

## Press Release

1. "Vigilance awareness Week – 2023" was being observed by South Central Railway from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The theme for current year's Vigilance Awareness Week is "भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करे; राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहें" "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation". On this occasion, the inaugural function was held on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at Rail Nilayam Auditorium, Secunderabad. Shri K V Chowdary, former Central Vigilance Commissioner graced the occasion as Chief Guest.
2. The function started with administering the Integrity Pledge by Shri Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway wherein all Departmental Heads, Senior Officers and staff were present.
3. South Central Railway, covers areas over five states and consists of six divisions i.e. Vijayawada, Guntur, Guntakal, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Nanded and Three Workshops at Lallaguda, Tirupati and Rayanapadu. This zone has total 6560 route KMs. The total number of trains running in this zone are around 544, covering 715 stations. The total on roll staff strength of South Central Railway is around 81,000. The most recent addition to SCR's fleet is the prestigious Vande Bharat trains connecting Vishakhapatnam, Tirupati, Bangalore and Chennai.
4. Shri Arvind Malkhede, Senior Deputy General Manager & Chief Vigilance Officer, South Central Railway presided over the function.
5. In his welcome address, Shri Arvind Malkhede, SDGM had explained the way in which Vigilance Branch of SCR is observing the Vigilance Awareness Week under the guidance of CVC/Railway Board. Preventive Vigilance activities have been taken up as Focus Areas by the SCR Vigilance over 3 months campaign. SDGM mentioned about large number of IT initiatives and digitization taken up by various department of Railways. Technology and digitalization is enabler for transparency and accountability, thus continuous efforts in this direction will be undertaken by Railways.
6. As a part of this campaign, Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers (PIDPI) Resolution awareness campaign is being extensively carried out through PIDPI Poster publicity (Hindi, English and Local Languages) and through Digital display in all Railway Offices/Units and Public places. SCR vigilance team and Field Unit officials, have carried out public outreach activities at various Railway Stations towards PIDPI awareness campaign. Videos made in-house and provided by CVC, regarding PIDPI, are being played for publicity through Digital display systems in public/office premises.
7. Seminars/Workshops by SCR vigilance team and Field Unit officials are carried out over the entire Zone covering Capacity Building Programs (on the aspects of Procurement, Ethics and Governance, Systems and Procedures, Cyber hygiene and Security etc.) for various Railway officials to ensure necessary competency and skill for imparting further in-house training. Learnings from vigilance investigations and System Improvements over the past few years in common areas have also been covered in Vigilance Awareness Programmes for effective implementation by all concerned.
8. As a Preventive Vigilance measures, Leveraging of IT for complaint disposal, Up-dation of Circulars/Guidelines/Manuals and Disposal of complaints received before 30.06.23 have also been emphasized during Vigilance Awareness Programmes.

9. On this eve, based on this year's theme for the week, Quiz, Elocution and Essay writing completions were conducted for the Railway Employees. As a part of outreach activities, Students of Kendriya Vidyalaya in Divisions and Railway Mixed High School & Railway Junior College, participated in Elocution, English/Hindi Essay writing and Poster Painting competitions. Further Inter-college Elocution competition was also conducted at Railway Degree College, Secunderabad on theme given by CVC for this year's Vigilance Awareness Week wherein students from 32 Colleges participated in the competition. Prizes were distributed to the winners during the function.

10. General Manager, South Central Railway Shri Arun Kumar Jain an officer 1986 batch of Indian Engineering Services is heading SCR since April, 2022. He has rich experience of around 36 years in the Railways. He held several important assignments on various Railways.

11. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway appreciated the efforts of SCR Vigilance team for meticulous planning in covering the entire Zone to carry out Preventive Vigilance activities as focus areas for 3 months campaign by the organization under the guidance of CVC and Railway Board. He expressed happiness towards active participation by all concerned in this campaign to achieve significant outcomes. He also highlighted the importance of IT initiatives taken by Railways and role of vigilance in ensuring transparency and accountability. He also highlighted the importance of PIDPI complaint mechanism.

12. Shri K.V.Chowdary served as the Central Vigilance Commissioner(CVC) of India during the years 2015 to 2019. He retired as **Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** in October 2014. On retirement as Chairman CBDT, Govt. Of India appointed him as an Adviser to the Department of Revenue on issues relating to Black Money.

13. He represented India in several international conferences on Taxation. During his term as CVC, he streamlined the processes and brought about several changes in the functioning of the Commission. Some of the notable initiatives include, emphasis on Preventive Vigilance, improving the speed and quality of investigation of complaints, initiation of an 'integrity pledge' to involve citizens in the drive against corruption, building of an integrity index to measure the integrity of the organization, outreach activities to involve the citizens and in particular, the youth in the drive against corruption, etc.

14. Speaking on the occasion, Shri K V Chowdary, former Central Vigilance Commissioner – expressed happiness to be part of this Programme organized by South Central Railway. He appreciated the Preventive Vigilance activities being carried out by SCR Vigilance and the importance of these activities in overall improvement in the organisational efficiency. He highlighted the importance of Processes, Systems, Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures etc. in huge organization like Railways for transparency and accountability. He appreciated the active participation of Railway employees, School students and youths from Colleges in various competitions and activities organized during Vigilance Awareness campaign. He alerted regarding exploitation of Technological tools through un-ethical means and importance of vigilance role as a system analyst in ensuring transparency and accountability.

15. Shri K.V.Chowdary Ex CVC, Shri Arun Kumar Jain GM/SCR and Shri Arvind Malkhede, SDGM & CVO/SCR released the Vigilance Bulletin "**ANIMISHA**" (56<sup>th</sup> edition) which is also uploaded in the official website of South Central Railway.

16. The function concluded with a skit played by in-house artists highlighting the ill effects of corruption and spreading the underlining message of Vigilance Awareness Week.