

Tamil Nadu

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SERC to submit findings on two old rail bridges soon



Special Correspondent

Condition of Pamban Bridge converted into BG is good

— Photo: L. Balachandar



Strengthy effort: Nagesh R. Iyer, Director, Structural Engineering Research Centre, Chennai, delivering the Foundation Day address at CECRI in Karaikudi on Monday.

SIVAGANGA: The Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC), one of the leading laboratories of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), would soon submit its findings to the Southern Railway on condition assessment study over the functioning of two old railway bridges, said its Director Nagesh R. Iyer.

Delivering the 62nd Foundation Day lecture of Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI) at Karaikudi near here on Monday, he said that it had taken up an extensive study of two bridges one at Nagari in Andhra Pradesh and another the bridge across Kusasthalai near Arokkonam in Tamil Nadu.

Both the facilities were constructed many years ago. Though they were established for operating goods and passengers trains based on the demand then, traffic on both the bridges had seen a drastic increase. Similarly, the load and weightage of trains had also increased over the years due to the increasing demand. Moreover the chances were there for the Railways to increase the number of trains passing through the existing bridges.

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In these circumstances the Southern Railway had asked the SERC to study the condition of these bridges. The study would cover all aspects, including whether the overloading would affect the design. Recommendations would be made for taking further steps. Data was being collected on real time experience. A dedicated team of experts had been deputed for the study.

Mr. Iyer said the SERC would also undertake a similar study on three more old bridges. The main objective was to devise a methodology for using the railway bridges without compromising safety aspects. Railway engineers were also involved in the survey. The other leading laboratories and research institutions could also be involved in this, as there was a huge scope.

He said the condition of the Pamban Bridge, which was converted into Broad Gauge without altering the basic structure with the active participation of SERC, was good. It would be monitored continuously.

Paying tribute to Dr. Alagappa Chettiar, who donated 300 acres and Rs.15 lakh in cash in 1948 to establish CECRI at Karaikudi, V. Yegnaraman, Acting Director, CECRI said its activities were directed towards the development of new and improved products and processes as well as novel innovations in electrochemical science and technology. It was also offering Anna University's B. Tech and M. Tech courses in chemical and electrochemical engineering. It had been undertaking several projects in collaboration with laboratories in and outside India.

S. Syed Azim, Scientist and others spoke.

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