

# **SOUTHERN RAILWAY—TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION**

## **1. Brief History:**

Southern Railway was formed 57 years back, on **14<sup>th</sup> 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 in Southern Railway. Tiruchchirappalli Division has a long cherished history comparing to other Divisions of the 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> April 1951**.

Trichchirappalli Division serves the State of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. 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 enmity 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.

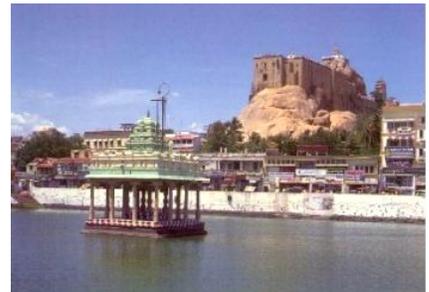
## 2. SALIENT FEATURES:

**2.1** Tiruchchirappalli Division occupies one of the most fertile landscapes of Tamil Nadu with the prosperous and lush Cauvery flowing through. 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, Nagapattinam, 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 and the special trains are run to these places every year during important festival times. The internationally famous Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry 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 Nagapattinam 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. PHYSICAL FEATURES:

Tiruchchirappalli Division encompasses Tiruchchirappalli, Thanjavur, Nagappattinam, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, South Arcot, Villupuram, Pudukkottai and the recently formed Perambalur and Ariyalur districts of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry with a route kilometrage of **1026.55** kms, of which BG comprises of **843.26** kms and MG comprises of **183.29** kms. which is under GC. The Villupuram–Puducherry Section having a route Km. of **37.62** and Villupuram–Tiruchchirappalli (Chord) line having a route km. of **177.53** have been electrified.

The Division has **149** Stations, working as detailed below.

Type	BG	MG	BG/MG	Under GC	Total
Block	81	11	1	2	95
CNC	21	2	0	1	24
Halt	24	5	0	1	30
Total	126	18	1	4	149

The Division has single line working except for a small stretch of 2.8 kms. of between Tiruchchirappalli and Ponmalai where the section works as Double line section.

### 4. PASSENGER TRAFFIC

This division carries around **33 lakhs** originating passengers every month. It runs a total number of **88** passenger carrying trains every day on an average, of which **80** trains are run on the **BG** system and **8** trains run on the **MG system**, providing transportation facility to approximately **1.0 lakh** passengers a day. The earning is about Rs. **145 crores** upto December 2011. The previous Annual earning i.e., during **2010-11** is **Rs.176.75 crores**. Other sundry earning account for about **Rs.23 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. GOODS TRAFFIC

The division primarily caters to the need of transport of Lignite, Cement, Food grains, sugar, charcoal. Recently, fertilizer loading has been started at Cuddalore Port Jn. 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.	i. TamilNadu Cements Corporation Ltd. ii. Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited iii. Madras Cements Limited	Ariyalur	
3	Madras Cements Limited	Ichchangadu	
4	India Cements Limited	Ichchangadu	
5	Grasim Cements Limited	Ariyalur	
6	Chettinad Cement Corporation	Sillakudi	
7	ST-CMS Electric Company Pvt. Limited	Vadalur to Uttangalmangalam	Lignite
8	Rajshri Sugars	Villupuram Jn.	Sugar
9	EID Parry India Limited	Villupuram Jn. & TPGY	
10	Thiurarooran Sugars	Kumbakonam	
11	Ambiga Sugars	Ichchangadu	Rice
12	Food Corporation of India	VLR & TPGY	
13	Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation	TVR, NGT, MV, TTP, KMU & TJ	
14	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited	TPGY	Boiler components
15	MARG shipyard	KIK	Shipyard

## 6. STATION IMPROVEMENTS

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

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.
- \* Thiruvavarur Jn.
- \* Nagappatinam
- \* Srirangam

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