

The Ministry claimed that the Indian Railways team worked round the clock in order to clear the hurdles in the flood-hit sections, therefore, several sections on the main route of Kerala were opened on August 20. To repair the tracks, a total number of 9 track machines were deployed. Also, for the restoration of affected tracks and embankment portions, 7 special trains carrying boulders, sand and ballast were sent.

How Chennai Central turned nerve centre for Kerala flood crisis

Midharth.Prabhakar@timesgroup.com

Chennai: As floodwaters began to rise and eventually washed away the rails in various parts of Kerala on August 15, officers at the Southern Railway headquarters in Chennai realised they had a crisis on hand. Not only were train operations in affected, thousands of passengers in the state, some waiting for trains, others sitting inside them on tracks.



A FLOOD OF RELIEF

Officials knew Southern Railway would have to play a major role in sending relief material, as roads were damaged due to landslides and many were unmovable. For the next one week, thousands of employees worked day and night to restore services, send food and water to stranded passengers as well as relief to maintain the operation. The nerve centre of where officers were stationed and co-ordinated with officers in Trivandrum and Palangal divisions in Delhi.

The breakthrough came on the night of August 17, when trains from Trichy-Madurai-Nagercoil route. Slowly this section was used to evacuate passengers, especially migrants from states like Jharkhand, West Bengal and Assam, desperate to get back home.

"More than 10,000 passengers were stranded in trains and at stations. We got our local contractors on that food supplies were sent to them," a senior commercial department official said. Staff of pantry cars in trains were asked to cook and come up with ready-made items like upma for stranded citizens. Train side vending was activated at stations, while those community centres, the official said.

While the number of unreserved coaches was increased on special trains, unreserved specials were operated at discounted rates, with at least 25,000 additional passengers official figures.

Southern Railway also moved 93 lakh litres of water from Chengalpattu and Erode via antex tank wagons to Kerala through Madurai, and IRCTC was roped in to supply 2 lakh bottles of Rail Neer from its Patil and Paravali plants. "Positions were checked once every four hours and brainstorming done to facilitate relief to Kerala," said the official.

This was a textbook case of disaster management by Southern Railway floods experience, provided invaluable experience on how to handle a crisis, officials said.

■ Nine-member group of railway officers managed to rescue 143 people and shift them to rescue camps

'Couldn't sit idle when fellow beings fought for life'

KRISHNA KUMAR K E | DC KOCHI, AUG 23

It was August 17, the peak of devastating floods that left behind a trail of destruction in most regions of the state. Reports of people clinging to their dear lives by standing on rooftops of houses began to emerge in the media. A group of nine like-minded railway officers, who were all professional swimmers during their youthful days, could no longer sit idle while their fellow beings fought flood waters without food and water.

In no quick time, they rung up their superior officers and obtained their nod before proceeding to the worst-affected Pattanamhitta district by noon on the same day. "We're already feeling guilty for not doing anything for the past two days. We're determined to do whatever we can even if it means saving a single life. However, we didn't have any idea of the worst-hit areas or the places where the rescuers couldn't reach. Hence, we decided to be part of the official rescue mission and tried to get an appointment



The nine-member team of railway officers, all professional swimmers, being facilitated by Divisional Railway officer on Thursday for their rescue mission with the district collector," K.S. Binny (40), Office Superintendent, Thiruvananthapuram Division, told Deccan Chronicle.

They waited for hours before finally meeting the collector next day morning. They were asked to provide food and other necessary items to residents of Kalligal, an island which got cut off by the overflowing Manimala River. Two members stayed back at the mainland for proper communication while the rest proceeded in seven boats provided by the NDRF team. "Midway, we saw a group of youngsters wading through flood water, with

water covered almost upto their necks. It was around two days since they had eaten anything. A top portion of a bridge was above the water and the youths ate the food we provided them with tears rolling down their eyes. They said nearly 150 people were trapped in the island without food and we handed over all the materials with us," Mr Binny recollected. The nine-member group managed to rescue 143 people and shift them to rescue camps before they waded up the flood water receding by

August 20. "We had several such moments. Another satisfactory mission was the rescue of a father and his 12-year-old daughter based on an emergency message passed by his wife who had gone to Idakkai with her son only to learn later that flood water submerged their house at Turuthi near the Kutoor-Manakkachirra Road in Tiruvalla. Another 'image' that still remains on our minds was rescuing a 13-year-old boy who accidentally fell from a raft while wading through flood water," he recollected.

INDIAN EXPRESS
Chhattisgarh sends 25,000 quintals rice by train to flood-ravaged Kerala
Chhattisgarh government has sent 25 thousand quintals of rice to Kerala to help in the flood-hit regions.

NDTV
Kerala Floods: Special Train Takes Stranded People Back To Bengal
The passengers reached Howrah station yesterday late night in the 21-coach special train from Thiruvananthapuram.

Trains carrying drinking water sent to Kerala
Special trains carrying drinking water were sent to Kerala to help in the flood-hit regions.

Kerala floods: Railways to transport relief materials for free

ANI | New Delhi [India] August 18, 2018 Last Updated at 20:40 IST

Union Railways Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday announced that Railways will provide free transportation of relief material for Kerala through various state government agencies, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other Government agencies.

Expressing his concern over Kerala floods, Goyal tweeted, "We are concerned about the well being of people affected by Kerala floods & the Central Govt. is committed to providing all possible help. Railways will now provide free transportation of relief material for Kerala through various State Govt. agencies, PSUs & other Govt. agencies."

Kerala has been facing the worst flooding in a century. The death toll, ever since the monsoon season began this year, has crossed 300.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Ministers of various states extended financial aid to the flood-hit state.

Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal · Aug 21
 Railways extends all possible support in the relief operations in flood hit Kerala. We have undertaken prompt rescue work by restoring all affected railway tracks for helping movement of people and relief teams.
pib.nic.in/PressRelease1...

30 Officers, 45 Supervisors & 450 Railway Staff Worked Round the Clock Braving Tough Conditions

Nearly 1000 Locals were Rescued by Tower Car Operated in the Traffic near Ernakulam

- 3 Consists of 600 wagons Carried a Total of 2500 Tons of Relief Material
- 5000 Redshirts, 300 Blankets Distributed
- 1000 Redshirts Blankets Distributed
- 1000 Redshirts Blankets Distributed

Material and Donations Contributed by Railways and

SCR on track with its 'Join Hands for Kerala' mission

Sarthak @thetrainmap.com

Hyderabad: The South Central Railway (SCR) has embarked upon the 'Join Hands for Kerala' mission to help the hapless people of the state, which is 1,200km from Hyderabad on railway map.

Additional GM of SCR, John Thomas will coordinate with the Kerala government on relief material being sent, and general manager Vinod Kumar Yadav said he would personally keep tabs on the mission.

Several teams have been formed, while divisional railway managers and principal heads of the six railway divisions under SCR, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Mysore, Bangalore, Chennai, and Kolkata, are involved with relief measures. "Within two days, we have collected and sent around 10 tonnes of relief material from major stations," said a railway official.

The consignment includes food items, milk, clothes, medicines, soap, sanitary napkins, phenol, bleaching powder, gum boots and family kits, among others. "We have tagged parcels vans to various Kerala-bound trains from Secunderabad, Vijayawada and Guntakal to transport the relief material," said a senior official.

The officials also arranged for special vans that carried 24 tonnes of relief material from Vijayawada and Itanagar from Tirupati. "We are in touch with the government to reach out to the worst-hit areas of Kerala," added the official. Trade unions and SCR women's welfare organisations have come forward to provide succour to the needy people of Kerala.



Relief material loaded into trains

GMSouthernrailway @GMSRailway · Aug 18
 #KeralaFloods #KeralaFloodRescue Trivandrum Division @TVC138 staff rescuing stranded people by tower car
maharajamonline.com/news/latest-ne... @RailMinIndia



150ക്കിന് കൂടുങ്ങിയവർക്ക് അടയാമായി ഇന്ത്യൻ റെയിൽ... കൊച്ചി - വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്തിൽ റെയിൽവേ ട്രാക്കിൽ കൂടുങ്ങിയവർക്ക് അടയാമായി റെയിൽവേയുടെ സെർ കാര്ട്...
maharajamonline.com

GMSouthernrailway @GMSRailway · Aug 18
 Indian Railways lending a helping hand...@TVC138 @propgt14 @DRMTPI @SalemdRM @drmmadurai @DrmChennai



WATER SPECIAL FROM PUNE TO

Indian Railways has always done its duty in times of crisis. Because of the floods in Kerala, daily life has become a problem of drinking water in Kerala. To send water in tanker wagons to Kayyankulam, in order to ensure supply of Potable water especially in the affected areas, Indian Railways is lending a helping hand.

The Division of Central Railway, 29 tanker wagon (from Rajahmundry) loaded with clean drinking water is being sent to Kerala. In Pune, 15 HP pump installed in the area is laid to fill these wagons immediately. Fire brigade is also present to ensure that the water filled in at Pune and 7.5 lakh litres of water was successfully tested as potable.

Ministry of Railways

GMSouthernrailway @GMSRailway · Aug 17
 #KeralaFlood - Glimpses of inundated tracks, mudslides, waterlogging of bridges in Trivandrum and Palakkad divisions that resulted in suspension of train traffic in sensitive sections.



Ministry of Railways and Piyush Goyal

GMSouthernrailway @GMSRailway

Braving all odds!
 Mr.K.N Sreeraj SSE/Electrical/Ernakulam ensured regular water supply to Aluva Station during #KeralaFloods - He went to the river side pump house even while the river was in spate! Kudos!



3:45 AM · 21 Aug 2018

DRM Trivandrum @TVC138 · Aug 17
 Due to adverse conditions, the train services on Thiruvananthapuram-Kottayam-Ernakulam and Ernakulam-Shoranur-Palakkad section is SUSPENDED till 16:00 hrs of 18.08.2018. Additional special passenger services will operate on Thiruvananthapuram-Alappuzha-Ernakulam section.



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Rising Water Level under Railway Bridge



Restoration work in progress



Southern Railway