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Published: August 25, 2016 00:00 IST | Updated: August 25, 2016 08:23 IST VIJAYAWADA, August 25, 2016

## South Central Railway's hour of glory

- Staff Reporter

*It ferried an estimated 41 lakh pilgrims during the pushkarams*

: The South Central Railway had run a record 691 special trains during the 12 days of the Krishna Pushkaralu and catered to the transport needs of more than 41 lakh passengers.

According to officials, the SCR had successfully handled the rush by adopting various methods of ticketing and adding up special trains, emergency trains and augmenting coaches as per the dynamic analysis of the passenger traffic trend.

Also, achieving 96 per cent punctuality of regular trains not affected by the special services stood as a highlight, officials said. The SCR had earned revenue of Rs. 47 crore from August 12 to August 23.

SCR General Manager Ravindra Gupta ensured that trains were optimally run connecting a network of 13 stations identified in the Krishna, Guntur and Kurnool districts.

The introduction of Mobile Ticket Booking & Enquiry Vans stationed at various Pushkar Ghats and the GPRS based Hand Held Mobile Terminals for issuance of tickets proved a boon for the lakhs of passengers. The SCR used all sorts of media including social network to publicise the availability of special trains and amenities at the stations. A total of 2,000 additional railway personnel including 1,250 Railway Protection Force (RPF) and 450 commercial staff had served the pilgrims and more than 600 contract staff was deployed to handle cleanliness works. The SCR had spent Rs. 35 crore to provide all amenities and additional enquiry counters.

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Printable version | Aug 26, 2016 12:55:05 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Vijayawada/south-central-railways-hour-of-glory/article9028258.ece>

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