



Brief History of the Division:

The Chennai Division is having very long historical background as Chennai City has. First thought on Railway in India was conceived in 1831-33 in Madras Parliament. Later in 1836 Mr.A.P. Cotton, a Civil Engineer of Madras advocated the desirability of Railroad in India. The very first proposal of Railway under the British Administration was at Chennai (then Madras) in the year 1832 that is twenty-one years ahead of first operational Railway line in India. During 1845, Madras Railway Company was mooted and in the year 1852, Madras Guaranteed Railway Company was formed. It was 154 years ago the Madras Railway Company cut the first sod to get underway the networking of South India by railway. The work for laying first track by Madras Guaranteed Railway Company between Chennai and Arcot was started in the year 1852 and in the year 1856 first train run between Royapuram and Arcot. In the year 1895, first electric trams became operational. The work for suburban train services started in the year 1928 and became operation in the year 1931 between Chennai Beach and Tambaram with Electric suburban train services. The tram services were withdrawn in the year 1953. Even though the division has missed the first Railway line of India, the division is the first in operating the elevated track in India.

The Chennai Central Station was opened in 1873 with only four platforms and George Hardring designed the building. The duplication of the main building was added in 1998. Presently, Chennai Central is having 12 platforms. Egmore Railway Station, with its main building done up in the striking Indo Saracenic style made famous by Robert Chisholm.