



# INDIAN RAILWAYS

APRIL 2020

₹10



## Covid-19 Warrios of Indian Railways



Distribution of 30,00,000 Free  
Food Packets to Needy People  
Operating Freight Specials to  
Supply Essential Comodities

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Dear Readers,

As you all know the country is passing through such an unprecedented and challenging phase that no words, no analogy, no parallel seem apt enough to capture the enormity of the crisis. Our seniormost readers, particularly those hailing from the Eastern parts of the country would perhaps vaguely recall the dreadful memories of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World war days. But mind you, even during the war, Indian Railways didn't have to stop its passenger services. The gravity of the current situation may perhaps be gauged from this single fact that passenger services of Indian Railways have been halted for nearly a month now and at the time of writing this letter, there is no official word about its resumption.

For the relatively junior section of our readers, born in independent India, the concept of patriotism is at best, nebulous. For most of us, the idea does not go beyond cheering up for the Indian Cricket team or abusing Pakistan with choice invectives over a hot cup of coffee during lazy Sunday afternoons. Few of us realise that the implication of patriotism is actually much greater and very rarely do we, as a nation, get such an opportunity to prove how much we love our motherland. This is precisely where yours truly sees a silver lining even in the present crisis. Out of the blue we have got an opportunity to stand up together and show it to the world that India can do what others can't. We urge all our esteemed readers to take a pledge to remain united in our fight against Corona so that together we can set an example for the rest of the world.

It is a matter of immense pride for every Railwayman across the country that Indian Railways, despite heavy odds, have risen to the occasion and set an example by contributing significantly in the nation's ongoing fight against the pandemic which has been widely appreciated in all forms of the media. This issue highlights the roles played by our various field units in this regard.

In view of the present lock-down, we could not publish the special annual number normally issued in the month of April. This will be issued later this year after the present lockdown period is over. The press entrusted with the printing job of the magazine is presently closed and printing of hard copies was not possible this time. Left with no other option, we are publishing the April issue on-line only, at least for the time being. We apologise to our readers for the inconvenience caused due to circumstances beyond our control.

Wishing you all very good health,

Yours truly,

The Editor

# Comprehensive Measures Taken by Indian Railways to Fight COVID-19

*Indian Railways has geared up its entire machinery in a big way to take comprehensive measures on prevention of COVID-19 virus infection. The preparedness levels are being reviewed by Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State of Railways Shri Suresh Angadi and Chairman Railway Board Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav since 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. Interactions involving General Managers (GMs) and key officials of Railway Board are being held every day. This helps to coordinate efforts, give directions, take feedback, review progress and maintain effective communication. Following initiatives have been taken -*

## Uninterrupted 24x7 Freight Trains Operations to ensure availability of essential commodities throughout the country

In order to ensure that kitchens of all Indian homes continue to run normally, on a single day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2020, Indian Railways did record food grain loading of 112 rakes equivalent to 3.13 lakh tonnes beating previous best food grain loading of 92 rakes (2.57 lakh tonnes) on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 and 89 rakes (2.49 lakh tonnes) on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 and again on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

From 01.04.2020 to 22.04.2020, the total food grains loaded and transported by Indian Railways was 4.58 million tonnes as compared to 1.82 million tonnes in the corresponding period last year.

From 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020 to 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 Railways has transported approx. 6.75 lakh wagons of commodities including about 4.50 lakh wagons of essential commodities like food grains, salt, sugar, edible oil, coal and petroleum products. During the week 2<sup>nd</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020, Railways delivered total 2,58,503 wagons of commodities out of which 1,55,512 wagons contained essential items. This includes 21,247 wagons of food grains, 11,336 wagons of fertilizer, 1,24,759 wagons of coal and 7665 wagons of petroleum products.

### Running of Time-tabled Parcel Trains

Transportation of essential items like medical supplies, medical equipment, fruits, vegetables, milk and dairy products and seeds for agricultural work,



etc. in small parcel sizes is going to be very important during the lockdown. In order to fill in this vital need, Indian Railways has made railway parcel vans available for quick mass transportation by E-Commerce entities and other customers including State governments. Railways has run time-tabled Parcel Special trains on sixty-six (66) identified and notified routes to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential items.

### Relaxation in Demurrage, Wharfage and other ancillary charges

Demurrage, Wharfage, Stabling, Stabling Charges are levied after expiry of prescribed free time. To facilitate freight customers and to provide logistics support for

movement of essential goods in view of COVID pandemic, the competent authority has decided that under force majeure, Demurrage, Wharfage, Stabling, Stabling charges will not arise in case of goods/parcel traffic. Similarly Detention Charge and Ground Usage Charge will not arise for container traffic. These guidelines are applicable from 22 March to 3 May, 2020.

No haulage charge on movement of empty containers and flat containers: In order to maintain smooth flow of goods, haulage charge on movement of empty containers and flat containers has been removed from 24 March to 30 April, 2020.

## Railway Health Services offered to all Central Government Employees

Health Department of Railways is getting ready and equipped to supplement the healthcare efforts of Government of India in its fight against COVID-19. It may be noted that Railways have a chain of 586 Health Units, 45 Sub Divisional Hospitals, 56 Divisional Hospitals, 8 Production Units Hospitals and 16 Zonal Hospitals spread all over the country. A significant portion of these facilities will now be dedicated to combat the Corona virus.

With a total of 2546 posts of Doctors and 35153 paramedic staff including Nursing staff, Pharmacist and other category of staff, Railways is ready to face any challenge in the fight against COVID-19. In a new initiative Railway Health Services have been made available to all Central

Government Employees across the country now. The services include Primary, Secondary, and tertiary care in certain Specialties.

### Contract engagement of para medical staff

General Managers/CAOs/ DRMs have been empowered to engage para medical staff on contract basis to supplement the work force to deal with the situation.

5000 beds earmarked for treatment of COVID patients: Around 5,000 beds in 17 dedicated hospitals and 33 hospital blocks in Railway



Hospitals have been identified for treatment of COVID-19 patients. These hospitals and blocks are being made ready for this purpose.

11,000 quarantine beds: 11,000 quarantine beds have been made available across the Indian Railways establishments to fight COVID-19.

## Isolation Facilities

Besides 11000 beds for quarantine purposes, around 5000 beds have been exclusively earmarked for treatment of COVID-19 patients in 17 dedicated hospitals and 33 hospital blocks have been identified for treatment. These hospitals and blocks are being made ready for this purpose.

Conversion of 5000 coaches to serve as quarantine/isolation facilities: I.R. is converting 5000 train coaches with 80000 beds across the country to serve as quarantine/isolation facilities for COVID-19. Design has been done, prototype approved and conversion action has been started by Zonal Railways. A total of 20000 such coaches with 3.2 lac beds have been identified for conversion in case of requirement.



## Masks



In a bid to mitigate the pandemic, Indian Railways has produced about 6 lakhs reusable face masks and more than 40000 litres hand sanitiser.

Face masks and hand sanitizers are being made available to all staff coming on duty; These are also being provided to contract labourers



## Procurement of Medical Equipment, PPEs and Ventilators

Availability of sufficient number of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Ventilators etc would be critical in fight against COVID-19. Action has been taken by Railway zones and production units to procure ventilators, PPEs and medical equipment to meet their needs to fight.



## Free Meals Supply by IRCTC Base Kitchens



Distribution of free hot cooked meals by Indian Railways crossed the three million mark today during the national lockdown due to COVID-19. On 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, Indian Railways reached 2 million mark in distribution of free meals, in last 10 days, it has accomplished a million mark in distribution of free meals.

The global pandemic has created unprecedented situations leaving a large number of people vulnerable to hunger. Those worst hit by this pandemic and lockdown are stranded persons, daily wage labourers, migrants, children, coolies, homeless, the poor and many who form the floating population.

Indian Railways staff from a number of Railway organizations have worked tirelessly since 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to provide hot cooked meals to needy people after the lockdown due to COVID-19.

Railways has been providing bulk cooked food with paper plates for lunch and food packets for dinner through IRCTC base kitchens, RPF resources and contribution of NGOs. While delivering the food to needy persons, social distancing and hygiene is being observed.

Distribution of food is being done with the help of RPF, GRP, commercial departments of Zones, State Governments, District administrations and NGOs, even beyond the station vicinity to cater

to the food requirements of needy people in areas surrounding the railway stations.

With the active cooperation of IRCTC base kitchens in New Delhi, Bangalore, Hubli, Mumbai Central, Ahmedabad, Bhusaval, Howrah, Patna, Gaya, Ranchi, Katihar, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Nagar, Balasore, Vijaywada, Khurda, Katpadi, Tiruchirapalli, Dhanbad, Guwahati, Samastipur, Prayagraj, Itarsi, Vishakhapatnam, Chengalpatu, Pune, Hajipur, Raipur and Tatanagar spread over various zones such as Northern, Western, Eastern, Southern and South Central, more than 30 lacs cooked meals have been distributed till 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

Of these, about 17.17 lacs cooked meals have been provided by IRCTC, about 5.18 lacs meals have been provided by RPF from its

- Ministry of Railways has offered to supply 2.6 lakh meals daily from various Railway kitchens wherever the district administration is willing and able to pick up cooked meals and distribute among the needy. This has been communicated to District authorities all over the country. These meals will be available at just cost basis at Rs 15/ meal. Payments settlement can be done by the State Governments at later stage.
- Standing by Delhi Police, Railways make arrangements to provide 10000 water bottles per day to Delhi Police personnel on COVID duty

own resources, about 2.53 lacs meals have been provided by Commercial and other departments of Railways and nearly 5.60 lacs meals have been donated by NGOs working with the Railway organizations. The Railway Protection Force has played a major role in the food distribution to needy people prepared by IRCTC, other Railway departments, NGOs and from its own kitchens. Starting with distribution of food to 5419 needy persons over 74 locations on 28.03.2020, the number has grown daily. Presently about 50000 persons daily are being provided meals on an average by RPF across approximately 300 locations across the country.



## Central Control Centre Set up

Railway Emergency Cell for COVID is a comprehensive nation-wide Unit comprising of about 400 Officers & staff from Railway Board to Divisions. During the lockdown, the Cell has been responding to about 13,000 queries, requests and suggestions every day, from five communication and feedback platforms - Help lines 139 and 138, social media (specially Twitter), email (railmadad@rb.railnet.gov.in) and CPGRAMS. More than 90% of the queries were responded on one-to-one basis, mostly in the local language of the caller, over telephone. Due to this 24-hours working Indian Railways Emergency Cell for COVID had its ears to the ground, leading to fleet-footed response to redress grievances of both Railways' customers and general public. For its swift response, Railways garnered praise from across the country.

RailMadad Helpline 139 answered over 2,30,000 queries on one-on-one basis in first four weeks of the lockdown, in addition to queries answered by its IVRS facility. While the queries over 138 and 139 are mostly for commencement of train services and the relaxed refund rules (which itself was done on the basis of the feedback from public), the Social Media is flush with appreciation of Railways' efforts and suggestions in these trying times.

During the same period, over 1,10,000 calls were received on Helpline 138, which is geo-fenced, that is, calls land on the nearest Railway Divisional Control Office (manned round-the-clock by Railway personnel well-versed in local language and familiar with local issues) as per the location



of the caller. This ensures that callers receive information and guidance in the language that they are comfortable speaking. This new feature also makes flow of information to Railway customers and others faster as the pertinent information is readily available with the concerned Division.

Around this time, a need was also felt for quick mass transportation of essential items like medical supplies, medical equipment & food through parcel. Once again, Railways acted swiftly: it started timetabled parcel trains for time-bound delivery of essential items like life-saving drugs. RMS and other consignments struck at various points were also cleared using Parcel specials. This move was lauded by businesses and public alike. A businessman, who was ably assisted by Bangalore division in transporting rice from Gadchiroli to Bangalore and was again helped by Delhi division in getting rice packaging material loaded from Delhi, responded: 'Sir I would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to Railway ministry.

Thank you.'

Railways incorporated suggestions received from public, on realtime basis, wherever possible. For example, one parcel special train was planned by East Coast Railways from Yashwantpur (Bangalore) to Guwahati. However, it did not have a planned stoppage at Vishakahpatnam, but was rerouted through the station after receiving a suggestion on Twitter.

Railways also played pivotal role in transporting life-saving drugs to people unable to procure them in lockdown. A Canada-based NRI, presently in Ludhiana, lauded Central Railways in coordinating & ensuring delivery of his essential medicines from Nagpur to Ludhiana, even in the absence of a direct train between the two

stations. Western Railway transported essential medicines from Ahmedabad to Ratlam, urgently required by a child after his liver transplant. The child uploaded a handwritten letter of appreciation on twitter saying: 'I am glad that Indian Railways have all the facilities for their citizens in this difficult time – Indian Railways are the best'. North Western Railway transported 20 litres of camel milk from Jodhpur to Mumbai for a 3 year old child suffering from autism and having severe food allergies, by giving unscheduled stoppage to pick the milk container. To this, a well wisher responded: 'Amazing to see how to simply make things happen. Where there is a will, things are made to happen.'

## Round the Clock Service by our Workers



Indian Railways Staff are working at various goods sheds, stations and control offices on 24/7 basis to ensure that the supply of essential items for the nation does not get affected. Locomotive Pilots and guards are efficiently running the trains. Key maintenance staff

of Track, Signaling, Overhead equipment, locomotives, coaches and wagons are maintaining the infrastructure in good fettle to ensure smooth running of freight trains.

Institutional mechanism has been put in place to escalate issues

faced by Zonal Railways in goods train operations and loading/unloading of rakes at goods sheds/ parcel sidings to Control Room Set up by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on real time basis through Railway officers as part of the MHA Control Room.

## Corona Prevention Measures at Work Places

Since freight operations are running 24x7 to maintain essentials and goods supplies, operation and maintenance staff are working round the clock. To ensure safety of these staff and boost their morale, following are being ensured at all workplaces:

- Masks and hand sanitizers are being made available to all staff coming on duty. These are also being ensured for contract labourers. Railway workshops, coaching depots and hospitals have risen to the occasion are locally producing sanitizers and masks to supplement supplies.



- Soap, water and washing facilities are being provided at all work places. With local innovations hands free washing facilities have been provided.
- Social distancing is being ensured. Awareness in this regard is being regularly spread amongst all staff like trackmen, locomotive pilots etc



## Central Railway Workshops Gear Up to Fight Against COVID-19

In order to prevent the spread of COVID19, Central Railway is making an all-out effort to supplement the health care efforts. This include equipping the existing Railway Hospitals to meet the COVID needs, earmarking of hospital beds to meet the contingencies, modification of passenger coaches as isolation coaches, etc.

Workshops at Parel and Matunga have also pitched in their might in this effort.

They have converted 482 ICF coaches into isolation facility as per guidelines of Railway Board.

### Silent warrior – Real Heroes Khushroo Poacha

Amid industrialists, corporate houses, celebs, businessmen and other philanthropists who help people in times of coronavirus pandemic, a railways employee is showing he also cares. Shri Khushroo Poacha, a staff with the Central Railway, Commercial Department at Nagpur, has hit upon a successful strategy to feed thousands - but without taking donations or even opening a bank account.



He uses his goodwill, personal and professional contacts through the social media, to collect food and managed to collect food and aid materials worth more than Rs 40 lakh, which has benefitted over 6,000 families, besides two tonnes of rice to feed more than 60,000 poor. For the ongoing pandemic relief work, Poacha deploys help requests through a series of WhatsApp Groups, and his website. Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Government of India appreciated the yeomen service by Shri Khushroo



Duty. Smt. Malati, Track woman at Chandrapur, Smt. Kalpana Neware, Track woman at Chandrapur, Monika Raghu Waghmare Track woman at Ajni and Ranjana Kshirsagar, Track Woman at Ajni had already prepared 150 masks each and also 150 masks each are under preparation. Thus total 1,200 masks are being prepared by track woman voluntarily at their home.

**RPF**

Central Railway's Railway Protection Force is battling

Poacha. Shri Uddhav Thackeray, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra also personally contacted through telephone and enquired about his functioning in helping the poor.

**V.M. Rajan**

Shri V.M Rajan, Chief Yard Master, Kalyan Goods yard is one such silent warrior who played an important role to run goods trains during lockdown due to COVID19. He managed to run 311 goods trains by judiciously arranging goods drivers, guards and other staff available at his command to cater strategic movement of essential commodities. He also managed to run the goods train even though, the availability of working staff is limited due to non-availability of transportation and social issues.

**Track maintainer**

Track Maintainer at various locations played an important role to maintain the track for safe running of freight movements of trains during lock-down. The track maintainers are keeping the track safe for movement of freight traffic. Sr DEN Co-ordination of their respective divisions are personally interacting with them for summer precautions and guide to maintain social distancing while performing their works. Divisional Engineers Counselling Track-man for social



distancing and safe work. Section Engineers are ensuring distribution of mask, sanitizers, soap and hand gloves to every track maintainer on duty.

Apart from this, track women of CR are preparing mask for their colleagues and railway employees on

Coronavirus leading from the front standing shoulder to shoulder with Railway authorities, Medical department, State Police, and Civic administration apart from protecting the vital installations, assets and other railway properties. They are also contributing immensely to the





much-needed work of Awareness Campaign, Food Distribution, Production of Sanitizers and Masks to combat Covid-19.

During lockdown assets like coaches, locomotives, stabled rakes, yards, signalling infrastructure, stations, relay rooms, goods sheds, wagon stock etc are guarded and ensured safety whether in use or not, and keeping an eye 24x 7 on all fixed & moving assets. Protecting & guarding the Railway Properties, Goods, Parcels, Essential Items is a challenge during this lockdown for the RPF Officials. Each Goods/Parcel trains en-route to its destination is guarded by Railway Protection Force Personnel.

Mr. Rathod escorted Special Parcel Trains from CSMT to Lonavala and back guarding another Parcel special, whereas Shri Saini guarded Special Parcel Trains to Nasik and back, without knowing the time of returning back.

### Signal & Telecom Technicians

Technicians of Signal and Telecom (S&T) department are performing their duties with zeal and dedication. They are carrying out day to day maintenance to keep S&T assets in good fettle for safe and smooth running of goods trains during COVID19. Also, number of improvements works which requires



large blocks and are difficult to carry out during normal train running, have been carried out.

During this lock down period, requirement of Telecom & IT has increased manifold due to constant discussions, meetings, Webinars etc. through regular Video conferencing at various levels. Same is being maintained tirelessly by the hardworking and devoted telecom staff, to ensure uninterrupted flow of information.

Apart from this, family members of the staff are preparing mask for their colleagues and railway employees on Duty. So far, total 900 masks have been prepared by family members of S&T staff voluntarily at their home and also 400 masks are under preparation.

### Electrical Traction Distribution

The Traction Distribution (TRD) wing of Electrical Department of Central Railway is mainly responsible for overhead electrical power supply to Railways is also playing a crucial role in smooth operations of trans. TRD wing working tirelessly towards maintenance of Over Head Equipment's (OHEs) and Power Supply Installations (PSIs). The TRD wing of Central Railway also ensuring the maintenance of Crossovers, Turnouts, Masts, Cantilevers etc for smooth



operations of trains by operating power blocks on all five Divisions of Central Railway. The Live Line Checking by Tower Wagon and Foot Patrolling of sections is being carried out to ensure healthiness of OHE gears for smooth running of trains.

**Safety Counsellors**

Safety department plays a very important & essential role in the day to day functioning of the Indian Railways as the wheels roll on the tracks, it is a multi-disciplinary department auditing operational & maintenance activities of various dept to ensure safety in train operations, counselling operating & maintenance staff and analysing unusual in train operations to highlight deficiencies for taking corrective action.

Shri Sanjay Gopale a dedicated safety counsellor, working with Nagpur Division showed great devotion to duty and dedication to run trains safely, used latest digital technology to e-council the operational & maintenance staff. Shri Gopale prepared three very useful videos to guide the ground level staff, these e-Counselling efforts have been proving a great motivation and are helpful to give up-to date knowledge to the staff involved in these essential train operations.

**More than 55,100 wagons of essential commodities in last 24 days by CR**

Due to the pandemic of corona

virus, Central Railway is operating only freight trains for carrying essential commodities. Railway staff at various good sheds, stations and control offices who are working on 24/7 basis have made it possible to load 55,142 wagons of essential commodities in 1,102 rakes for supply across the nation. These wagons were loaded at various locations of Central Railway like Mumbai, Bhusaval, Nagpur, Solapur and Pune from 23 March to 15 April 2020.

**Central Railway’s “Rail Parivar Dekh-Rekh Muhim” covers now 2 lakh persons**

Ever since Central Railway launched ‘Rail Parivar Dekh-Rekh Muhim’ to alleviate the concerns of employees and their families during



these uncertain times, more than a week ago, Central Railway has crossed the number of 2 lakh including railway employees and their family members. The idea has been appreciated by Railway Board and adopted all over other Railways. The main idea is to be in regular contact with all the railway employees of Central Railway, keeping a record of their health status (including their family members), providing adequate support during the lockdown period.

Shri Sanjeev Mittal, General Manager, Central Railway said that this campaign will be further enriched to higher levels of cooperative support in the ongoing fight against the COVID19 pandemic and instil solidarity amongst the Railway employees. The role of Human Resource Department which has coordinated with other departments for this initiative is worth mentioning.

Dr. A.K. Sinha, Principal Chief Personnel Officer, Central Railway said that a message has been sent to all the Railway staff and officers to maintain a Contact Dairy in which before they go to sleep, they are supposed to list down the names and details of people they have met during the day to help track contacts if someone turns COVID positive.

He also said the resourcefulness of Divisional Railway Managers of all the divisions of Central Railway have made it possible to reach the figure of 2 lakh.

**Benefits**

Every employee has been contacted and mapped location wise so that in case of an emergency, help can reach them quickly. This one-to-one contact programme enabled CR to get the ‘Arogya Setu App’ downloaded by almost all the employees and additional 50,000 pensioners as on date as well. Families of employees have been counselled that frontline staff will be required to keep the essential services running and that the administration is with them to take

care of their needs. All the information on personal protection and measures to contain the spread of COVID are being shared with all the employees and their families.

Colony Care Committees have been activated and other local committees have been formed with the help of employees / Union Members and these are taking care of employee's day to day needs during the lock down. Various cooperative societies of our Railways have been activated and colony wise duty has been assigned to nominated members for provision of groceries etc. This is also being extended to the contractual staff and allied workers.

### Free meals to needy persons by IRCTC and Railways

Central Railway in coordination with IRCTC have distributed free meals to needy persons through Commercial Department, RPF and NGOs. IRCTC has prepared meals for 1,10,490 persons till 16.4.2020 and Commercial Department and NGOs for 75,983 persons on Central Railway.

### In-house production of face covers and sanitizer

Central Railway has prepared 1,10,800 face covers and 6,513 litres of sanitizer on its Divisions and workshops for distribution to essential staff who are on duty and others.



### Control Office - War room of Central Railway

The control office of Indian Railways is the nerve centre of train operations. It controls the asset management of the Railways, in a dynamic situation, round the clock incessantly moving trains on its network. All technical disciplines involved in train movement have a representative in the control to provide the required support from different departments. Chief Control (Goods) and Chief Control (Coaching) from operating co-ordinates with all other departments like Mechanical,

Electrical, Commercial, Security-RPF, Signalling & Telecommunications, Civil Engineering etc. CR Control office is headquartered at Mumbai and it controls all five divisional control offices. All departments have a role in the operation of goods trains, the control office has an important role to play.

About 75 rakes are being loaded & unloaded daily from Mumbai, Nagpur, Bhusaval, Solapur and Pune divisions of Central Railway, including essential commodities like food grains, coal for power generation and other items like cement.





Railway staff at various good sheds, stations and control offices who are working on 24/7 basis have made it possible to load 55,142 wagons of essential commodities in 1,102 rakes from 23.3.2020 to 15.4.2020.

Along with this, about 138 parcel trains are being operated, in which life essential items like medicines, vegetables, perishable items, postal bags etc. are being supplied in every corner of the country. 1530 tonnes

of essential commodities were carried till 14.4.2020 by Central Railway which include medicine, medical equipments, fruits, vegetables, eggs, jute seeds, postal bags and raw material.

**Initiative of Central Railway and Government of Maharashtra for supply of essential commodities.**

In view of the coronavirus epidemic, the Central Railway has given permission to use the vacant

land at Mumbra station premises for the use of vegetable and fruit vendors for selling green vegetables and fruits. In this regard, permission was sought from the Railway Administration by the Government of Maharashtra, which has been granted immediately subject to the norms and all the necessary conditions including instructions to follow the Social Distancing and Safety Rules. ■





*Awareness programme in ER's Sealdah Division by mobile medical van 'Pradeep' against spread of Novel Coronavirus.*

## Steps Taken by ER to Prevent Spread of Novel Coronavirus, to Maintain Supply of Essential Commodities and to Feed People at Starvation during Lock Down Period

Awareness building programme through IEC (Information, Education & Communication) are being organised over the jurisdiction of ER about do's and don'ts to prevent spread of Novel Coronavirus, through banners, posters, leaflets, stickers, Advisory to frontline staff etc. For creating awareness regarding prevention of Covid-19, caller tune of ER CUG phones in vernacular language has been incorporated. Awareness campaign through dignitaries of different field were organized and ventilated through social media network and video walls at stations. Audio CD containing do's and don'ts in Bengali, Hindi and English languages were sent to

different stations over ER for announcing through Public Address System. Also, social media network like Twitter and Facebook were widely used by ER for mass awareness about do's and don'ts to prevent spread of Novel Coronavirus. As of now, about 166 Twitter and 174 Facebook postings on mass awareness and other activities to prevent spread of Novel Coronavirus, were made in ER. In addition, appeals to common people about the do's and don'ts to fight against spread of



*ER Doctors and medical staff are on duty round- the-clock*



*Work for conversion of passenger coaches into isolation coaches*



*Loading of a parcel Express train*



*Thermal screening of ER front line staff.*

Novel Coronavirus were made to different print and electronic media through press briefings and issuing of Press Releases. Awareness campaign was also organised through ventriloquism and different videos shown through video walls at different stations.

'Pradeep', the mobile medical van of ER's Sealdah Division were utilised for awareness among the railway staff at different stations over Sealdah Division. It was also used for checking up of employees' health condition at every station over the Division.

Infrastructure for offering medical treatment at different nominated hospitals in ER is being built up. Pathology Laboratories are also activated for the purpose.

One Centralised COVID-19 Control with Rly. Phone No., DOT Phone No. & Mobile Phone No. is functional at Zonal HQ Hospital (B. R. Singh Hospital).

ER has surpassed its target of producing 338 Isolation coaches by converting non-AC sleeper coaches. It has already produced 380 such coaches at different places of its jurisdiction like Kanchrapara & Liluah workshop, Sealdah, Tikiapara, Sorting Yard, Chitpur, Asansol, Malda, Bhagalpur Coaching Depot etc. ER is ready to produce more such coaches according to the need in future.



*Our Trackman working on the track.*



*Coal loading in a goods train*

In the wake of Covid-19, Medical Practitioners and Para Medical staff have been recruited and the process is still on in ER.

Running of all passenger carrying trains are suspended upto 3.5.2020 due to lock down in the wake COVID19 for which wide publicity have been given.

All type of ticket booking at stations and outside of stations for both reserved and unreserved segment are closed to avoid mass

gatherings.

However, Freight Operations are on in ER system on 24x7 basis to reach the essential commodities at different corners of the country.

During this crucial time, ER is running timetabled Parcel Express Trains in seven different routes till 3.5.2020 (originating) to supply essential commodities at different corners of the country. The routes are Sealdah – Guwahati – Sealdah, Howrah – Guwahati – Howrah,



*Unloading of Rice from a rake at a Goods Siding of Eastern Railway during Lockdown period*



*Sanitization of locos at Malda for prevention of spread of COVID-19*



*On duty ER Guard during lock down period*



*Drivers in the engine to move the wheels of freight trains in motion to transport essential commodities.*



*Masks for prevention of spread of Novel Coronavirus, are being prepared at ER's Liluah Workshop.*

Sealdah – Malda Town – Sealdah, Howrah – Jamalpur – Howrah, Howrah – New Delhi – Howrah, Sealdah – New Delhi – Sealdah and Howrah – Mumbai CSMT – Howrah. Anybody can book essential materials in such trains. ER has published some phone numbers to be contacted for parcel booking.

Sanitization and disinfection work at station premises, train engines and coaches are on over ER.

At different Workshops, Coaching Depot and other places, ER is preparing mask and sanitiser for the use of the same by the frontline staff and other Railway employees.

Since the imposition of lockdown, ER RPF has been distributing foods, cooked by IRCTC at their base kitchens, among the needy and distressed people at Howrah, Sealdah and at different stations in ER's jurisdiction everyday maintaining social distancing and other hygienic aspects. IRCTC and NGOs are also taking part in this activity. Additional General Manager,

Eastern Railway personally monitored food distribution works at Howrah, Sealdah and Headquarters area.

Frontline Eastern Railway employees have been rendering yeomen's service through their

untiring effort at this crisis moment to maintain uninterrupted supply of essential commodities by running of goods and parcel trains. Side by side, Eastern Railway is sincerely caring for their health conditions. ■



*ER RPF distributing food to the needy people to ease off their livelihood during lockdown period*



*Masks are being distributed among labourers in Bhagalpur - Dumka section*

# COVID-19

## If there are challenges..... then there will be solutions Steps Taken by East Central Railway to Prevent COVID-19



**I**n view of the global pandemic COVID-19, East Central Railway is significantly contributing in efforts of the government to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus disease.

All the guidelines received by the Hon'ble Minister of Railways; Chairman / Railway Board are being implemented in ECR on war footing. General Manager of ECR Shri Lalit Chandra Trivedi is holding regular review meetings with the Principal Heads of all the Departments and Divisional Railway Managers of all the five divisions of East Central Railway on a regular basis to ensure that these guidelines are implemented timely in a most effective manner.

COVID-19 helpline numbers have been started in all the five divisions namely- Danapur, Dhanbad, Sonpur, Samastipur and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and headquarters Hajipur where railway personnel are deployed round the clock to answer to the queries and take suitable corrective action. To keep the morale of the employees high in the difficult times of today, a unique initiative "Coronavirus Warriors of ECR" has been launched to honour & acknowledge the contribution of our staff. Hundreds of employees of East Central Railway have been selected and honoured as "Corona

Warriors of ECR" for their invaluable contribution in the prevention of this disease and keeping the wheels of the nation moving. At the call of Hon'ble PM, the officials and employees of East Central Railway, have voluntarily donated their one-day salary amounting to approximately Rs 12 crores to PM CARES FUND.

In view of this global pandemic, East Central Railway has taken many aegis and defensive measures.

### **Goods train continue to operate**

Keeping in view the larger interests of the public health of people, the services of all Mail, Express, Passenger and sub-urban services including Premium trains have been cancelled till May 3, 2020.

However, goods train operations continues to ensure that there is no disruption to supply chain of essential commodities and bulk goods needed to meet the daily requirement of the common people and industry respectively. During this period of lockdown, the objective of East Central Railway is to see that even if the wheel of the rail is stopped, the wheel of the life of the common people continues to move. Railway personnel deployed at various Goods Sheds, Stations and Control offices are serving round the clock to ensure that supply of essential commodities and bulk goods should not get affected anywhere.

7.44 MT of coal, 0.85 MT of





*Corona Warriors of ECR performing their duty*

Dehri subdivision of Rohtas District in Bihar.

From the very beginning of the lockdown period, all the necessary resources including masks, sanitizers, soaps, medicines were made available free of cost among the needy and helpless villagers of Mudiyar village.

Railway personnel also made the villagers aware about the dangers of the virus and how to protect themselves from getting infected by the coronavirus.

Also, free food items are being made available to the needy people.

### Provision of free food

As a part of its social service commitment, East Central Railway

petroleum products, 0.16 MT of food grains, 0.02 MT of fertilizer were loaded in East Central Railway during the period 22.03.2020 to 18.04.2020. Whereas during this period a total of 253 rakes were unloaded at various terminals of ECR that included 180 rakes of food grains, 43 rakes of fertilizer, 11 rakes of salt, 5 rakes each of onion and petroleum products, 3 rakes of automobiles and 2 rakes each of sugar, coal tar and maize.

### Operation of Time-tabled Special Parcel Express trains

Total 29 pairs of time-tabled parcel special trains are being run by Indian Railways passing through ECR till 3 May, 2020. Basically, these are being run to facilitate trans-

portation of goods related to common people where quantities are small. These parcel specials are catering to the requirements of major stations like Patna, Ara, Buxar, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction, Dhanbad, Darbhanga, Saharsa, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur etc. Gradually, these parcel services are gaining popularity among the traders as these are able to transport goods in a fixed time schedule at a very competitive price.

### An innovative initiative

Setting an example of humanity, the railway personnel of Dehri-on-Sone station of East Central Railway adopted the village of Mudiyar in



*Poor and needy people standing in Queue, maintaining social distance at DDU station*

made available free food to about 1 lakh 70 thousand poor and helpless people till April 20 from the start of lockdown at many stations including Patna, Rajendra Nagar Terminal, Danapur, Gaya, Dhanbad, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction, Sonpur, Muzaffarpur, Barauni and Samastipur.

Despite all odds and dangers, the contribution of the Railway Protection Force and railway personnel of other departments in the fight against COVID-19 is very commendable.

### Manufacture of PPE kits and Special provision in railway hospitals

The battle of COVID-19 has been accepted as a challenge by East Central Railway. More than 100 experienced doctors and nurses and more than 250 para medical staff are deployed round the clock in the



*Unloading of small items from Parcel Special train*



*PPE kits being prepared by Danapur division*

hospitals to take care of any exigency. Special training was also imparted to about 800 railway personnel for rescue or treatment of COVID-19 patients. At present, a total of 09 special clinics are functioning in East Central Railway hospitals. So far, 70 thousand patients have been screened. 73 of the suspected patients among them were kept under proper supervision. Similarly, a total of 135 isolation beds for treatment / rescue of COVID-19 patients and 590 beds for quarantine have been kept in readiness. Necessary medical supplies like oxygen and medical equipment namely ventilators etc. are being made available in all the COVID-19 nominated hospitals to deal with any emergency.

ECR has been entrusted to manufacture 30,000 PPE kits by 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2020. Till 21<sup>st</sup> April, a total of 2040 PPE suits has been prepared by East Central Railway. As of now, East Central Railway is second only to Northern Railway in the entire Indian Railways in terms of making

PPE suits. Due to sudden surge in demand, the non-availability of masks and sanitisers in the market became a cause of concern. To overcome this alarming situation, railway personnel rose to the occasion and have in-house manufactured 66,000 masks, 7,000 litres of sanitizers and 8.5 thousand litres of pesticides. The pesticides are being extensively used to sanitise the railway colonies, office premises etc. Masks and sanitisers are being used by railwaymen working in the railway offices. As a precautionary measure, all patients coming to railway hospitals having fever are being kept in a separate ward. In these wards, protective gears have been provided to the medical personnel deployed. All precautions and safety measures are being taken as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to ensure the safety of patients as well as the doctors, nurses, paramedic staff and other patients visiting the railway hospitals.

### Sanitization of stations, offices etc.

A massive sanitisation drive has been launched to sanitize the trains, platforms and station premises. Also, all frontline staff have been provided with personal protective equipment and sprayer-cum-sanitizer equipment.



*Isolation ward in Dhanbad Railway Hospital*

### Sleeper coaches Transformed into isolation coach

Total 269 coaches have been converted as quarantine / isolation wards by East Central Railway with an aim to make additional contribution to the health care efforts of the Government of India. In these coaches, provision of 4304 berths has been made for coronavirus infected or suspected patients.

### Use of Arogya Setu app

Apart from these measures, the government is also focussing on the use of high-end mobile technology equipped with AI to vigorously counter COVID-19. It has developed the Arogya Setu App. So far, about 88 percent of the total railway employees of East Central Railway have installed the Arogya Setu app on their mobiles. Their family members are also using this App. Railway is also encouraging the contract labours to use this App. It is expected that very soon all railway employees who use smartphones will have this App installed in their smartphones. It would be appropriate to say that East Central Railway is aiming to make maximum contribution in the fight against Coronavirus disease keeping in mind the interests of every section of society and in the overall interest of our country. ■



*Railwaymen of Dehri on Sone made available food etc to needy villagers of Mudhiya village*



*Vigil over ECoR using Drone surveillance*

## East Coast Railway Prepared to Offer All Out Support in Nation's Fight against COVID-19 Outbreak

Despite lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreak, Ministry of Railways has taken challenge ensuring uninterrupted supply of essential commodities throughout the country. A lot of activities are on at various railway units of ECoR.

Train Coach Maintenance depots, Railway Workshops, Administrative Offices, Railway Hospitals, RPF Barracks and Thanas etc. are buzzing with activities relating to fight against COVID-19. Apart from its most crucial role in supply of

essential commodities across the country through its goods trains, East Coast Railway is continuously working on many more fronts to provide maximum possible assistance in fight against COVID-19 outbreak.

### Supply of essential Commodities through goods trains

Indian Railways is lifeline of the nation. True to its essence, ECoR is working round the clock for loading/unloading of essential bulk commodities from its various terminals. Coal for power houses/industries is being loaded from Talcher, Paradip, Vishkhapatnam etc; Petroleum products from Paradip refinery, Vizag



*Loading of Coal at Talcher*

terminal; and foodgrains from terminals like FCI Jagganathpur, Pendurti, Vobili, Srikakulam, Bolangir, Kesinga, Hirakud etc. During the lockdown period, ECoR has loaded 1644 trains of coal, 49 trains of petroleum products and 87 trains of food grains to ensure supply of essential commodities across the country.

### Running of Time Tabled parcel Express trains

Apart from the above bulk essential commodities, many packaged items, fruits and vegetables and other perishable items are also very important to meet requirements like healthcare. East Coast Railway has introduced two time tabled Parcel Express trains. One is daily running between Vishakhapatnam and Cuttack, other is running between Vishakhapatnam and Sambalpur every alternate day. Apart from this, Parcel Express of other zones running between Secunderabad- Howrah, Yashwantpur- Howrah, Bangalore-North East India are also passing through ECoR jurisdiction having stoppages in ECoR for loading/unloading. Essential items like medicines, fruit and vegetables, Personal Protective Equipments for State governments and other agencies, Edible Oil, Ghee, Milk



Isolation/Quarantine Coach

Powder, Grocery items etc. are being transported through these parcel express trains.

### Conversion of Coaches to Serve as Isolation/Quarantine Facility

ECoR has been assigned to convert 261 coaches to serve as isolation/quarantine facility for the suspected COVID-19 patients as and when required. Some prescribed essential facilities are to be provided in those coaches like Oxygen cylinder, space for medicines and paramedics, bathroom and toilet facility, dustbins, charging points, window net etc. The task of

conversion has been completed till 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 and now trains are being formed to be placed at major stations across the ECoR territory after sanitisation of these trains. It is planned to place 3 trains at Bhubaneswar, 2 at Khurda Road, 2 at Sambalpur, 3 at Vishkhapatnam, 1 at Titlagarh, 1 at Vizianagaram, 1 at Cuttack and 2 at Puri stations.

### Food distribution to poor and needy

During this time of distress, food is being distributed to the poor and needy like daily wage earners, coolies etc. who have lost their means of livelihood due to lockdown. Till 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 Total 67,800 food packets have been distributed and is continuing at various stations like Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Puri, Cuttack, Vishakhapatnam, Sambalpur. This has been distributed by various railway agencies like IRCTC (49,200 packets), RPF ( 7571 packets) and other NGOs (11,029 packets).

### Vigil over ECoR territory through Drones surveillance

In a first of its kind, ECoR has started keeping vigil over its entire territory using drone surveillance. To avoid physical movement of people during lockdown, this step has been taken. At all major stations like Vishakhapatnam, Khurda



Foodgrains Loading at Srikakulam



*Distribution of Food to the poor*

Road, Puri etc. it has started.

**Production of Masks and Sanitizers**

Due to sudden spurt in the demand, ECoR decided for in-house production of masks and sanitizers through its depots, sheds and workshops to meet its internal demand and provide surplus to others. Till 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020 a total of 45,705 masks and 1272 litres of sanitizer have been produced from

units like, Mancheswar Workshop, Electric Loco shed Angul, Diesel Loco shed, Vishkhapatnam etc.

**Paddle operated soap dispenser and Oxygen cylinder carrier**

These have been produced at Diesel loco shed Vishakhapatnam, Coaching Depo Puri, Carriage facility at Paradip etc. ■



*Soap Dispenser*



*Soap Dispenser*



*Food Distribution to the poor*



## Standing by the Nation to Fight the Corona Virus

The World is experiencing a global health crisis. The pandemic caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) or COVID-19 as we know it has impacted human life in almost 185 countries. With no effective medicine or vaccine against the virus at present the whole of humanity is suffering. The number of infections is rising each day with potential life threatening situation for people who are immunologically challenged in one way or other. This catastrophic situation will surely cause devastating social, economic and political impact on the world. The scars will take a long time to fill.

India too is facing the wrath of the invisible assassin. Timely assessment of the situation and the tough actions taken by our Prime Minister has helped to keep the rate of infection in India at a manageable level. We are racing to slow the spread of the virus by testing and treating patients, carrying out contact tracing, limiting travel, quarantining citizens, prohibiting large gatherings such as

sporting events, concerts and closing schools, colleges, offices and industrial units. The Lockdown and strict dos and don'ts norms and the concept of social distancing have helped in confining the infection to certain hotspots that are mainly in the urban areas.

Indian Railways, the largest passenger transportation in the country has been an active participant in the country's fight against

the corona virus. All passenger train operations were stalled as the lockdown came into effect. Over 12 thousand mail express, premium and suburban trains stopped plying on the rail network. A situation never encountered in the 167 years of Indian Railways. This move although inconvenienced many yet has immensely helped in curtailing the spread of the deadly virus in the country.



Northern Railway is the largest Railway zone in the country. It serves a large chunk of the Indian population living in the densely populated states and UTs of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Capital region of Delhi through its 5 Divisions. Mover of men, material, machinery, military and merchandise the zone has always effectively contributed to the economy of the country. During the present situation too NR is making all out efforts to devote itself to help the nation overcome this crisis.

Northern Railway for the safety of the travellers had stopped providing blankets and curtains in the AC coaches from beginning of March, 2020. All passenger services in the zone were suspended with the lockdown. However, the Goods trains have continued their run unabated. Special long distance time tabled Parcel Cargo express trains are being run from different regions of the North India to maintain the supply of items of daily use and essential medicines and equipment even in remote places.

Special Jumbo rakes 'Annapurna' & 'Amba' carrying food grains from the granaries of Punjab and Haryana are being regularly dispatched to different parts of the country to maintain food supplies mainly through the Public Distribution System. A record 53 rakes were loaded with 2650 tonnes of food grains in a single day on 17.04.2020. In another achievement, one such jumbo train completed its run from Malsian Shakhht (Punjab) to Guwahati (Assam) covering a distance of about 2,500 km in an unprecedented time of 50 hours.

Meanwhile the haulage of other bulk items Salt, Sugar, Cement, Fertilizer, Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants etc are going on unabated. Milk supplies to cities and towns are being maintained. 6 Fast paced special 'Doodh Duranto' trains each carrying 2.4 lakh litre of milk were



received at Hazrat Nizamuddin in Delhi from Reningunta in Andhra Pradesh (SCRLy) till 17.04.2020. These trains have parcel vans full of Musk melons and Mangoes, a gift for the people of the Capital Region in these testing times. Many more such trains are scheduled for the days to come.

In a unique bid to create additional quarantine facilities to bolster the country's limited healthcare infrastructure the Indian Railways decided to convert its ICF non AC sleeper coaches into quarantine wards. This is a good and cost-effective interim measure as these coaches can cater to the need of the semi-urban and rural areas, where medical facilities are limited. They can also be very easily moved from one place to another in a short time.

Like other zonal Railways NR is diligently working to modify some of its train coaches into patient isolation wards. The Railway Workshops over NR have converted 515 coaches into quarantine facilities up till now. A single coach will be able to accommodate as many as 16 patients at a time. It takes around six-seven days to modify each coach at a cost of about Rs. 2 lakh.

In the modified coaches middle berth has been removed to provide more space to the patients. An Indian style toilet on one side of the coach has been converted into a bathroom, while space for paramedic station has been created on the other side. Each compartment has been installed with additional electric ports for plugging medical

equipment. Oxygen cylinders have also been provided in coach. Windows have been covered with mosquito nets and additional fans have also been fitted. Bamboo mats will be pasted on the roof and each side of the coach which will protect the patients from intense heat during the summer months.

Isolation facilities have been created at the Tertiary care Central Hospital and the Main Divisional Hospitals. The Doctors and Medical staff have been provided with additional specialized Personal care equipment to deal with the contagious disease. The hospitals have been directed to treat patients belonging to all central government service besides railways.

At a time when the protection and sanitization items are in short

"Indian Railways has always risen to the occasion and moulded itself to the needs of the Nation. Jagadhri Carriage & Wagon Workshop has developed a PPE coverall befitting international standards. The design of the coverall has been approved by DRDO. The PPE coveralls will be of great help in protecting the frontline workers dealing with the deadly disease. This indigenously developed and produced design of PPE will be a great innovation under the 'Make in India' Initiative of the Hon'ble Prime Minister"

- Shri Rajiv Chaudhry, General Manager, North Central & Northern Railway,

supply, all production units over NR, Jagadhri, Alambagh, Kalka and Amritsar workshops are actively involved in the manufacturing of masks, PPE coveralls and sanitizers. 67,476 reusable face covers, 5,594 litres of hand sanitizer and 1,461 PPE have been produced till 18.04.2020. The Workshops are up-scaling their production. Alambagh workshop, Lucknow, is also



producing medical beds for accommodating Covid-19 patients.

Indian Railways has decided to refund the complete amount of Tickets to the passengers of the cancelled trains during the lockdown period. Demurrage and Wharfage charges have also been relaxed on consignments during the lockdown. Northern Railway is to follow the same. As a humanitarian gesture Railway staff from a number of Railway organizations have worked tirelessly since 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to provide hot cooked meals to the stranded persons, daily wage labourers, children, coolies, homeless, the poor many of whom form the floating or migrant population, the worst-hit due to the lockdown amid the coronavirus crisis.

The food to the needy has been provided with the help of IRCTC base kitchens, RPF resources, zonal railway departments and contribution of NGOs. Till 18.04.2020 about 68,000 free meals from IRCTC

and 1,31,000 from other sources had been distributed to the needy. Railway Protection Force stationed at different towns and cities over NR is playing an active role in distribution of the meals. Hand sanitization, use of masks and social distancing norms are being strictly followed.

Aarogya Setu a mobile application developed by the Government of India aimed at augmenting the initiatives of the Government, particularly the Department of Health, in proactively reaching out to and informing the users of the app regarding risks, best practices and relevant advisories pertaining to the containment of COVID-19 has been received well by the employees of Northern Railway. 1,19,690 employees over the zone have installed the Arogya Setu App uptill 18.04.2020.

To maintain maximum operational capabilities staff and officers have been working relentlessly 24x7

many of them on-site maintaining tracks, electric tractions, signalling systems, locomotives, coaches and wagons adhering to personal safety and social distancing norms. E-office platform has been adopted in all the five divisions and the Headquarter office. Approximately 1,39,000 employees of NR have pledged to voluntarily contribute one day's salary to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's PM-

CARES Fund to combat the ill effects of coronavirus disease in the country.

All out efforts are also being made to disseminate relevant information to the rail-users through press releases issued to the print and electronic media and using the various social media platforms. Publication of classified notices regarding the running of timetabled cargo trains newspapers from time to time. Posters and Pamphlets educating the general public about the disease have also been published and distributed. SMS campaigns have also been undertaken informing about the perils of crossing and venturing along the railway lines during the lockdown period.

Northern Railway has served the nation in peace times and will continue to do so in this crisis. Patience and Perseverance of the people of India will certainly pay rich dividends; together we shall conquer the intruder. ■



# North Central Railway on the Forefront to Safeguard from COVID-19

Indian Railways, the biggest transport utility of the country, has been taking a series of innovative measures to fight COVID-19 pandemic besides sustained efforts to run goods and parcel trains to ensure adequate supply of essential commodities across the length and breadth of the nation. North Central Railway one of the most important Zonal Railways providing connectivity between North to East, West and South has been on the forefront in this unprecedented endeavor of Indian Railways against Corona Virus and has used following technological aids and innovations in this fight against COVID-19.

## Effective use of Technology and Innovations

### Video Conferencing facility in Railway Hospital

Central Hospital Prayagraj has been equipped with video conferencing facility for outdoor patient consultation. Under this facility any railway employee can



make a WhatsApp video call on number 7518704600 and Railway doctor shall be available 24x7 for consultation to outdoor patients. Railways has already allowed

### Talk Back arrangement in Railway Hospital

Agra Division has provided talk back arrangement at reception-cum-enquiry of divisional Rly hospital. This arrangement provides ease of communication with help of microphone and speaker while physical separation is maintained with glass partition ensuring requisite social distancing. This facility is being provided in other railway hospitals NCR also.

Social distancing through online data logger in safe operation of goods trains: Proper functioning of signalling system is essential for goods trains operation and cables forms the backbone of this signal system. If the cables give the Earth fault, the signal system is completely interrupted, for this, on-line earth leakage detectors have been installed at each station which are networked by data logger and connected to the data logger control centre at Prayagraj divisional office. In event of any fault anywhere in the





signalling cables, immediately it is detected by data logger and a SMS is sent to mobile number of Control room and concerned maintenance staff. It may be noted that Prayagraj Division of North Central Railway spread over 750 kilometers and has more than 300 SSI rooms and relay huts and all stations are monitored round the clock by data logger control centre. Fault is rectified by sending staff to the place where the fault occurs. Thus, social distancing is being followed through data logger control centre.

### Use of Mobile Train Radio Communication for Safe and Efficient Freight Train Operations

During the lockdown Mobile Train Radio Communication a secure and dedicated communication system among station staff, control center and Crew of the train is ensuring safe and efficient train operations during lockdown period over Gaziabad- Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay section of New Delhi-Howrah trunk route. Total 900 users of Prayagraj Division are using this improved communication facility to ensure hassle free train operation. During emergency, MTRC system can be effectively utilized as loco pilot or

guard of any running train can directly talk to controller or station master and vice versa. All the conversations are automatically recorded on VRS (Voice Recording System) which can be utilized later for any analysis.

### Hands free soap and water dispensing arrangement

To avoid direct contact with hands paddle operated soap and water



dispensing arrangement are provided at many work centers over North Central Railway .

### Use of automated wayside rolling stock monitoring systems for safe freight train operations with minimal staff requirement

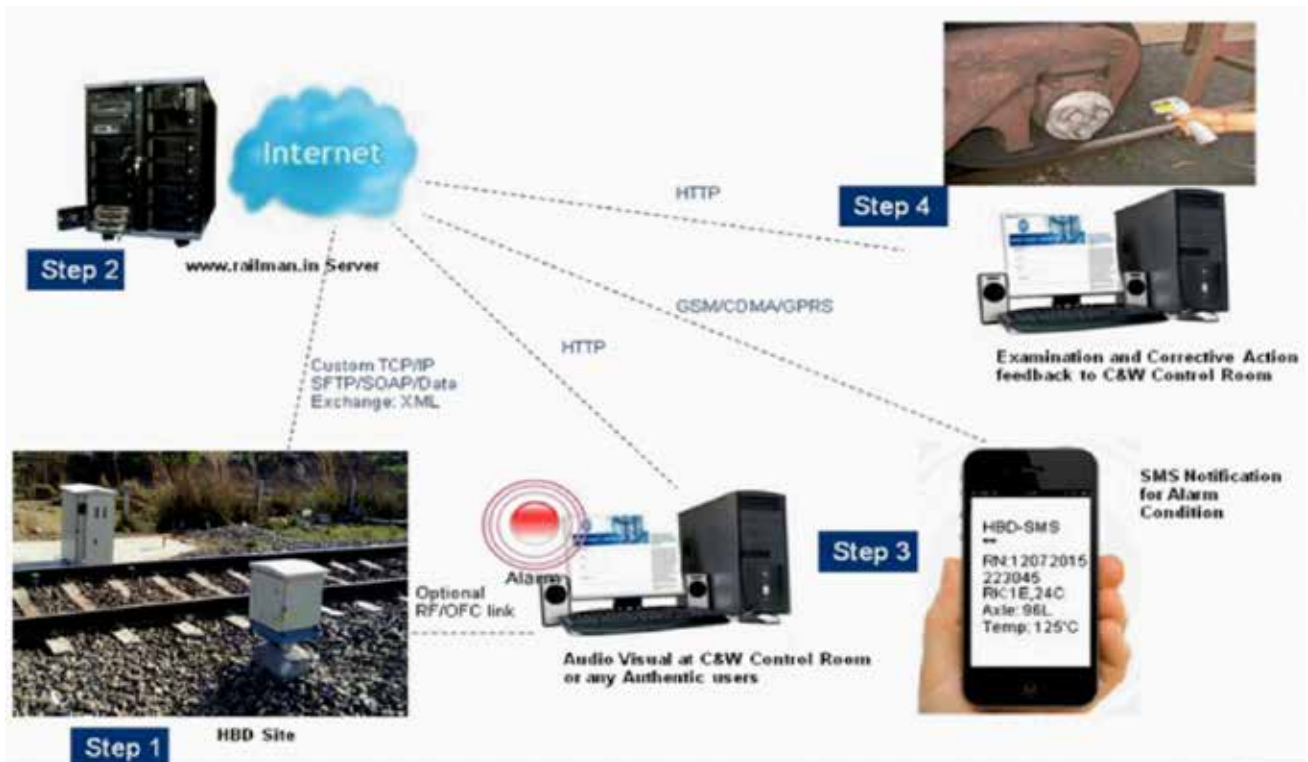
During lockdown it is extremely important that safety of trains is ensured at highest level to avoid any disruption to essential goods transportation. However at the same

Name of Wayside Rolling stock monitoring System	Capability of defect identification in a moving train	Location in New Delhi-Howrah trunk route on NCR territory	
		UP Line (Toward New Delhi)	DN Line (Towards Howrah)
Hot axle & hot wheel detector (HAHW)	Detects Hot axle and brake binding without human intervention up to 130 Kmph	Near Chunar	Between Dadri-Azayabpur
Hanging part detector system(HPDS)	Automatically detects any loose or hanging part in train up to 130 kmph and raises alarm	Near Chunar	
Wheel impact load detector (WILD)	Automatically Detects high impact load coming from flat wheel with exact location of wheel in train		Between Dadri-Azayabpur
On line monitoring of rolling stock(OMRS)	Combination of acoustic based bearing defect detector and Wheel impact load detector	Near Sarsaul	Near Kanchausi

and raise alarm to control office if these system encounters any train with these defects. Such automated train checking systems are augmenting efforts of our alert Railwaymen and coming to our aid during lockdown in safe freight train operation with minimal staff concentration to ensure social distancing norms. NCR the Pioneer in use of automatic wayside rolling stock monitoring system is using following equipment effectively in monitoring Freight and parcel trains:

**Innovation in train operation to ensure essential supplies**

Very essential items such as ventilators to New Katni Junction, Coverall Sample to DRDO Gwalior for testing, medicines & masks to Patna and to South East Central Railway were moved in empty BOXN, Container and BCN rakes by close coordination of operating officials.



time it should require bare minimum staff to follow social distancing norms. Observing safe passage of trains without any defect like hot axle, hanging part, brake binding etc. are checked by station, gate and

rolling in staff over Indian Railways. North Central Railway has installed many automated way side rolling stock monitoring systems which are capable of detecting these defect without any human intervention

Besides running inter zonal Goods and parcel trains, NCR is now starting timetabled parcel train between Prayagraj- Jhansi (Via Manikpur, Banda) till 14.04.2020.

### **Sanitization of locomotives, innovation in crew lobbies and round-trip duties to running staff**

All locomotives are being sanitized at all crew change location besides intensive sanitation in loco sheds. Booking of crew on CMS is being done by on Duty crew controller to avoid touching of CMS equipment by crew. Breathalyzer test is also dispensed with self-declaration of crew without any alcoholic background. Crew on goods train are being booked on small round-trip duty to ensure returning to base station after running duty. After each duty cycle compulsory rest of 30 hrs is being given to all crew. Thermal scanning of crew and all other staff coming for essential duties is already in place.

### **Maximising use of track recording equipment to ensure condition-based input**

Proper maintenance of P-way assets is most important for safe train operation. To ensure safety and uninterrupted operation of freight and parcel trains with minimal staff concentration, extensive use of track recording equipment (Track recording Cars and OMS) are being done to identify location requiring maintenance inputs and dedicated input is being ensured at these locations by deploying track machines avoiding deployment of manpower.

### **Extensive use of video conferencing app to discharge important functions while maintaining social distancing**

Almost all meeting, reviews, trainings etc are being done through VC utilising special apps so as everyone can join from their home/offices. This is helping immensely in efficient working with adequate social distancing.

### **In-house production of coverall to start at Gwalior and Jhansi Workshop**

One of the most important part of PPE at Gwalior & Jhansi and has targeted to make 2000 Coverall in first phase which will further scale up to meet requirement of this critical PPE item.

### **North Central Railway achieved 1,00,000 downloads of Arogya Setu App by Railway fraternity**

More than 1,00,000 Railway employees and family members are already registered for this app in NCR. North Central Railway has set an ambitious target of 1,25,000 downloads of this useful app by its employee and their family members to keep threat of Covid-19 at bay.

### **North Central Railway completed Isolation Coach modification Work on 130 coaches**

Conversion work on coaches to develop it as isolation facility has been completed on all 130 coaches by North Central Railway. Modification on coaches were done following standard scheme issued by Railway Board and coaches converted by different units on North Central Railway are as under:





Division	Name of Unit	Isolation coach converted (Nos.)
Prayagraj	Coaching depot Prayagraj	20
	Coaching depot Kanpur	20
Agra	Coaching depot Agra	20
Jhansi	Coaching depot Jhansi	20
Jhansi Workshop	Coach Midlife Rehabilitation workshop Jhansi	50
<b>Total by North Central Railway</b>		<b>130</b>

**Spry/mist based sanitization tunnel is developed**

In this regard 3 different design sanitization tunnel prototypes are developed at Coaching depot Prayagraj, Electric Loco shed/Kanpur and Electric Loco shed/Jhansi.

**Inhouse efforts to make mask, sanitizers etc intensified**

North central Railway has already given input of more than 2,30,000 reusable face covers and 15,000 lts. Sanitizer besides soap etc at all work places.



**Train Operation**

During the lockdown period of Covid-19, the operation of passenger trains has been completely suspended by the Railway Administration, but during this period, the goods trains continued to supply essential commodities throughout the nation and in addition to the supply of small quantities of material Special trains were operated for parcels.

North Central Railway has made elaborate arrangements for running of freight and parcel trains during extended lock down period. Even in this difficult situation, our loco pilots, guards, station master, controller, porter etc. are operating freight trains and parcel trains to ensure the availability of essential materials throughout the nation. Also important personnel related to our maintenance and other important tasks like trackman, signal and telecom employees, OHE of electrical department and rolling stock



Division/ Workshop	Inhouse mask production (Nos)	Inhouse sanitizer production (in Lts)
	Total production till 16.04.20	Total production till 16.04.20
Prayagraj	92397	4180
Jhansi	12862	600
Agra	10431	1332
Jhansi wagon repair shop	4526	590
Coach midlife rehabilitation shop Jhansi	3850	0
Rail Spring Karkhana Gwalior	0	670
<b>Total</b>	<b>124066</b>	<b>7372</b>



maintenance of mechanical, all employees related to store, personnel, finance and other functions, in service to the nation are braced with the utmost bravery. North Central Railway is facilitating booking and receipt of parcel from 40 notified parcel stations which includes

### Strengthening of Medical System

The doctors and personnel of the Medical Department of North Central Railway are in the role of fighter in this war against corona virus and are fully prepared for any contingency. Work related to the establishment of Isolation and Quarantine wards for the treatment of patients affected by Corona and training of all the concerned personnel has been done on priority. Besides, necessary medicines and accessories have also been purchased.

According to the instructions of the Central Board of Medical Hospitals of North Central Railway, Prayagraj and Jhansi Division, Divisional Railway Hospital Railway Board, 100-100 beds of Isolation Ward has been made and 130 coaches have also been converted for use as isolation wards. Apart from this, preparations have been made in other rail hospitals as per the corona patients. In addition, quarantine facilities have also been designed for the requirement.

Stations on NCR for booking and receipt of parcel		
Prayagraj Division	Jhansi Division	Agra Division
Sonbhadra	Jhansi	Agra Cantt
Chunar	Gwalior	Agra Fort
Mirzapur	Lalitpur	Mathura
Manda Road	Morena	Achhnera
Naini	Orai	Kiraoli
Prayagraj	Banda	Dhaulpur
Fatehpur	Kalpi	
Kanpur	Barwa Sagar	
Kanpur Anwarganj	Ranipur Road	
Etawah	Mau Ranipur	
Shikohabad	Harpalpur	
Firozabad	Mahoba	
Tundla	Attarra	
Aligarh	Chitrakoot Dhamkarvi	
Mainpuri	Bhind	
Jalesar City	Khajuraho	
Manikpur		
Dabhaura		
<b>18 Stations</b>	<b>16 Stations</b>	<b>06 Stations</b>

### Fulfilling Social Obligations

Approximately Rs 7.3 crore contributed in PM CARES by Officers and employees of NCR and creation of COVID-19 voluntary contribution funds at headquarter and in divisions to help needy during lockdown.

North Central Railway employees from all three divisions and headquarter office have worked tirelessly to keep alive the Railways' commitment of social service by selflessly and voluntarily providing hot cooked meals to needy people after the lockdown due to COVID-19. North Central Railway has been providing cooked food with paper plates or in food packets through RPF, Scouts & Guides, IRCTC base kitchen and many collective efforts from employees from all department. With these efforts, NCR could serve more than 54000 meals during lockdown as per following details:

Approximate Meals served to needy persons till 16.04.2020	
Divisions	Distribution till now (in nos.)
Prayagraj	17,998
Jhansi	2210
Agra	34,042

North Central Railway extends helping hands to all stakeholders like porters, contractual staff etc.- The Railway officers and staff are providing ration to licensed porters at various stations like, the coolies stationed at Aligarh railway station of Prayagraj Division were provided ration kits each carrying 5 kg wheat floor, 1 kg pulses, 1 kg salt and 1 kg of potato. Similar exercise is being undertaken at other major stations on North Central Railway. ■



## North Eastern Railway Fighting against COVID-19 by Supplying Essential Commodities through Goods Trains & Parcel Special Expresses

**COVID-19**, popularly known as Coronavirus, has posed a difficult situation for the country, following which a nationwide lockdown has been ordered and subsequently extended up to 3 May, 2020. During the crisis, when the nation has come to a standstill, the wheels keep on running on the railway track to ensure an adequate supply of food grains and other essential commodities from one place to another. The toughest part of this is to ascertain the safe running of the goods train which can only be possible if maintenance norms are followed strictly taking due care of social distancing and other norms issued by MoHFW. Despite all odds, continuous & untiring efforts of our esteemed employees have led North Eastern Railway to run 75 trains daily (on average) during this period of lockdown.

During the lockdown period, N.E.

Railway has handled a total of 391 rakes in terms of loading/unloading essential commodities to fulfill the need of people residing in the region served by this railway mainly Uttar Pradesh and partly Bihar and Uttarakhand. Various essential commodities such as food grains, fertilizers, salt, edible oil, sugar, POL, coal, etc. have been transported since 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020. The railway is committed to easing out the problems of common people during this unforeseen crisis period. The contractual labourers who have engaged for loading/unloading of commodities have also been distributed corona safety kit consisting of soap, sanitizer & mask by the Railway. Regular thermal scanning of railway employees and contractual labourers has been ensured.

North Eastern Railway has started running its first timetabled parcel special train since 8<sup>th</sup> April, from Manduadih to Kathgodam. Further,

it is decided to run this train ex Gorakhpur to Kathgodam from 16<sup>th</sup> April onwards till 3 May, 2020.

### **Commendable Work done by Corona Railway Warriors**

North Eastern Railway administration became alert in the month of March, 2020 much before the declaration of lockdown to fight against Covid-19 and kept the strict check on spread of Corona virus. N.E. Railway took initiatives to aware passengers as well as its employees by way of counseling, displaying of COVID related posters, audio & visual media.

The main challenge after the lockdown was to ensure proper thermal scanning of the large number of passengers arriving at stations from special trains on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Railway Officials coordinated with district administration to provide proper road transport to the passengers for their native place to vacate the stations.



Railway Doctors, Officers, and concerned employees acted sincerely and ensured good management of the crowd reaching on different stations. As the goods trains have been running continuously to maintain the supply chain during this period of crisis, the maintenance of assets was the major task, and to ascertain it, many railway employees have been working 24x7. As per norms issued by MoHFW, each employee has to wear the mask. To fulfill the requirement, North Eastern Railway has taken initiatives of in-house production of masks, sanitizers, personal protective equipment (PPE), etc. because of crisis in the market. In this crisis many innovative types of equipment such as contactless hand wash systems developed by workshops and coaching depots of NER for the use of its employees and

contractual labourers. Private staff and labourers deployed in goods shed are also being taken care of in respect of providing masks, sanitizers, etc.

Officers and staff of North Eastern Railway and other voluntary organizations such as North Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation, N.E. Railway Bharat Scouts & Guides are providing meals, masks, soaps, sanitizers, medicines, and food materials to the poor & needy people living near railway premises. So far 55,000 food packets have been distributed.

To fight against COVID-19, railway employees are toiling hard to ensure thermal scanning of the personnel involved in the maintenance of infrastructure & running of goods & parcel trains with utmost attention and devotion. At the same

time, they are following prescribed norms such as observing social distancing and keeping maximum hygiene. Senior Railway Officers are also visiting the field site and wayside colonies to boost up the morale of employees as well as their families.

North Eastern Railway has finished work of conversion of targeted 217 coaches into isolated wards within the stipulated time. COVID facilities of 270 beds have been developed in L.N.M. Hospital, Gorakhpur (200 beds), and in Divisional Hospital, Izzatnagar (70 beds).

North Eastern Railway has produced 80,000 masks, 1150 PPEs to date by exploiting its own resources. Under the guidance of General Manager, Shri L.C. Trivedi a campaign has started to award one employee of each division & headquarters with the title of "Corona Warrior of the day" to boost the morale of employees. The railway employee decorated as "Corona Warrior of the day" is publicized through newspaper and social media which has increased the morale of employees. So far 61 railway employees from different departments such as RPF, Personnel, Account, Electrical, Engineering, Operating, Commercial, Medical, Mechanical and Signal, etc. have been awarded as "Corona Warriors of the day" and this campaign is still continuing. ■





## N.F. Railway : Contributing to the Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Indian Railways took the unprecedented decision of suspending all its passenger train operations w.e.f. 22.03.2020. However goods and parcel train services are being carried out 24/7 to ensure an uninterrupted and seamless supply chain of goods and essential commodities to people at every corner of India as per requirement. In addition to this, several measures are taken by Indian Railways to boost the efforts of Central and State Governments in the fight against COVID-19. As NFR serves the North-eastern states including parts of West Bengal and Bihar, it is also taking the following steps and is living upto the

expectations of people during this critical time.

### **Contributing to Reinforce the Health Infrastructure**

NFR has modified 315 passenger coaches as isolation coaches providing about 2500 isolation beds which will be made available to the Health Authorities as and when required. It has also equipped the existing Railway Hospitals to meet the COVID-19 needs, earmarking 170 hospital beds as isolation beds, arranging about 800 bedded quarantine facilities and recruiting additional doctors & paramedics etc. to deal with any exigency.

### **Caring for its officials and staff**

NFR produced more than 2500

litres of Hand Sanitizer and nearly 76000 Reusable Face Masks for use by its on-duty staff. Masks are being made by staff working from their respective home at various locations like Agartala, Alipurduar, Lumding, Silchar, Katihar, Tinsukia, Rangiya etc. and hand sanitizers are being produced in the various depots/ workshops. NFR is also making PPEs for its doctors and paramedic staff in its workshops due to non-availability of the same in market. Till date 407 PPE coveralls have been made in NFR.

### **Carrying essential commodities to every part in its jurisdiction to avoid shortage**

NFR is making all out efforts to ensure that there is no shortage of essential commodities like sugar,



salt and edible oil for consumption of the common man during the nationwide lock down. With the active support from the respective

State Governments, the loading, transportation and unloading of these essential commodities are going on smoothly and during this period more than 450 rakes have been unloaded in various goods shed located in various parts of NFR. NFR is also operating Parcel Express trains as per fixed Time Table timings towards Agartala (Tripura), Dibrugarh (Assam), Dimapur (Nagaland) and Mendipathar (Meghalaya) etc. to ensure transportation of essential goods in small quantity.

More than 25 parcel trains have run till date in NFR to carry goods to every part of its jurisdiction as per requirement.

**Humanitarian efforts during difficult times**

NFR is continuing with its humanitarian efforts of providing free meals to the poorer section of the society who lack means to cope with the lockdown situation. It has

provided more than 85000 free meals till date to needy persons during the lockdown.

**Contributing to the efforts of Govt of India to contain spread of COVID19:**

Govt of India has launched the Arogya Setu App on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2020 which is aimed to check spread of COVID-19 among the population. More than 88 % employees of NFR and their families have downloaded

this app to contribute in the fight against COVID19.

**Lending a helping hand through innovations and other works:**

The workshops and sheds in NFR are making innovative hands free wash basins for use of staff at work places and repairing/making hospital beds, side tables, hospital trolleys etc. as per requirement to prepare itself in the fight against COVID19. ■



# Special Measures for the Health of Railway Officials Engaged in Necessary Services and to Prevent the Infection of Corona Virus

All the train services for passengers are locked down due to the increasing effect of corona virus in the country. The goods train services had been operated to meet the requirement of essential commodities in various parts of the country for which the railway employees are doing their duties with full devotion. Various steps were taken considering the health of railway employees engaged in the essential services as under :

1. All the locos had been sanitized on the crew changing points. Alongwith this the stable locos had also been sanitized and were ready. This work was carried out in the supervision of loco pilots. Photograph to be pasted .
2. The occupancy in running room is presently low, keeping this in view the separate rooms have been allotted so that social distancing can be maintained. In

addition to this in the campus of running room & kitchen the moping with hypo solution is regularly being done. Rooms, door handles, railing, tables & chairs are also being sanitized at regular intervals by hypo solutions.

3. Meal is being served to loco pilots maintaining social distancing.
4. Social distancing is completely being maintained in the lobby and soaps & sanitizers are readily available.
5. Masks & sanitizers are made by the Railway and which are provided to the staff engaged in the operational duties & engineering department. NWR has made more than 28,950 marks, more than 2560 liter sanitizer and also aprons and caps have been made.
6. Sufficient and adequate arrangements are being made to uninterrupted supplies of the

essential comodities to the various parts of the country.

## Important Role is being played by Railway

Every person is in trouble by the corona virous effect and the whole public is facing this situation by the full unity. During the time of Lock down Railway has played its role for the cooperation of common man. Railway is ensuring the timely running of goods trains to save the public from hardship.

Special efforts are being made by the NWR for smooth transportation of goods services & providing extra facilities to the railway officials for which the following main works were carried out.

1. 21 Disaster management trains had been operated by which safety items have been provided to the employees such as Sanitizer, Mask & Gloves.



2. The provisions have been made from work from home to reduce the attendance of staff.
3. 15 Rail Sections have been closed due to closing of passenger railway services.
4. 95 employees and their family members have downloaded Aarogya Setu Mobile app and through this app they receive latest information/instructions relating to Corona virus.
5. Railway personnel are being regularly counseled regarding Corona Virus outbreak.
6. Masks, sanitizers and food packets are being provided to the needy. Line staff and other general public.
7. During the lockdown NWR operated 28 parcel cargo Specials through which 260.309 Ton medicines, PPE kits, masks, medical apron, grain and other foodstuff have been loaded from JP, JU, AWR, HSR, Nokha, BNW, PMY Stations.

It is assumed that Railway employees are fully aware to their responsibilities to provide the supply of essential commodities for which they are continuously operating the goods trains and parcel trains.

### Continuity during the period of Pandemic Covid -19

Whereas the whole world is locked down due to Pandemic Covid -19, the Indian Railways is continuously on the wheel for the transportation of medical and essential commodities. In this order

NWR has operated the parcel special trains to connect the divisional headquarters and important cities.

62 rounds of 12 pairs parcel special railway services of NWR have been operated, which are in addition to trains operated on Zonal Railways from the important stations such as Bandra Terminus, Ludhiana, Bhatinda, New Guwahati, Bengaluru, special parcel railway services are being transported from Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Ajmer divisional headquarters.

Mainly Zypsum, Cement, foodgrain containers, fertilizers, Coal are being transported on the NWR. All the passenger railway services are locked down whereas the total 1595 goods trains have arrived and 1554 goods trains have departed during this period till 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. The foodgrains, Petroleum, Gas, Fertilizer had been transported. Sanitization and social distancing is strictly followed by the NWR and loading is being done as per the guidelines of Ayush Ministry. ■





## Southern Railway Significantly Contributes to National cause

**I**ndian Railways, the transportation behemoth took up the reins as a socially responsible entity in fielding effective measures to combat Covid-19 pandemic.

As an important wing of the National carrier, Southern Railway has been taking concerted efforts in these testing times. No sooner the lockdown was announced, the zone geared up to extend its support in all possible ways.

Initially, the three premier workshops of Southern Railway, namely Perambur Carriage Works, Perambur Loco Works and Golden Rock Workshop started making masks, aprons, cots and sanitizers and supplied to Railway hospitals. Later, production of masks and other PPE items was initiated at 11 other workplaces functioning under divisions.

Chennai division is manufacturing masks at Basin bridge coaching depot and EMU Car Shed, Velachery, Chennai and hand sanitisers at Electric Loco Shed at Arakkonam.

Salem Division is manufacturing hand sanitisers at Diesel Loco Sheds at Erode. Trichy Division is engaged in in-house making of masks and



hand sanitisers at Diesel Loco Shed, Golden Rock. Trivandrum division has made use of its facilities at Diesel Loco Shed, Ernakulam for making hand sanitisers for its captive consu-

mption. Besides this Medical Branch of Trivandrum, Palghat and Madurai divisions are also engaged in in-house making of hand sanitisers. Presently, the in-house production



has been diversified to include Coveralls also as part of PPE items.

Now with the approval by DRDO of prototype of PPE coverall made by Northern Railway, Southern Railway has taken up this responsibility of making PPE coverall. The target for the month of April is 2500. All three workshops- Perambur Loco Works, Perambur Carriage works and Golden Rock Workshop has been tasked with these responsibilities.

As on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 Southern Railway has achieved an in-house production of 34984 reusable face masks, 6886 litres of hand sanitizers and 200 Nos. of Coveralls.

Following the directives of Railway Board, the workshops forayed into conversion of coaches into Isolation wards.

workshops have completed converting 573 coaches into Isolation wards in record time well ahead of the target date of 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

As the apex carrier widened it's outreach to serve the needy, Southern Railway in association with IRCTC made arrangements for distribution of hygienically prepared food to the underprivileged and downtrodden sections of the society.

Till 21 April, 2020, 66,575 numbers of free meals prepared by IRCTC's cell kitchens have been distributed to needy persons in the zone's jurisdiction in association with State authorities and NGOs. The commendable efforts of RPF, Station Officials, Scouts and Guides of Southern Railway in food distribution is noteworthy.

Besides, several good Samaritan staffers and agencies also made arrangements to prepare and distribute food sponsored from funds pooled in-house through voluntary contributions. As on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 a total of 77828 free meals (66575 by IRCTC 11253 by other agency) have been distributed to needy persons in Southern Railway. ■



# South Central Railway

The Nation is facing a huge challenge on account of the Pandemic Covid-19. Indian Railways has been in the forefront to wage a war to combat the virus, putting in multi-pronged efforts in this direction. Taking the cue, South Central Railway has drawn an extensive plan of action to undertake various tasks in terms of strengthening Medical infrastructure and meeting the needs of the society. It has also concentrated on keeping the wheels moving to ensure transport of essential commodities while at the same time going beyond the call of duty to reach out to people in need. For the Zone, the motto remains – When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

## Details of Good work done to overcome Covid-19 Pandemic

### Conditions

- **Quarantine / Isolation Coaches**

In tune with the advice from Ministry of Railways to convert rail coaches into Quarantine/Isolation Coaches so as to stay in preparedness for any Quarantine / Isolation requirement, SCR has undertaken conversion of 486 Non-AC sleeper class coaches over the Zone into Quarantine / Isolation Coaches. The Workshops / Depots on the Zone could undertake the work on a massive scale at short notice, conveying the dedication and commitment of the workforce during emergent times. The coaches will be stationed at various locations all over the network.

- **Isolation Wards**

In the view of outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic, to combat with

Corona virus the Medical department of South Central Railway with 5 major hospitals and 44 health units spread over the Zone swung into action to render medical assistance in the hour of need. The Zone has setup separate isolation cum Covid wards with 142 beds at Central Hospital, Lallaguda, 100 beds at Railway Hospital, Vijayawada and 42 beds at Railway Hospital, Guntakal.

In order to serve the patients in these wards, in addition to the existing Medical staff, the Zone is recruiting Doctors, Nurses, Hospital attendants, Pharmacists, House-keeping staff etc. on temporary basis by conducting online and telephonic interviews.

- **Exclusive Medical Facilities**

Exclusive Medical facilities have been setup by the zone at



Isolation Coach Cabin



*PPEs produced at CRS, Tirupati*



*Production of Masks*

Headquarters level and also at all the six divisions viz., Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntur, Guntakal and Nanded. Facilities developed include-

- 30 special clinics are operational throughout the zone
- 293 isolation beds are available
- 1017 quarantine beds are setup
- Training sessions are being held to the staff at different dates and timings and so far 1202 staff have been trained.

**• Recruitment of Additional Medical staff**

In order to serve the patients in Covid isolation & quarantine wards, in addition to the existing Medical staff, the Zone has recruited Doctors, Nurses, Hospital attendants, Pharmacists, Housekeeping staff etc. on temporary basis by conducting online and telephonic interviews. A notification has been issued for hiring 43 doctors and 161 Medical staff to work at Central Hospital, Lallaguda on temporary basis, with interviews conducted through video calling.

In addition, 11 Doctors and 36 other medical staff were engaged to work in Railway Hospital, Vijayawada, while 6 Doctors and 14 other Medical staff were taken on rolls under temporary recruitment at Railway Hospital, Guntakal.

**• Production of Sanitizers, Masks & PPEs**

South Central Railway has produced 7,176 litres of Sanitizer and 69,238 Masks as on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

Division / Workshop	Sanitizer (in litres)	Masks (number)
Secunderabad	532	9579
Hyderabad	925	10550
Guntakal	1200	13410
Vijayawada	3420	13299
Guntur	35	4750
Nanded	14	5340
Workshop/ Lallaguda	250	5570
Workshop/ Rayanpadu	100	0
Workshop/ Tirupati	700	3700
S&T Workshop/ Mettuguda	0	3040
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,176</b>	<b>69,238</b>

In addition, Carriage Repair shop, Tirupati has undertaken the work of manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's) . While 14 units have been produced, work is slated to go on.

**• Distribution of the Food to Needy Sections of Society**

In the challenging times owing to

the Nationwide lockdown to curb spread of CORONA virus, South Central Railway has initiated a continuous plan of action to "Feed the Hunger" of the people in need, commencing from 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 and in the period of 19 days i.e., up to 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, the Zone has been able to distribute 1, 17, 262 free food packets at various locations all over the Zone, extending to parts of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Towards the task, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have been reigned in, which activated its Base Kitchen at Vijayawada and is serving the needs of Vijayawada and its precincts. Food is also being prepared at various other stations including Secunderabad in the most hygienic conditions for distribution. Staple food habits of the needy sections and social distancing during distribution of food is also being ensured.

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) wing of SCR, with its personnel and resources joined in the task by undertaking the free food preparation and distribution besides co-ordinating with other departments for smooth execution of the task every day. A unique



*Preparation of Food by IRCTC, BZA*

The people of Guntakal Town (Andhra Pradesh), which also is the Railway Divisional Headquarters, have been generally purchasing their daily essentials, mainly Vegetables and Fruits from the regular vegetable market. However, in the wake of the Covid-19 Corona virus, there was a need to explore options to overcome the congestion in the existing markets while duly maintaining adequate social distance. About 10,000 Railway staff/pensioners, their family

highlight of the free food distribution program is the involvement of all departments of the Zone, including Signal & Telecommunication Engineering, Commercial Department, Stores Department and Workshop, Lallaguda etc.

In addition to pooling in resources and manpower, various departments have been in the forefront to organize and lead the free food distribution at several railway stations on the Zone, with support coming in from staff of the concerned wings. While Vijayawada Division topped the list in terms of total free food distribution, Other divisions viz., Guntakal, Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Guntur and Nanded Divisions followed the same order and contributed their might to the mission.

• **Help to Licensed Porters (Railway Coolies)**

Staff of Commercial Department

over SCR Zone has come forward generously to lend a helping hand to the Licensed Coolie Porters who have lost their source of revenue in the prevailing lockdown condition. Accordingly, staff of commercial department has contributed money on charity basis and purchased essential items for distribution to the Licensed Porters. They have distributed Rice, Dal, Oil Packets, Atta, Salt, Soaps, Sanitary kits and other grocery items. At some stations, cash has also been distributed to the needy porters. Around 600 coolie porters across the Zone benefitted with this relief measures.

• **Temporary Market for Sale of Essentials in Guntakal Town**



*Temporary Market for sale of essentials at Guntakal*

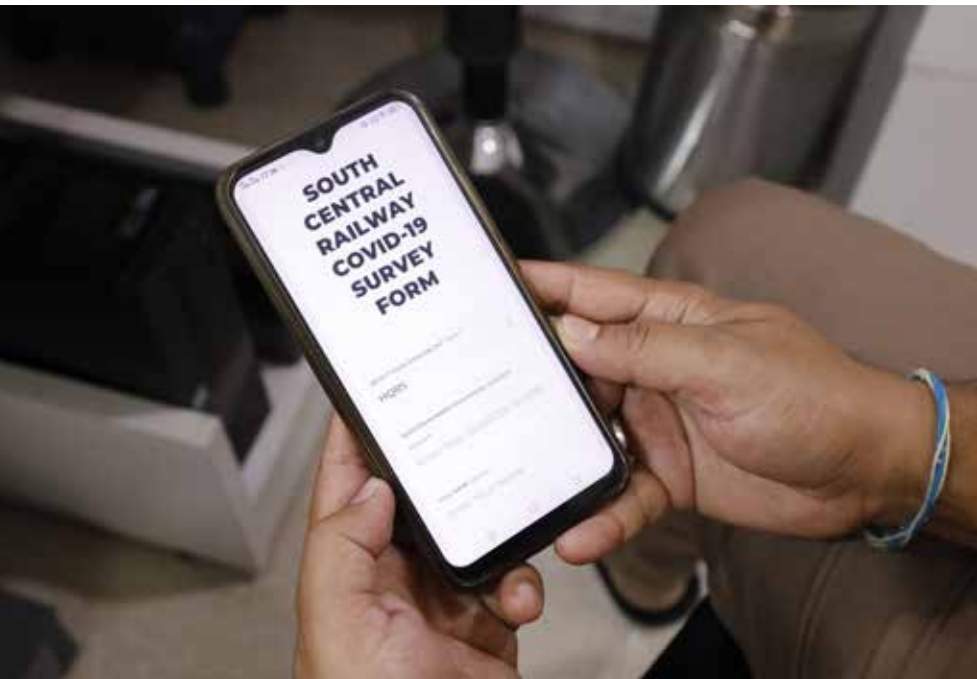
members and around 1.5 lakhs citizens are exposed to risk of spread of Covid-19 during purchase of vegetables in cramped and congested market. The Railway Officials of Guntakal Division of South Central Railway have come up



*Distribution of food packets by RPF*



*Distribution of Grocery to Porters*



*Covid-19 survey form filling by SCR Employee*

with a unique solution duly making use of the railway infrastructure for public use.

Guntakal Division has joined hands with the local Municipal administration to set up a temporary market in the huge Railway Ground in Guntakal Town for sale of Vegetables, Fruits and other essentials. The well spread and safe Market place was made ready in a day and commenced sales from 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. The arrangement at the market in railway grounds includes well laid out, numbered and demarcated spaces for setting up stalls. Ground markings of lines for maintaining social distance by the customers with no possibility of physical contact ensures total safety. Provision of parking arrangements for the convenience of the customers is an added incentive. With the municipal administration handling the market which functions from 06.00 am till 09.00 am every day, possibilities of black marketing, quoting of exorbitant rates and sale of sub-standard quality of produce sold is eliminated. This model was very successful and two such vegetable markets came up in Guntakal town itself and all Railway

staff & 1.5 lakh citizens are able to maintain social distancing and thus safe from contracting covid-19 virus.

- **User Friendly Web application for Online survey from Employees**

South Central Railway with the staff strength of around 85,000 Employees, it was an urgent need for the Zone to collect the key information from its employees like abroad travel history of their family members and any symptoms indicating signs of Corona Virus, So that such employees will be exempted from work to ensure that they don't spread the virus even by chance. In the prevailing emergent situation, the Zone is not in a position to collect such important data from all its employees in person by deputing the staff because of the possibility of risk of spreading the virus.

In order to accumulate this vital information, Vijayawada Division (Andhra Pradesh) of South Central Railway, developed and designed a very quick and user-friendly Web application for conducting online survey using its in house resources. The same was transmitted to all the

employees of the Zone up to the grass root level. Accordingly, around 70,000 Employees of the Zone have responded to the survey and provided the desired details.

It is relevant to mention that the critical information regarding availability of Doctors and Paramedical staff among the family members of employees and their willingness to serve in case of a need is also acquired during the survey. According to the survey, among the employees family members there are about 738 Doctors and 1758 Paramedics are available and out of which around 176 Doctors and 328 Paramedical staff are willing to work during the emergency. This crucial information will help the Railways and Nation to fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

This user-friendly web application online survey helped the Zone to collect the essential information from its employees which has assisted the SCR in containing the spread of Pandemic Corona Virus among its employees.

- **Downloading of Arogya Setu Mobile App by Employees:**

Arogya Setu Mobile app which has been developed by Government of India to share information related to Covid-19. SCR has created awareness amongst its employees for downloading the Application and 16206 employees and 26234 family members of the employees have installed the mobile app by the end of 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. The Zone has utilized the online web application survey to obtain the confirmation from each individual employee about the installation of Arogya Setu Mobile App.

- **Introduction of "Jai Kisan" Special Freight Trains**

Zone has come up with a unique concept of running "Jai Kisan" Special freight trains so as to ensure speedy delivery of food-grains to different parts of the country. Under this concept, two freight trains loaded from two different stations will be clubbed at the nearest



*Jai Kishan Spl Freight Train*

junction point and will be moved as single train up to the common junction point of the destination stations taking the advantage of the path availability due to non-running of passenger carrying trains. In the normal circumstances, one freight train containing 42 covered wagons loaded with food grains will carry around 2600 tonnes. But in the new concept two freight trains means 42+42 =84 covered wagons with 5200 tonnes capacity food grains will be moved in a single path. This concept drastically reduces the journey time of the freight trains to reach destinations and will serve the purpose in emergent situations.

The zone has started this concept by running two Jai Kisan Special freight trains. The First train was moved from Dornakal Junction in Telangana on SCR to Southern Railway (Sevuru and Chettinad) by clubbing the two food grains trains at Dornakal Junction. Similarly, the Second Jai Kisan Special train was also clubbed at Dornakal Junction in Telangana and moved to Southern Railway (Dindigal and Mudiypakkam). Significantly, these trains have registered an average speed of 44 kmph, fulfilling the objective of speedy movement of the

essential commodities.

- **“Doodh Duronto Special Trains” from Renigunta to Hazrat Nizamuddin**

SCR transports milk from Renigunta in Andhra Pradesh to the National capital (Hazrat Nizamuddin) on regular basis by attaching the milk tankers to passenger carrying trains. To contain the spread of pandemic COVID-19, all the passenger carrying trains were cancelled across the country has created an ambiguity in transportation of this essential perishable commodity. The Zone under the leadership of Shri Gajanan Mallya, General Manager swung into action and formulated plans for running Doodh Duronto Special Train (Railway Milk Tankers) on the Nations interest by utilizing all available resources. Accordingly, first train consisting of 6 Milk tankers, each tanker with capacity of 40, 000 litres totalling to 2.40 lakh litres of milk was despatched on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

Subsequently, it is planned to run Doodh Duronto specials alternate days to cater the needy in the emergent situation. This special train reaches the destination within 36 hrs, running at a speed on par with

express trains. Utmost care has been taken while loading and necessary precautionary measures like sanitization, physical distancing and staff hygiene are also observed. So far, a total of 07 trains have been despatched with milk tankers, additionally attaching parcel vans to transport mangoes and musk melons too to National capital.

- **Introducing “Round Trips” for Freight Trains**

Round trip concept has been introduced at all Crew booking Headquarters of SCR zone. Under this concept, as far as possible, running staff are being booked comparatively for short trips. Otherwise, immediately after completing the outgoing trip, they are again being booked for another train towards headquarters. This has helped the running staff to reach the headquarters within the reasonable time duly reducing the staying time out of headquarters. This concept has received enormous response and around 80% of running staff are being benefitted daily.

However, if situation is warranted, some of them are taking rest in running rooms at out of the headquarters due to non-availability



Food Grains loaded into Goods Wagon

of trains in opposite direction. Hence, to upkeep the health of running staff, all the running rooms are disinfected and sanitized in regular intervals with hypo chloride solution and physical distance is being maintained in provision of beds at running rooms. Utmost hygiene is ensured in supply of food being served in the running rooms.

### • Operation of Parcel Express Trains between Various Destinations

While the freight operations of Railways are meeting the needs of bulk transportation of essential goods like food grains, edible oil, salt, sugar, coal, cement, milk, vegetables & fruits etc, parcel trains are also being operated for

transporting various items that need to be delivered in comparatively smaller quantities. SCR has operated parcel express trains during the lockdown period as detailed below:

- Daily Parcel Express trains between Kakinada Town - Secunderabad - Kakinada town (via., Rajahmundry, Nidadavolu, Bhimavaram Town, Gudivada, Vijayawada and Kazipet) from 8<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020.
- Parcel Express trains between Renigunta - Secunderabad - Renigunta (via. Gudur, Vijayawada and Kazipet) daily on every alternate day from 9<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020.
- Parcel Express trains between Renigunta - Secunderabad -

Renigunta (via Guntakal, Raichur and Sulehalli) on every alternate day from 8<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2020

- Parcel Express Trains from Secunderabad to Howrah on 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.
- Parcel Express train from Hyderabad to Amritsar (via H.S. Nanded and Aurangabad) on 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> April & 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2020.
- Parcel Express train from Secunderabad to Mumbai CSMT (Via Wadi, Solapur, Pune) daily from 16<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

### • Operation of large number of Freight Trains

In order to keep the supply chain intact in the prevailing emergent situation, South Central Railway has accorded highest priority to operate freight and parcel trains. During the lockdown period in wake of Covid19, SCR has loaded a total of 689 freight trains to transport bulk commodities to different parts of the country from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

As part of this, 14.48 lakh tonnes of Coal in 369 rakes, 5.34 tonnes of Food grains in 199 rakes have been transported to different parts of the country. In addition, 1.12 tonnes of fertilizers and 8 rakes of POL products have also been transported through SCR during the period. ■



Special Parcel Express Train

# SE Railway Gears Up It's Machineries to Combat Covid-19 Pandemic

**D**uring the unprecedented lockdown and severe restrictions in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, South Eastern Railway has undertaken elaborate measures as per the directives of Railway Board to prevent the spread of Novel Coronavirus. The massive measures taken by South Eastern Railway are enumerated as under:

### **Modification of Passenger Coaches into Isolation/ Quarantine Coaches**

South Eastern Railway has completed the work for modification of 338 passenger coaches into Isolation/ Quarantine Coaches till now to accommodate patients in view of outbreak of COVID-19. The modified coaches have been equipped with necessary facilities for the Corona affected people. These have been modified at Santragachi Depot, Kharagpur Workshop, Tatanagar Depot and Hatia Depot under guidance of Medical Department of South Eastern Railway. Railway Board has fixed the target of 329 isolation/quarantine coaches and South Eastern Railway has surpassed the Board's target with the help of its committed staff and officers.

### **Running of Time Tabled Parcel Express Trains**

To maintain uninterrupted supply of essential commodities including medicines & medical equipments and keeping in view the social responsibilities, South Eastern Railway has been running a number of Time Tabled Parcel Express Trains towards different directions of the country. These trains will continue to run upto 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020. These Time Tabled Parcel Express Trains are running between Shalimar-Ranchi, Howrah-Yesvantpur, Shalimar-Mumbai, Tatanagar-Itwari, Howrah-Secunderabad and Shalimar-Porbander.

### **South Eastern Railway Distributes 2 lakh Meals to the Poor & Needy People**

South Eastern Railway has rendered yeoman services in providing 2 lakh meals/food packets to the needy and poor people throughout its jurisdiction during the prolonged lockdown.

Various departments of SER along with RPF personnel and members of Bharat Scouts & Guides have joined hands in distribution of the food packets.

### **In-house Production of Face Mask & Sanitizer**

As a precautionary measure to fight COVID-19, South Eastern Railway is producing reusable face masks and hand sanitizer in its four divisions viz. Kharagpur, Adra, Ranchi and Chakradharpur as well as at Kharagpur Workshop. These masks and sanitizer have been prepared under the strict supervision and guidance of Medical Department of this railway. As many as 68,694 reusable face masks and 3640 litres of hand sanitizer have been produced so far.

These have been distributed amongst the frontline staff like loco pilots & guards of Freight and Parcel Express trains to ensure their protection. It has also been planned to distribute these masks among all other employees of South Eastern Railway.

### **Manufacturing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

In order to curb the spread of Novel Coronavirus, South Eastern Railway has started manufacturing PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Kits for support of railway doctors, para-medical staff and other health care personnel. The kits are being manufactured mainly at Kharagpur Workshop and Kharagpur Divisional Unit under Divisional Railway Manager, in association with SERWWO, Kharagpur. The PPE Kit includes Face Cover, Eye Shield, NS-95 Mask, Coverall Gown with hood, Shoe Cover, Gloves etc. As many as 300 PPEs have been manufactured in South Eastern Railway as per approved quality assurance plan. The workplace has been sanitized and social distancing has been maintained.

### **Installation of "Aarogya Setu" App.**

Employees of South Eastern





*In house production of Sanitiser by S E Railway for distribution among front line staff.*

Railway are being encouraged to download the "Aarogya Setu" app for themselves and their family members. Employees are being counselled and encouraged to reap the benefits of the tracker in the App to keep their family members safe. So far, more than 70% employees have downloaded the App for themselves and their families. ■



*Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kit at Kharagpur Workshop and Lady RPF Constable of Ranchi Division preparing Masks*



*Passenger coach after conversion to isolation/quarantine coach by South Eastern Railway's Kharagpur Workshop.*

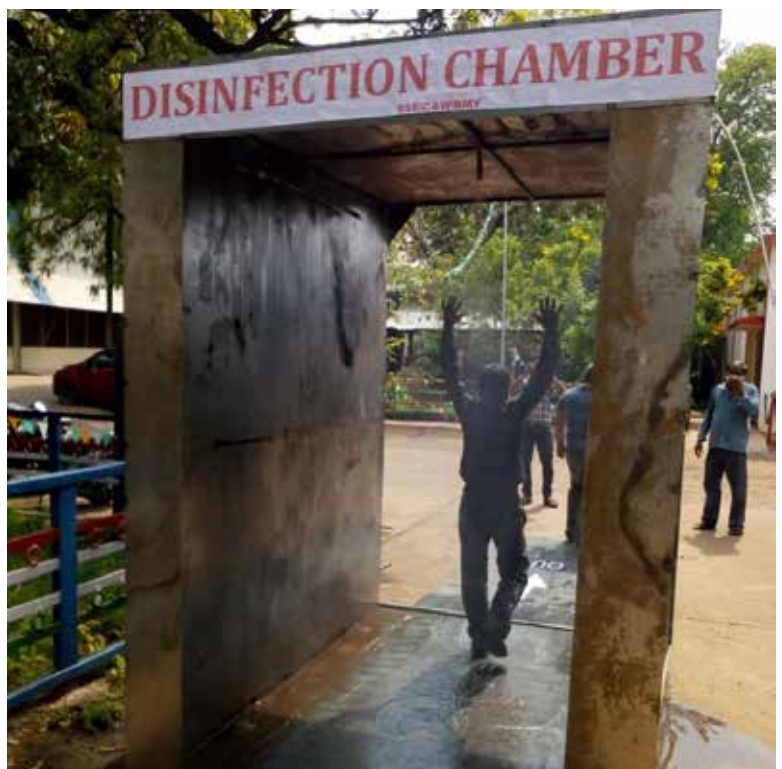
## “South East Central Railway (SECR) Geared up to Fight Coronavirus”



South East Central Railway (SECR) has been developing 111 coaches into isolation wards and geared itself into readiness to combat the ill effects of corona virus.

Railway staff have started the work on war foot level. 111 coaches on SECR are being modified as isolated wards. These coaches will be utilized in case the number of Coronavirus infected patient increases and hospitals run out of beds. This arrangement has been done as advanced preparation for patients.

The coaches are being totally sanitized as per the specific procedure by the staff after which medical equipments are being installed to develop them as isolated wards. Non-Air Conditioned ICF sleeper coaches have been developed as quarantined isolated coaches. In the coaches, Indian type of toilet has been modified as washroom & being equipped with bucket, mug, soap dispenser, etc. Two of the cabins near washroom have been marked for the utilization of hospital



- “111 Railway coaches are being developed as isolated wards”
- “Women Railway staff of South East Central Railway (SECR) Raipur Railway Division have contributed ten thousand masks”

and Para medical staff. Plastic curtains have been provided in the coaches. Two oxygen cylinders have been provided and windows of the coaches are covered with mosquito mess.

### **South East Central Railway (SECR) has installed disinfection chambers**

In order to prevent the railway staff from infection of Corona virus, Raipur Railway Division of South East Central Railway (SECR) has installed disinfection chambers in seven different places in entire division. These Disinfection Tunnels are designed to sanitize the surrounding areas and help in preventing the spread of corona virus. Further, these tunnels will help in complete body disinfection as soon as any person passes through it. Required amount of disinfectants will be sprayed over the person while passing through the tunnel.

These tunnels have been placed at offices, depots, PP yard, Bhilai Marshalling Yard (BMY) sick line,



BMY yard, exchange yard, Durg, loco pilot, guard lobby and at the office of Divisional Railway Manager, Raipur.

These disinfection tunnels help in ensuring proper sanitization of the staff who attend emergency duties like freight train operation, track maintenance of parcel trains, necessary repair of goods trains, important control rooms for train operations, etc. .

### **Masks prepared by railway staff for protection from Corona Virus**

In order to prevent railway staff from influence of Coronavirus outbreak during duty hours South East Central Railway has assigned work of preparing masks in bulk to women staff appointed as trackmen

in railways. Large numbers of masks are being prepared by the staff under work from home. All necessary items have been provided by the Railways, so that the staff can work from home. Prepared masks are being supplied to the field officials and staff as per their needs. Apart from these, good quality sanitizers and hand wash has been arranged for the field staff who are continuing their duties on regular basis on rotation. Field staff have been directed to maintain social distancing during duties and advised to not shake hand with others.

Apart from this, Women Railway staff of South East Central Railway (SECR) Raipur Railway Division have contributed ten thousand masks for railway staff to fight Coronavirus during duty. Passenger trains operation have been stopped due to total shut down in the country but operation of goods trains which is considered to be back bone of Indian Railways is on track. For operation of goods train railway staff are giving their valuable service for the nation. In order to operate the thermal power plants supply of coal should be done uninterrupted. To keep the service running , women staff of railway are helping them by preparing quality masks from home. Over 30000 masks were prepared in South East Central Railway. As per the guidelines issued by the state government social distancing, sanitization and use of mask have been termed as effective tools to fight Coronavirus. As a precautionary measures use of mask is on the rise and everyone has been motivated for using mask during movement.

**Effective measures have been initiated for Sanitization of offices and colonies**

South East Central Railway Medical and health department have taken initiatives for cleanliness in Railway Colony and to maintain social distancing. Cleaning have been performed in offices, railway colonies, control room, running room, RPF barrack, Lobby room with spread of bleaching powder, Sodium

hypochlorite. Sanitization was done by spraying sanitizers though battery operated machine in railway area. Railway officials have issued necessary guidelines to the railway staff regarding prevention from Coronavirus. Important works related to parcel booking, goods train, control room, signalling, railway track and goods train maintenance work will be carried out during the lock down period. Hand sanitizers and masks are provided to the staffs working during the lockdown period. Spray of pesticides is regularly done in Railway colonies.

**RPF, South East Central Railway distributed free meals to the needy around the stations**

Railway Protection Force (RPF) of South East Central Railway has distributed free meals to the needy persons in this hour of crisis around the station areas. Labour department of C.G. State Govt is also providing dry ration to the licensed porters at the station.

South East Central Railway offered foods to homeless people living on streets during lockdown . During this total lock down period, all the staff of RPF are actively discharging their duties at different positions to take care of Railway properties.

Furthermore, as a social responsibility they have been preparing and distributing foods to homeless people living in Railway station premises and nearby area. Due to total closedown, these homeless were found searching for food. Specially small children and women were present during the programme. All the staff were supplied with necessary hand sanitizers, hand gloves and masks by the railways.

2000 free meals are also being handed over from IRCTC Food Plaza at Raipur to district authorities for distribution amongst the needy.

Ten thousand PPE Kits are being prepared by South East Central Railway, to prevent infection of



Covid-19, Every effort is being made by the South East Central Railway to prevent the infection of Covid-19. Sewing work of 10 thousand PPE kits is being done by South East Central Railway in order to save from infection of Covid-19 to the doctors, health workers and other railway employees engaged in the battle of Corona, as per the instructions of Railway Board.

About 200 employees are engaged in this work including Bilaspur, Raipur and Nagpur Rail divisions of South East Central Railway and work has been started in speedy manner on the design recognized by DRDO.

The efforts made by South East Central Railway during this pandemic Covid-19 will surely be beneficial for the doctors, health workers and other railway employees to fight against this virus. ■

# Western Railway Continues to Show True Workmanship & Humanitarian Approach during the Coronavirus Lockdown



*In the first image, a Loco pilot with an ALP can be seen working even during the Corona pandemic lockdown. In the second image, disinfecting of freight trains being done before heading to various parts of the country. In the third image, an RPF jawan of Ahmedabad Division distributing free food among the poor and the needy can be seen.*

As the country expanded its measures to contain the deadly Coronavirus, Indian Railways had to stop its services in an iconic decision taken on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020 to cancel passenger services. The lifeline of the country has come at a halt but not for long as only passenger carrying trains have been stopped as a serious measure to fight the spread of Coronavirus and goods trains are still running. The Railways might not be running at present for the public, but it continues to work at large. The operations & maintenance staff, the engineering & medical staff and the RPF are our true heroes at the forefront who are without a doubt delivering their duties with valour and dedication.

**The train never stops and the wheels roll on even in tough times: Engineering, Operations & Maintenance**

Despite the general perception among the people that the Railways has stopped working, all other activities related to Railways

continue to run. Indian Railways is committed towards to maintain the supply of essential commodities across all parts of country and is ensuring that the movement of freight trains takes place so that coal reaches the power houses, food grains are available in the granaries and all essential commodities are available across India. Goods train carrying essential commodities are running as per schedule. Indian Railways has also slashed the demurrage and wharfage rates for goods and parcel at half of the prescribed rates.

Since the lockdown period, from 22<sup>nd</sup> March upto 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, total 1331 rakes of goods trains have been used to supply essential commodities amounting to

2.86 million tonnes. 3042 freight trains were interchanged with other railways, including 1542 trains handed over and 1500 trains taken over at different interchange points. 46 Millennium Parcel rakes of Parcel Vans/Railway Milk Tankers (RMTs) have been sent to different parts of the country to supply as per the demands of essential items such as milk powder, liquid milk and



*Milk being loaded into the Rail Milk Tanker which is scheduled to run from Palanpur to Hind Terminal*



*Relentless work done by the track maintainers.*

other general consumer goods. The total losses over Western Railway up to 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 have been Rs 398.47 cr (inclusive of suburban+non-suburban). In spite of this, Western Railway has also ensured to refund Rs. 139.63 cr against cancellation of tickets till 21 April, 2020. It is pertinent to mention that in this refund amount, alone Mumbai Division itself, has ensured refund of Rs. 65.98 cr. More than 21.89 lakh passengers have cancelled their tickets over entire Western Railway & have received their refund amount accordingly.

For running these trains, Operating and Maintenance staff needs to reach their workplaces. Railway men have shown exceptional courage in these challenging times when humanity is fighting COVID-19 and are performing their duties with utmost sincerity. Approximately, 1200 Loco pilots and Assistant Loco Pilots have worked various goods trains on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 across various divisions namely Mumbai, Vadodara, Ratlam, Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Bhavnagar divisions of Western Railway. Crew booking lobbies, Loco Sheds, Loco Controllers in various divisions are working tirelessly round the clock to ensure safe and efficient train operations. More than 3000 gatemen are attending to their duties at level crossing gates round the clock, approx. 1000 keymen are checking every inch of the tracks on a daily basis, 50 plus teams are testing

every inch of rails in track for any internal defect and trackmen continue to ensure safety of these tracks. In spite of workshops being shut, Pratapnagar workshop continues to repair defective Milk Tankers with skeleton staff to ensure that there is no hindrance to the supply of milk to various parts of the country. The emergency staff at various Wagon Depots is ensuring proper and timely inspection & maintenance of all the freight wagon rakes. The ROH (Routine Overhaul) activity at various depots are also being continued to ensure that there is never shortage in availability of freight stock.

### **Commitment and courage against all odds**

Besides their commitment & courage, safety measures have been taken to ensure that the staff is able to carry out their work in a safe and healthy environment. Measures

such as, frequency of visual inspections being held have been increased, keeping in mind general safety of public and to remove any shortcoming, entire railway track is being inspected by key men every day in the morning hours. Ultrasonic testing of rails is being conducted to ascertain defects in rails that cannot be visually examined. Welding of free joints, maintenance of points and crossings and renewal of rails is being undertaken regularly. Gate-keepers have been instructed to remain alert to ensure smooth passage of rail traffic from level crossing and to notice defects in rolling stocks. Higher officials have taken appropriate action and inspecting track regularly to ensure movement of train.

Western Railway is also well ensuring to continue the transportation of essential items like medical supplies, medical equipment, food, etc in small parcel sizes across the nation, in the wake of COVID19, during the lockdown period through its special parcel trains. Now 53 more trips of 7 time tabled parcel special trains have been planned by WR to run between Porbandar – Shalimar, Mumbai Central - Firozpur, Bandra Terminus – Ludhiana, Ahmedabad – Guwahati, Surat – Bhagalpur, Bandra Terminus-Okha, and Dadar – Bhuj. As of now, 124 services of time tabled parcel special trains have been scheduled to run from WR between 31<sup>st</sup> March



*Loading of essential commodities such as wheat, rice, grains, etc. from Vadodara Yard.*



*Shri Rafiq Jusab – a track mentor posted at Porbandar station of Bhavnagar division is seen stitching masks for fellow trackmen*

to 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. Lately, frequency of 7 timetabled trains have been extended and these trains are scheduled to run with 53 more trips upto 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

### **Indigenous production of masks and sanitizer to counter shortage**

Since the Corona virus Lockdown, shortage of masks and hand sanitizers was observed to protect against the deadly COVID-19. Western Railway's employees across all Divisions took the charge of preparing masks and sanitizer to cater to the large requirement at this difficult hour. In a collective effort by all the Divisions and Workshops, 96,823 masks have been made and 6,547 litres of sanitizer have been prepared by our silent heroes of the Corona virus Pandemic. It is highly applaudable that these generous railway employees took out time in these desperate & anxious days to prepare these masks which will benefit the larger society in the fight towards Corona virus Pandemic. Some of the masks made by the employees are reusable in nature as they are made of cloth and can be used multiple times after washing & sanitizing them. Western Railway salutes the efforts of its employees & their families to help combat the deadly Corona virus through their

bright ideas & work.

### **The Medical Warriors of the Railways**

In the global war against Corona virus, the medical fraternity is our true hero of the hour. The Medical Department of Western Railway is rigorously working in fighting the deadly pandemic and has taken various the following measures/ steps to counter the transmission of COVID-19:

- All emergency medical services are being continued.
- All elective surgeries & evaluations have been deferred.

### **Awareness about preventing spread of COVID-19 and the importance of the curfew is being explained to all general public.**

- Isolation wards and quarantine beds have been kept ready.
- All the Personal Protective Equipments have been procured.
- Additional ventilators are being procured and doctors & staff are being trained for managing patient on ventilators.
- Doctors and staff have been trained for taking care of COVID-19 infected cases in isolation.
- A mock drill for management of COVID cases has been conducted.

- Availability of soap and sanitizers has been ensured in Health Units and Hospitals.
- Sanitization with disinfectants and hypochlorite solution is being done for High contact areas of hospitals and offices.
- Dedicated fever clinics are being run at hospitals for triaging suspected cases.
- The Dept. is constantly in touch with public health authorities for the latest guidelines & practices.
- Hydroxychloroquine prophylaxis will be given to Doctors, paramedical staff and high risk contacts as per ICMR guidelines.
- Health & wellness of staff coming to render essential services is being taken care of.

### **Railway Protection Force: The true protectors of the Railways**

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is not behind in its efforts to combat the Coronavirus pandemic while ensuring safety measures at stations and offices where work never ends. Various steps taken by Western Railway's RPF are as under:

- Handling panic/distress call related to COVID-19.
- Ensuring queue formation while maintaining distance where required.
- Position of checking material for COVID-19 like thermometer, clops,



*Doffing & Donning PPE at as POE exercise at Jagjivan Ram Hospital of WR.*



*Thermal scanning had already begun and being done by RPF at the entrance of WR Headquarters at Churchgate, Mumbai on the onset of the Corona virus Pandemic. RPF personnel distributing food among the poor and needy*

mask sanitizer, liquid soap collected over Western Railway/RPF.

- Ensuring the smooth function of Zonal RPF control room.
- Supplying sanitizers at shops in Headquarter/Division offices.
- RPF staff has been deployed with proper precaution and using the mask at railway station over Western Railway.
- Vehicles ready in position for carrying essential duties.
- RPF barracks being regularly checked
- All field staff over Western Railway is updated of the latest developments and actions to ensure safety and prevention from Corona virus.

Across the nation, in a bid to reduce the hardships & to protect the interest of contractual and outsourced staff engaged in providing services such as On Board House Keeping services (OBHS) in trains, sanitation, pantry cars, stations, offices and other commercial activities, Ministry of Railways - has decided that such staff will be treated as "on duty" and be paid accordingly during the period of suspension of Passenger services. Ministry of Railway also stated that this move will benefit at least 50,000 contractual & outsourced employees involved in providing services all over the Indian Railways.

### **Nobody should go hungry even in tough times**

IRCTC has continued its pursuance to serve the society in these difficult

times of Covid-19 pandemic to counter the challenge of ill effects of CORONA outbreak with its objective of "Break the Hunger" through its "Mission Food Distribution." IRCTC's base kitchen at Mumbai Central served 5600 community meals on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 to NGOs spread over South and Central Mumbai like Giants Group, Nanhi Pari, Salaam Mumbai, Mc Aalms, Akhil Bharatiya Samiti, Terapanth Yuvak Parishad, Angels Charitable Trust etc. Even BMC has come forward to provide assistance to IRCTC for distribution of food to the deserving and needy persons, who are finding it difficult to make their ends meet with the extended nationwide lockdown due to COVID pandemic. IRCTC's base kitchen at Ahmedabad, provided 2500 community Bhojan packets to the Commercial and RPF Department staff for further distribution. Thus on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 total 8,100 food packets were distributed by IRCTC over Western Rly through various teams of volunteers.

Considering the problems related to non availability of resources amongst the poor, stranded and needy persons due to national lockdown, in addition to IRCTC, Western Rly on its own too continued its mission food distribution on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. So far, Mumbai Division of WR has supplied 1,01,260 meals & Ahmedabad Division has supplied 87,750 food packets to poor and needy persons during corona lockdown period. Vadodara Division

has supplied 1500 food packets in Vadodara city. Similarly, 350 food packets were distributed by Bhavnagar division with the help of NGOs at Junagadh and Bhavnagar stations. 275 food packets were distributed by Rajkot Division. As an inspirational initiative, various ration kits containing 5 kg aata, 5 kg rice, 2 kg mung daal, 1 litre oil & 1 kg sugar distributed to coolies, Safai staff and parcel staff at Wankaner station. Shri Satish Chandra, Senior Section Engineer & his helper Shri Harshad of HAPA Carriage & Wagon Work shop after finishing their duty, have set a noble example of distribution of ration kits containing 5 kg Atta, Rice, Wheat, Masala, Salt, Onions, Potato etc to needy persons for last 5 days on their own expenses. 455 food packets were distributed by Ratlam Division. More over 40 ration kits containing 5 kg, 1 kg Sugar, 1 ltr Oil, 250 gm Tea & 1 soap were distributed to cleaning staff of Indore station and coaching depot of Indore by Rly officials. RPF/WR prepared and distributed 870 food packets from its own sources as well as distributed 890 food packets provided by NGOs. Western Railway displays true spirit of "Work is Worship" even in the tough times of lockdown due to Corona virus Pandemic and continues to serve the nation by lending its hand through essential services, be it freight traffic or medical facility. From security to engineering, Western Railway is and always will be geared to face whatever may be the situation. ■

# Special Work Done by West Central Railway During Lock Down

## Test of point machines for goods train operation

35 point machines were tested for safety in Bhopal Railway Yard. The test also included an important obstruction test. All the necessary works are being done by the employees of the West Central Railway for freight train operations.

## Masks and Sanitizers made by Railway Employees to Prevent Infection

The employees of West Central Railway and their families have come forward in making of the reusable face masks, so as to prevent themselves and their companions from the infection of Covid-19.

Till date around 50,912 Masks and 5290 liters of Hand sanitizer have been made available over WCR by means of in-house production.

## PPE Making

West Central Railway has also started stitching of the PPE suits which will be of immense use during Covid-19 treatment.

## To increase health facilities, Bed stand and Trolley were made at Rail Coach Factory, Bhopal

Keeping in view the immediate health facilities, the formation work of Beds and Trolleys for hospitals is being done in the Rail Coach Factory at Nishatpura of West Central



Railway, Bhopal Division.



## Parcel Facility

During the Corona lock down, all the three divisions of West Central Railway, Jabalpur, Bhopal and Kota are playing an important role in the supply of essential goods by operating parcel express trains at various routes. WCR the first Zone of Indian Railways to start the intra-state/Zone parcel special/express trains.

Presently the parcel express trains are running over following routes:-

1. Bhopal-REWA-Bhopal (via Itarsi, Katni)
2. Bhopal-Singrauli-Bhopal (via Itarsi, Katni South)
3. Bhopal-Raipur-Bhopal (via Bina, Bilaspur)
4. Jabalpur-Gangapur City-Jabalpur (via Bina, Kota)
5. Bhopal-Gangapur City-Bhopal (via Bina, Kota)

Also, the freight movement of foodgrains, coal, fertilisers etc. is continuously ensured. We ensure timely reach of the freight trains, so as to ensure non-interrupted

कोय फैक्ट्री (सवारी डिब्बा पुनर्निर्माण कारखाना) भोपाल द्वारा मण्डल रेलवे चिकित्सालय में कोरोना वायरस के संक्रमण से प्रभावित लोगों की इलाज के लिए तात्कालिक काम में आने वाले आवश्यक सामान तैयार किये जा रहे हैं

West Central Railway

**COVID-19**

खुद सुरक्षित रहें , देश को सुरक्षित रखें ।



**Monitoring of Railway Track**

During the lockdown, the upkeep of railway tracks is continuously being monitored by all the three divisions of West Central Railway. Monitoring of the railway track is being carried out by the officers and staff with same dedication and commitment.

Also the maintenance work of TRD, S&T etc. is also being done on regular intervals.

Ration and food were made available to the poor through TTE's, RPF and other various organizations by West Central Railway

TTE's, RPF staff in all the three divisions of West Central Railway, along with their wards, are distributing ration packets to the poor. Since the lockdown caused by Covid-19, employees of various organizations and departments of the West Central Railway, including the TTE's, RPF, Zonal Railways and other organizations, have been continuously providing food to the needy with a sense of selfless and voluntary service.

**Construction of Foot Operated Wash Basin and Soap Dispensers**



movement of the essential commodities across the Indian Railways.

We have loaded medicines and other medical equipments from over Zone during this time.

**Construction of Isolation Coaches**

The task of converting the coaches of the depot coaches located in Bhopal Division of West Central Railway into isolation coaches were completed before the target.

The depot first converted the train of 24 coaches into isolation ward and made Covid-19 train, in which 192 patients could be admitted and treated. Subsequently, the work of converting 133 coaches into isolation coaches has been completed by the Coaching Depot and Coach Reconstruction Factory, Bhopal.

**Arogya Setu Mobile App**

To help prevent the spread of Corona infection, the Railway employees and their families have downloaded the Arogya Setu mobile app and others are also being encouraged to download the same.





Foot operated Wash Basins and Soap Dispensers have been manufactured at several locations in the West Central Railway. They are being used at the Railway establishments by railway employees to prevent Corona infections. Along with this, construction of Sanitizer Tunnel was also done in the West Central Railway.

### Foot Operated Sanitizer Dispenser/ Machine

Foot operated sanitizer dispenser/ machine has been constructed in New Katni Junction Yard of West Central Railway, Jabalpur Division. With its use, the infection of the Covid-19 Virus is being prevented from spreading.

### Manufacture of Equipment Used in Special Circumstances

The special equipment and equipment holder are being constructed /developed by WCR. 50 oxygen cylinder holder trolleys have been constructed/developed and given to Divisional Hospital in a short time span.

### Contribution of members of West Central Railway Scout and Guide and St. John Ambulance peoples

Scout & Guide and St. John Ambulance peoples are working dedicatedly in this Scenario of Covid-19. ■



# Events of Metro Railway During Lockdown Period

## **Metro Railway Conducts Sanitisation Drive and Awareness Programme**

In order to make members of Metro family aware about Coronavirus threat as well as stop the spread of this pandemic, Medical Department of Metro Railway has been organizing Coronavirus Campaigns and Sanitization Drives on regular basis. As part of this campaign, awareness programmes on Covid-19 infection and importance of the lockdown to prevent transmission of the deadly disease were organised at Noapara, Dumdum, Belgachia and RPF Barrack on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. Metro doctors interacted with the Metro staff and their family members and requested all not to panic and take all necessary precautions to stop the spread of Coronavirus.

## **General Manager Inspects Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital to Check the Preparedness to Fight COVID-19**

Shri Manoj Joshi, General Manager, Metro Railway on 28.03.2020 inspected Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital to review the preparedness of Medical Officers and other staff to fight against COVID-19, if situation arises. Shri Joshi along with Medical Officers also visited isolation and

quarantine wards and checked equipments and their availability. He also held a meeting with doctors of Metro Railway in order to assess the situation and instructed them to be ready to handle COVID-19 patients in case of any emergency.

A training programme on how to use Ventilator for doctors and nursing staff was also organised at Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital on the same day.

An awareness programme on Coronavirus was also organised at JD Park substation on the same day. Dr C Patra, Asst. Divisional Medical Officer conducted this programme to make the staff aware of COVID-19 threat and how to stop the spread of infection.

## **COVID-19 Awareness Programme for Metro RPF Personnel**

Metro RPF has been working tirelessly to prevent any untoward incident during the nationwide lockdown.

RPF personnel are on high alert to deal with any emergency and also to extend helping hands to any citizen due to this COVID-19 pandemic.

Medical Department has been organising Awareness Campaigns for RPF personnel to teach them

what they should do while discharging their duties at Metro stations, Hospital, Metro Colonies as well as Carsheds and other offices regularly.

One such Awareness Programme was organised at the RPF barrack at Kavi Subhas Metro Station on 27.03.2020. Dr. S. Mallik, Additional Chief Medical

Superintendent conducted this programme and made RPF personnel aware about the precautions to be taken to stop the spread of COVID-19 infection.

Medical Department has also been sanitizing Railway Hospital, Carsheds, railway colonies and other offices daily to stop the spread of this deadly infection.

## **Metro Railway Providing Food and other Basic Facilities to the Workers of Noapara-Barasat Extension Project to Stop the Spread of COVID-19**

Metro Railway Authorities have taken several initiatives to provide different basic facilities to workers including contract labourers staying at work site of Noapara-Barasat via Biman Bandar Metro Extension Project. Arrangements have been made to provide meals to these workers regularly.

Groceries, food items and LPG cylinders in adequate amount have been provided at the site for that.

Masks, alcohol based sanitizers and soaps have also been provided to the workers and they have been encouraged to wash their hands frequently in order to stop the spread of COVID-19. They have also been encouraged to follow the government's guidelines to stop the spread of this deadly virus.

Social distancing and cleanliness are being maintained at this site camp very strictly.

Water tank and RO based water plants have been installed for maintaining personal hygiene at this site camp. Separate room has also been identified as Isolation Room for anyone found with symptoms of cold, cough and fever.

## **Metro RPF Providing Meals to Needy People**

Indian Railways has made a lot of arrangements to provide foods and other essential items to the needy





people throughout the country during the lockdown imposed to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of this initiative, Metro Railway has also made arrangements to provide meals to its contractual labourers and other needy people in the city.

Metro RPF has also been playing a major role in this regard. The objective of Metro RPF is to help those people who are facing severe hardship due to COVID-19 pandemic.

On 03.04.2020, RPF/Kalighat Post of Metro Railway distributed cooked food to the homeless people of Kalighat, Chetla, Rabindra Sarobar and S.P. Mukherjee Road. Meals along with water were distributed among 300 needy people who are facing severe hardships during this lockdown period.

On 07.04.2020, Officers & Staff of RPF/Post/Belgachia have prepared and distributed 250 lunch packs to needy people in the areas of Shobhabazar-Sutanuti and Belgachia Metro station after observing all precautionary measures.

On 11.04.2020, Metro RPF Post/Noapara arranged one such programme at Noapara Carshed/East Gate to provide cooked food to the needy and destitute people living in the adjoining areas of Noapara Carshed and Noapara Metro station.

They have distributed meals to 250 needy people maintaining social distancing and other precautions. These people were very happy with this noble gesture of Metro RPF.

### Training Programme on Donning and Doffing of Personal Protective Equipment in Metro Rly Hospital

With a view to keep medical staff

fully prepared to tackle any emergency, if arises, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, two training-cum-interactive sessions were organised at Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital, Metro Railway on 4 & 13 April, 2020.

These training programmes were conducted to train the medical staff of Metro Railway on Donning and Doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In these interactive sessions, Medical staff, especially grass root level workers were apprised of the action plan being undertaken and the expected role of different categories of staff was also explained.

### Metro Railway Procured Seven Ventilators for COVID-19 Emergency

Metro Railway has taken all possible measures to fight COVID-19 pandemic if situation demands. For this purpose, seven ventilators are kept ready at Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital. Out of these

seven ventilators, two are invasive and five are non-invasive ventilators.

These non-invasive ventilators fitted with UPS can be carried in Metro's dedicated ambulance and can function as Transport Ventilators.

Patients having COVID -19 infection and being referred to other hospitals will be benefited by these Transport Ventilators, if they need them on the way.

### Isolation Ward at Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital for Treating COVID-19 Patients

In its preparedness to fight COVID-19 pandemic, Metro Railway has opened an Isolation Ward at Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital to monitor suspected coronavirus infected patients. Dedicated doctors and para-medical staff have been deployed. Metro staff and Central Government employees having valid identity cards can avail treatment in this Hospital.

This Isolation Ward has Hepa Filters and Laminar Air Flow facilities, Ventilators, ECG Machines, Suction Machines, Pulse Oxymeters, Oxygen Cylinders are also kept in readiness in case of any emergency use.

Sufficient amount of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits have been procured for doctors and para-medical staff attending to the COVID-19 patients in this Hospital. Proper disposal systems of these PPE kits have also been put in place.

For the safety of the frontline staff, separate cubicle at the Reception Desk of Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital has also been created. ■



# Efforts of CLW Regarding COVID-19

CLW Administration has been taking various proactive measures in view of the current situations and to contain the spread of corona virus (COVID-19). As part of utmost caution, the administration has issued an advisory in line with as issued by the WHO, Central Government and West Bengal Government to check the spread of Corona Virus in the Chittaranjan township. Administration notifies complete safety restrictions with immediate effect in CLW township.

Efforts were also taken with appeal to residents to desist from unverified rumours especially in social media platforms and to follow instructions as & when issued by Govt. sources only. CLW administration also updated its inhabitants about the latest developments through various notices / announcements & social media.

In a high level meeting, chaired by Shri P. K. Mishra, GM and Sr. officers had formulated empowered work groups of officers for looking after the preventive & essential services in Chittaranjan. The group with the assistance of Vice wardens of eight areas are working in tandem to ensure the availability of essential items for the CLW employees during the lockdown of workshop and offices round the clock.

General Manager and Sr. officers inspected the IN/OUT Gates and Market areas of Chittaranjan for checking the status of items and also took note of isolation wards available in Chittaranjan. Thermal screening at IN/OUT Gates were put into service by the RPF staff and officers deputed to minimize the movements.

**Some of the following efforts and innovations made by CLW are detailed below**

### In House Production in CLW

- CLW has produced about 21666

reusable Face Masks as on 21-4-20.

- Over 1215.23 lts of Hand Sanitizers produced in house as on 21-4-2020.
- Hand Soap provided to all the staff & supervisors.
- 90 Hospital Beds & 125 Side tables are produced and supplied to K G Hospital.

### For CLW Employees and Their Family

- Ensured safety of employees & their family with practice of Social Distancing & Good personal hygiene.
- Ensured regular supply of essential items at nominal rates in all the eight areas of Chittaranjan township.
- Nominated Sr. officers as Wardens of each area are taking care of every individuals as well as Quarantine families.
- All the residents of CLW are advised to cover their faces either by mask, handkerchief or any other item while coming out of home for essential works.

### Training for Doctors & Paramedics Performing Emergency

#### Duties

- On line training of Doctors & Paramedics are held.
- Training of 300 staff from Workshop, Civil defence, St Johns Ambulance and Scouts organized.
- Indent for Doctors and Paramedics was made to meet the emergency requirements and online





interview is held.

### Additional Facilities Created for Emergency Services

- Over 90 Isolation Beds and 150 Quarantine Beds created in CLW to meet the emergency situation.
- Provision of Talk back P.A. system arrangement at reception of all the dispensaries and K G Hospital/CLW for Social Distancing to serve better on Covid-19 situation.

### Provision of Free Ration

- About 400 families provided with free ration from CLWWO in and around Chittaranjan, who are needy persons like, riksha pullers, auto drivers, maids, homeless and tribals till 19-4-2020.
- Area committees of Chittaranjan also provided ration packets to the needy families.

### Aarogya Apps Downloaded

- Indian Railways has launched AAROGYA SETU, location based Corona Virus tracking Apps. This will play a key role in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic with the help of technical support and participation of all railway

employees and their family members of CLW has registered themselves in this location based apps. With the aid of this App, individuals can be alerted if they come near Corona virus carrier. This App also alerts with instructions on how to self isolate in case of developing symptoms.

- About 15000 employees and their family members & pensioners had downloaded this useful Apps.

### CLW Rail Pariwar Dekh Rekh Muhim

A health related guidelines on Covid-19 as Rail Pariwar Dekh Rekh has been issued for following by the CLW employees and it is hoped this will benefit them. The health parameters of all the CLW employees and their family members are being collected.

### Development of in House Production

- CLW has started producing the PPE & other items. 280 PPEs with coverall has been prepared and handed over to K G Hospital. ■



# DLW Committed towards Prevention of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)



**D**iesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi is committed to serving the country with the Government of India towards prevention of global pandemic novel coronavirus (COVID-19). From the initial stage of the outbreak of the pandemic, DLW had taken necessary steps with launching of public awareness campaign. DLW Central Hospital is always ready with 105 bedded

isolation ward to provide improved health care to patients suffering from Novel Corona virus.

In this sequence, with the untiring efforts of hard working DLW employees working in the workshop, medical equipments like I.V. Drip Stand, Bed Side Bowl Stand, Patient Food Table & Medicine Table for DLW Hospital were prepared in a short span of time. Under the 'Break

the Chain' campaign, a unique foot operated hand wash kiosk has been manufactured in the workshop and installed in Hospital & RPF Barrack.

In view of the outbreak of COVID-19, DLW is also producing face covers and hand sanitizer based on the WHO formula for its hospital and other staff involved in essential services. Till 21 April, 2020, DLW has manufactured about 6000 masks



मेडिकल उपकरण बनाने वाले डीएलडब्ल्यू के कर्मठ कर्मचारी गण



and 130 litre of hand sanitizer with the help of DLW employees and their families. Further, DLW intends to make 3000 face covers and 500 litres of hand sanitizer. The face covers are being produced by the employees of DLW in their homes, while the sanitizers are being produced in the CMT lab located in the workshop.

In order to avoid the spread of COVID-19, DLW is following all the instructions of the District Administration. Shops selling groceries and other essential items in the East, West and Central markets inside DLW campus were also open and followed the principles of social distancing. The vegetable market has been shifted from Jalalipatti to Inter College ground with a view to ensure social distancing. Railway

Protection Force and the Civil Defence personnel have been deployed to enforce discipline. Apart from this, social distancing is also being implemented in the Health unit located in the western part of the campus.

DLW Civil Defence Organisation and other organisations are making commendable contribution towards helping the needy and the poor who are facing crisis due to the lockdown. Food packets and ration was collected by the Civil Defence volunteers from the employees and officials living in DLW Colony and distributed among the poor & needy people living around DLW Campus. Till 21 April, 2020, DLW has distributed about 650 packets of food with the help of various organizations.

DLW Women's Welfare Organisation, a leading organization in social and welfare work also came forward for the help of the poor & distributed an outright sum of ₹ 500 to poor families not having any government job and living in out-houses of DLW campus.

Approximately 100 such families facing the financial crisis due to the lockdown announced by the government were identified and financial help was extended to them.

"Indian Railways never stopped even during the war, please understand the seriousness of the situation, stay at home", reiterating this commitment DLW continues to strive for the prevention of the global pandemic Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). ■



# Modern Coach Factory Raebareli

The whole world is going through a critical crisis today due to the infection of Novel Corona virus (COVID-19). Our India is also not untouched by this. Government and Railway Board were advised to maintain good sanitation with social distancing for its prevention and cure. After the lockdown, the scarcity of Masks, Sanitizers, PPE's, problems of food and medical facilities for contract workers and daily labourers. The entire Indian Railways has committed to fighting the epidemic like Corona virus. MCF also worked together with Indian Railways in this epidemic.

The cleanliness of hands by soap, sanitizer is important to protect against COVID -19. Due to the excess demand, the problem of masks, sanitizers and PPE started to arise all over the country. Keeping this in mind, MCF decided to make Isolation Ward, masks, sanitizers, PPE in factory.

## Isolation Ward

A 46-bed Isolation Ward has been prepared in MCF Hospital to deal with any condition in which all necessary facilities have been provided. For this, the process of recruitment of Doctors and Paramedical staff has been started on contract basis.

## Face Mask

Around 18,500 number of masks have been made since 26.03.2020 by the employees and their family members following social distancing in the TTC. The masks manufactured by MCF were distributed to the employees, contract workers and their families etc.

## PPEs (Apron)

The construction of PPEs (Apron) for the doctors and other paramedical staff and staff working in the front line was started from 11.04.2020 in the TTC and till 17.04.2020, about 156 PPE (aprons)



were stitched out of which about 58 PPE (apron) was fully manufactured and made available for use.

### Sanitizers

A total of 1000 L sanitizer has been constructed in CMT Lab from 01.04.2020 to 17.04.2020 for repeatedly sanitizing the hands. It has been distributed to all front line staff such as security, Staff deployed in essential services and delivery system in the bottle of 200 ml. Its quality is also good and safe from the sanitizer available in the market.

### Awareness Programme

To make more and more people aware of the corona virus epidemic, pamphlets issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India were distributed. Along with this, a banner was put up for the awareness of people so that more and more people could get information about prevention from this epidemic.

### Ration Distributions

Ration has been distributed for the remaining contractual employees related to the construction work in the residential and factory premises of MCF so that no one has to sleep hungry. The health of all the contract employees is being checked by taking periodic checks.

Many truck drivers were stuck here due to a one-day Janata curfew that was declared suddenly on March 19 and a 21-day lockdown that followed. Store department was directed to provide Ration and water for the truck drivers so that no truck driver should be disturbed. Necessary Ration and water were made available to all. Regular thermal screening of truck drivers is also being conducted. From 20.03.2020 to 17.04.2020, rations were distributed equal to the total number of 6000 people.

### Construction of ventilators

Amidst the 21 days lockdown, MCF has taken a leap by offering its facility for collaboration with ventilator manufacturers across the nation to produce ventilators in MCF to ease of the shortage of ventilators right now. Expression of Interest was invited from 02.04.2020 to 07.04.2020. Though no offer has been received from established ventilator manufacturers, a Gurgaon based design firm has offered its design for low cost ventilator which may be manufactured at MCF. The technical assessment and feasibility study is under progress. ■



# RCF Gears up to Fight Covid-19

Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala geared up well in advance to curb the spread of the deadly Covid-19 in its campus.

Looking at the spread of virus and looming crisis, the Medical Deptt. of RCF undertook all necessary measures for the prevention and management of coronavirus. Separate wards were reserved for cases of fever and respiratory tract infection, and all such cases were earmarked to be dealt separately in RCF hospital. Isolation wards with availability of rescue and protective equipment facility were set up almost two weeks prior to the national lockdown. Training and awareness programmes were conducted for para-medical staff including ambulance drivers. Thermal screening of all entrants into RCF campus was made mandatory and sanitizing facility was set up in the entry gates.

It has been the persistent perseverance of RCF's Medical Team that RCF family is feeling safe and scare-free during these hard times.

To educate the employees and general public, a massive awareness campaign was conducted with posters put up at various places to sensitize the public. They featured

prominently on campus, colony and work sites. Pamphlets were distributed to educate the people. The campaign promotes key steps for people to follow to protect their health in line with WHO guidelines and is determined to combat and kick out deadly coronavirus.

Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala is not only among the firsts to start the medical facilities, but manufacturing of essential equipments too. Amidst lockdown, when the demand for masks is skyrocketing, RCF started manufacturing masks from cotton cloth. These masks have been distributed to essential category staff who are working to ensure the uninterrupted supply of essential commodities across the RCF campus, besides distribution to RCF employees when they return to workplaces after lockdown. Besides, Aprons, too are being manufactured in-house from cotton cloth for wide distribution. Now, it has been decided to make aprons of different fabric with ultrasonic sewing machine. The sample apron will be sent to DRDO lab for approval before mass manufacturing.

RCF has manufactured foot operated soap dispenser hand wash arrangements for installation at

various entry and exit points of work places. These helps in sanitizing the hands without physically touching the water tap and dispenser, thereby making it safe for usage at work places. This system will also help in saving lot of water.

After receiving instructions from the Railway Board, New Delhi about "exploring the possibility" of making ventilators, the production of which are turning out to be a tough challenge, Rail Coach Factory manufactured a prototype ventilator "JEEVAN" within a week. It has an original design and cost much less than what a regular ventilator cost. Submitted for testing and validation, this emergency ventilator will be a savior of lives amidst these hard times. The production is very easy and can be done with locally sourced components. It is very silent, and it is not reverse engineering, but an original design from scratch.

The heart of the device is the compressed air container to work the Ambu bag with air without any moving parts like servo motor or piston or link mechanism. It has a microprocessor based controller and the circuit has been designed by the RCF team. A valve has been installed to regulate the breathing of



Isolation wards



Masks being prepared by RCF



*ThermL scanning being carried out. Sanitisation in progress*

the patient whether young or old. This ventilator now has been optimized to more compact size by using small size components.

The body has been made from coach components. The argon flow meter is taken from a laser welding machine and the compressor is from an air cooler. Team RCF needed to

source just two parts viz. a regulator valve and a micro processor from vendors in Delhi and Noida. In the midst of the lockdown, RCF used emergency transit services to get the two components by road and train.

A team of engineers from Plant, Mechanical & Electrical Design, IT and a group of medical professionals

of RCF hospital and Stores Dept. have persevered hard for the culmination of the prototype of ventilator. The intellectual property rights relating to the ventilator belong to the RCF 'Jeevan', thus is an emergency ventilator built as a defiant reply to the curse of Covid.

RCF has also prepared hand sanitizers as per the approved procedure of World Health Organization guidelines which not only meets the demand for sanitizers in RCF and staff families, but also helps in hygiene of the employees who are in essential services. This is less than half the cost of commercial grade hand sanitizer available in the market. The staff of RCF's Metallurgical and Chemical Lab adopted special precautions to maintain the composition and quality of the chemicals used. An additional highly purified lab isopropyl alcohol, glycerol, and hydrogen peroxide has been added to its mixture to follow the procedure described in the World Health Organization's guide line.

Rail Coach Factory has ensured



*Smt Neeta Gupta, President, RCFWWO and members WWO disbursing essential food items*



'Jeevan' Ventilator by RCF



Sanitizer bottles prepared by RCF

uninterrupted supply of essential commodities in the RCF campus despite the virus outbreak. The administration has set up a Central Control Office which is monitoring all the situation round the clock. A large number of employees have

volunteered for supplying the essential commodities in colony besides assisting the administration. RCFWWO and other organisations have come forward to help the needy by distributing free grocery items to the labourers and their families.

Combating the Covid-19 requires a collective effort, and RCF is well tuned with a coordinated global response to face down the COVID-19 pandemic and its shattering consequences. ■



The manufacturing team led by GM/RCF

# Steps taken by Rail Wheel Factory to Combat COVID-19 Pandemic

**RWF, as a responsible organization, has taken many steps to combat Covid-19 Pandemic**

In-house prototype ventilator based on Open Source design VENTILAIID was being developed by the RWF team using mainly 3D printed parts. Further development was not considered due to non-invasive type Ventilator. RWFWWO team led by Smt. Suman Vyas, President in association with Smt. Vaishali Khade, Secretary organised distribution of 346 grocery kits consisting of 5 Kg rice; atta, sugar, oil, dal, salt (1 kg each) chilli powder (100 g), 2 soaps, detergent powder (1pkt) & 4 masks to the labourers residing at Ambedkar Colony, Kenchanahalli and Puttenahalli, which are places near RWF Yelahanka. Welfare inspectors of RWF coordinated the distribution. These groceries are contributed by donations from RWFWWO and also voluntary contribution from the members of RWFWWO.

**Metallurgical Lab of RWF has prepared 130 litre sanitizer & handed over to Railway Hospital**

Sale of Vegetables and essential items has been arranged in residential colonies of RWF to facilitate employees. Guidelines of GoI regarding COVID-19 have been followed during the sale.

**Offices and factory premises have been closed after proper sanitization**

Regular sanitization of residential colonies (Officers and Staff) arranged through spraying and fogging machine.

**Officers and staff donated their one-day basic salary totaling about 31 lakhs towards PM cares fund**

Isolation ward of 8 beds in Hospital and quarantine facility of 18 beds have been created in TTC of RWF.

**Railway Hospital at**

**RWF has taken preventive measures to check the spread of Covid-19.**

- Various precautionary measures have been taken to deal with both in-patients and out-patients
- 24 x 7 helpline number has been established at the hospital for providing information and guide the needy.
- Daily screening is done for all cases with fever and symptoms with respiratory problem. Patients with complaints of Flu like cases in the OPD are segregated, distanced and ensured that they are treated separately.
- Isolation/quarantine wards with necessary medical aids have been setup for management of cases if the need be.
- Doctors are in regular coordination and interaction with the State Health Authorities and local nodal centres/officers for facilitating referral for testing and treatment of cases.
- Doctors and paramedical staff are educating the patients at the hospital and at employees at work spots with regard to hand wash, respiratory etiquette, quarantine, social distancing etc. on daily basis.
- Action has been initiated for stocking of necessary PPEs and other materials for ready use.
- Health Care personnel are being trained to educate the public to be in readiness to manage to



handle any kind of pandemic situation

- Health Inspectors have been deployed to spread the awareness and to track persons in home quarantine.
- Adequate hand sanitizers at Technical Training Center and the Main Gate of RWF is kept in readiness.
- Infrared Thermometers at the Main Gates are being used to check the temperate of persons entering RWF premises.
  - Railway Hospital, RWF has taken measures to earmark facilities for isolation and quarantine and to create awareness among employees, dependents and general public in connection with precautions to be taken to keep away the Novel Coronavirus. ■



# RailTel - Helping Indian Railways and the Nation Stay Connected through the COVID19 Crisis

RailTel, a Miniratna PSU under Ministry of Railways, is one of the largest neutral telecom services providers in the country owning a high capacity Pan-India optic fiber network covering all important towns & cities of the country.

The wave of COVID19 pandemic has hit hard and to tackle this unprecedented crisis, the whole country has been in a lockdown to maintain social distancing to prevent further spread. The Lockdown has now been further extended upto 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020. However, owing to the nature of work, we had to adopt some crucial and innovative steps to continue to provide essential service of Telecom infrastructure, Railway communication and home broadband to its client.

RailTel handles crucial communication system, video conferencing and implementation of e-office platform as well storing important data for Indian Railways in its two Tier III data centres (Gurgaon and Secunderabad). In the current crisis situation, ensuring the availability of essential commodities and associated supply chain is of paramount importance for which Railway freight operations need to be run operated unhindered. The need of the hour is keeping the network and data centre operations stable so that it doesn't hamper the Railway freight movement and communication between all the offices of Indian Railways across the country. A large number of Banks, Telcos, other Central/State Government organisations and MNCs like Amazon are also dependent on RailTel services for their data communications needs.

To run the two data centres and four Regional Network Operation



Centres and One Central Network Operation Centre, RailTel management has deployed minimal physical workforce of 2-3 employees for whom rosters have been prepared and duties are being set on rotation basis. Special arrangements for Boarding and Lodging have been made either at RailTel premises or at a nearby residential areas close to RailTel offices so that the employees do not need to travel over long distances or use mass transport. Majority of the Network Management work is being handled through internal Network monitoring platforms and tools of RailTel remotely. Only, skeletal workforce has been deployed on the ground for essential physical maintenance and for exigencies. All the operational centres are being thoroughly sanitized and disinfected and deputed employees are also maintaining all essential personal hygiene so that no contamination happens. The employee while carrying out work are following social distancing at Data Centre,

Network Operation Centres and in field. Permissions from local authorities have also been obtained for employees of our partners and support agencies to ensure no disruptions to services.

RailTel has been implementing e-office for Indian Railways for enabling paperless office system. Currently 77,556 users are enabled to work from home using this platform. The work of e-office implementation has not been hampered by lockdown and e-office was implemented at 08 new Divisional offices of IR and 4966 users were registered after lockdown period. Despite resource movement restrictions, RailTel team planned the execution and implementation taking all precautions and user training was provided remotely over HD video conference. Implementation of NIC e-office has been proved to be boon in the crisis time like this and part of Railway workforce now able to work from home as well which would have been impossible in case of manual filing system.

RailTel has also created Virtual Private Network for 800 users of Indian Railways. We have also upgraded Railnet speed at a number of Railway Colonies to further support working from home for Railway Officials.

With majority of the workforce working remotely, the video conferencing service provided by RailTel to Indian Railways has also proved to be very effective. The number of video meetings has almost doubled during lockdown period for effectively coordinating the freight train operation on war footing.

All the video conferencing service

is being supported by RailTel's HD Video Conference Network Operations Centre (NOC) at Secunderabad which is now being supported by 4 team members on ground and rest of the team working from home. Now-a-days we have video conferencing of Railway officials happening throughout the day and even late at night which is unprecedented. To handle the same, one official has been deployed in the night shift to make the video conferencing service is available 24x7. Not only that, to facilitate meetings from home, video conferencing facilities has been installed in the residence of General Managers of Zonal Railways and Production Units of Railways for Meeting with Minister of Railways, Minister of State of Railways and Chairman Railway Board. This service is also being used for coordination between GMs and DRMs and other officers who are participating through either Telepresence or WebEx from their residence. RailTel installed equipments for attending video conference from residence in a very short notice during lockdown which was a challenge in itself.

Managing the field work and maintaining a vast network of 55000+ RKM fibre during countrywide lockdown has been very challenging. In many cases field staff are facing difficulties due to movement restriction, multiple checks on road, non-availability of means of transport, closure of establishments where are equipment's are housed giving feed to upstream services are to name a few. But RailTel teams are working 24X7 to handle any kind of fault so that the network is in best of health. Also, RailTel is taking every possible measure to ensure safety of its workforce on ground as well. The team is highly motivated to continue to serve the nation in its crisis of epic proportions.

Even before the country went under lockdown, RailTel, following Govt advisory, prepared roster of employees to start working with skeletal workforce on ground and rest from home. Cleanliness and hygiene were always a mandate at RailTel offices but with spread of COVID19, extra measures like cleaning and disinfecting surfaces a number of times during the day, sanitizers at office premises, temperature check at the entrance for all employees and visitor became a

practice at RailTel offices. RailTel had already adapted NIC e-office and majority of it's file work were being done in digital platform, so when Work from Home became the need of the hour, RailTel was ready for it and the transition was swift and smooth. All employees were given access to RailTel's Virtual Private Network through which they can use e-office, ERP, Intranet platforms remotely so that regular work is not hampered.

Apart from taking all precautions and keeping all the essential functions running, to support the noble cause of fighting the Covid-19 pandemic in India, RailTel has contributed Rs 12 crore to the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situation fund (PM- CARES fund) from the CSR fund and company contribution of RailTel. In addition, contribution of Rs 15.5 lakh which is the voluntary contribution of one day's salary of RailTel employees to fight this deadly disease has also been made.

Team RailTel stand in solidarity with its countrymen in this fight and pledges to implement all precautionary measures to stop the spread of Covid-19. ■

## **Attention ! Advertisers !!**

For providing regular advertisements you may please contact **Shri Prashant Kumar Pattnaik, Business Manager, Indian Railways**, Room No. 310, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi-1. Regular advertisers are also requested to communicate one month in advance for the continuation of their advertisements. You may please contact **Shri Pattnaik on 011-47845378, 43665 (Rly) or email to bmpr310rb@gmail.com.**

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